PREPARING FOR THE HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

Introduction

This curriculum booklet lists and describes all the compulsory and elective courses for students in their entry into Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) in 2015. The subjects studied in Stage 5 and Stage 6 (The College) up to the Higher School Certificate examinations will be reported on the new credential, the Record of School Achievement (ROSA).

It must be clearly understood that not all of these elective courses will necessarily run next year. As a school we must give consideration to class sizes, staffing, staffing expertise and resources available.

This booklet is divided into three (3) sections.

Part A  Compulsory courses
Part B  Elective courses for X and Y lines
        (Two year subjects 200hrs, 5 periods/cycle)

The compulsory courses and the X and Y electives will be assessed and reported throughout the years and reported on the ROSA.

Record of School Achievement

Students are now entering Stage 5 and they have the opportunity to specialise in elective subjects that they are interested in, and indeed may lead to further vocational study at the Higher School Certificate level and further employment. Students also need to choose a Mathematics course that suits their ability and future needs.

Students need to understand that in entering Stage 5 they will be eligible for the ROSA. The courses of study will be more challenging than Year 8 and teachers will have higher expectations of students in terms of their completion of class work, completion of homework, ability to concentrate and stay on task and their willingness to cooperate and learn as much as they can.

The Institute

At Cessnock High School students who excel in Year 9 Food Technology, Electro-Technology and Industrial Technology Metal may be invited to join The Institute. This is a unique program where students can study HSC Hospitality, Electro-Technology or Metals and Engineering combined with a school-based traineeship and be mentored into a full-time local apprenticeship after the completion of Year 10. Invitations will be extended to the families of these high achieving students in Term 3 2014.
Making the Right Choice

When you are considering an elective it is very important to think carefully about why you wish to choose it. Your enjoyment, your ability and your career interests should be considered.

It is important to realise that some electives have course fees. These fees pay for materials that are used by students and must be paid. Payment of these fees by the end of Term 3 will secure a student’s placement in timetabled elective classes. If money is a problem, please apply at the office for assistance through the Student Assistance Scheme.

I wish you the very best in choosing your subjects for Stage 5. I am sure that you will find Years 9 and 10 challenging, enjoyable and fulfilling.

Chris Bice
Principal

Students will be choosing their electives online on Monday 1st September or Tuesday 2nd September, at school in class. They will bring home a printout of what they have chosen for parents/carers to sign to acknowledge the choices.
PART A: COMPULSORY COURSES

ENGLISH

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

MATHEMATICS

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SCIENCE
ENGLISH

English can be loosely defined into five (5) main areas: talking and listening, reading, writing, the study of literature and film, and the study of the mass media. During English lessons students have opportunities to develop competence in the following areas:

- Broadening and exercising control in oral language
- Understanding, enjoying and responding to what they read and view in a range of contexts and technologies
- Writing in a variety of styles, for varying audience and purposes
- Experiencing, enjoying and responding to a wide range of literature
- Using and responding to the mass media through an exploration of newspapers, radio, advertising and television
- Increasing visual literacy in print, film and other technologies

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

In Year 9 all students study both History and Geography in a semester sequence. In Year 10 Geography and History are studied throughout the year. The Civics and Citizenship components are embedded in the History and Geography syllabuses.

Satisfactory completion of the mandatory study of History and Geography during Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) will be recorded with a grade on the student’s ROSA.

AUSTRALIAN GEOGRAPHY (MANDATORY)

Geography allows students to develop an enjoyment of and an interest in the interaction of the physical and human environments. Students will develop geographic knowledge, understanding skills, values and attitudes in order to engage in the community as informed and active citizens.

The syllabus has two key dimensions that form the basis for the study of all content in Geography:

- the spatial dimension – where things are and why they are there
- the ecological dimension – how humans interact with environments.

What will students learn about?
Students of Australian Geography learn about the interaction of human and physical geography in a local context. They examine Australia’s physical environments and communities and explore how they are changing and responding to change. Students also look at Australia’s roles in its region and globally and how individuals and groups are planning for a better future. An important feature of the Australian Geography course is to allow students to become more informed and active citizens.
AUSTRALIAN HISTORY (MANDATORY)
History develops in young people an interest in and enjoyment of exploring the past. A study of History provides opportunities for examining events, people and society from twentieth century Australia.

What will students learn about?
Students develop an understanding of significant developments in Australia’s social, political and cultural history including Federation, the Vietnam War era and the social history one decade in depth. Australia’s international relationships are examined through World War One and Two and our role as a global citizen. The changing rights and freedoms of Aboriginal peoples and other groups in Australia are also studied.

MATHEMATICS
Students will be placed in graded mathematics classes as a result of their performance in the Stage 4 (Year 7/8) course. This will be determined from a consideration of their performances in Year 7 and 8 assessment tasks, class-work and where necessary the recommendation of the class teacher.

In order to meet student’s vocational and other learning needs beyond the compulsory years, a variety of mathematical learning experiences are required in Years 9 and 10. The arrangement of content in Stage 5 (Years 9 – 10) acknowledges the wide range of achievement of students in Mathematics. Stage 5.1 content is designed to meet the needs of students who achieve Stage 4 outcomes during Year 9 and 10. Stage 5.2 content builds on and includes the content of Stage 5.1, whilst Stage 5.3 content includes the content for 5.1 and 5.2 and is designed for students who achieved Stage 4 outcomes probably before the end of Year 8.

Students who intend to study the Stage 6 General Mathematics course will experience at least some of the Stage 5.2 content, particularly the Patterns and Algebra topics and Trigonometry. Students who intend to study the Stage 6 Mathematics course will experience the topics Real Numbers, Algebraic Techniques and Coordinate Geometry as well at least some of Trigonometry and Deductive Geometry from Stage 5.3. Students who intend to study the Stage 6 Mathematics Extension 1 course will experience the optional topics Curve Sketching and Polynomials, Functions and Logarithms, and the Circle Geometry. This will occur through appropriate student class placement at the beginning of the year.

To achieve the outcomes for Stage 4 and 5, the use of a calculator that incorporates the features generally associated with ‘scientific’ calculators is mandatory. It is important, however, that students maintain and develop their mental arithmetic skills, rather than relying on their calculators for every calculation.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
PDHPE is concerned with developing the knowledge and skills and fostering the attitudes that will empower students to adopt healthy lifestyles. It will affect the way students think, feel and act in regard to their own well-being and that of others and the community in which they live. The school program will focus on enabling and encouraging students to make informed decisions related to health, physical activity, lifestyle and life planning.

PDHPE will attempt to develop in each student self-esteem and social well-being, movement skill and personal fitness, and an ability and commitment to make and act upon informed health decisions. Practical lessons will involve activities such as: volleyball, gymnastics, athletics, touch, basketball, badminton and dance.
SCIENCE

Stage 5 is a two year course covered in Years 9 and 10.

The aim of Science is to develop students’:
Interest in and enthusiasm for science, as well as an appreciation of its role in finding solutions to contemporary science-related problems and issues
Knowledge and understanding of the nature and practice of scientific enquiry, and skills in applying the processes of Working Scientifically.
Scientific knowledge of and about phenomena within the natural world and the application of their understanding to new situations and events.
Appreciation of the development and dynamic nature of scientific knowledge, its influence in improving understanding of the natural world and the contribution of evidence-based decisions in informing societies’ use of science and technology.

Objectives

Values and attitudes
Students:
Develop an appreciation of the contribution of science to finding solutions to personal, social and global issues relevant to their lives now and in the future.
Develop a willingness to use evidence and reason to engage with and respond to scientific and technological ideas as informed, reflective citizens.

Skills, knowledge and understanding
Students:
Develop knowledge, understanding of and skills in applying the processes of Working Scientifically
Develop knowledge of the Physical World, Earth and Space, Living World and Chemical World, and understanding about the nature, development, use and influence of science.

Course Assessment
Knowledge and Understanding – Exams
Investigating and Research - Practical and Research Tasks
Communication – Exams, Practical and Research Tasks
Interpreting Data - Practical, Exam and Research tasks
Problem Solving – Exams

Stage 6
Stage 5 Science is a mandatory study that is prior knowledge to the Stage 6 Science subjects Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Studies, Physics, Senior Science and Science Life Skills
PART B:  X AND Y ELECTIVE COURSES

200 hours, two years, 5 periods/cycle

Aboriginal Studies
Agriculture
Ceramics
Child Studies
Commerce
Dance Performance
Drama
Food Technology
Geography in Practice
History of the Paranormal
Industrial Technology – Electronics
Industrial Technology – Metal
Industrial Technology – Timber
Information Software and Technology
Music
Photography and Digital Media
Physical Activity and Sport Studies
Technical Drawing
Textiles and Fashion
Visual Art
Visual Design
### Aboriginal Studies

**Description:** The Aboriginal Studies elective gives students the opportunity to have a hands on approach in learning about the traditional custodians of our land. Dance, art, music and sport are some of the practical aspects of the course. Concepts of heritage and identity will be challenged throughout the course.

**Excursions:****Subject Contributions:** $10 per year

**Enquires:** Mrs Duncan

### Agriculture

**Description:** Agriculture is offered as a 2 year course. In general terms the course involves study of aspects of agriculture related to production of plants and animals. Topics of study include: vegetable gardening, sheep, show steers, horticulture, fishing, pastures, beef, grapes, farm management, and agro forestry. Practical experiences at school include purchase and preparation of show steers, animal care, incubation and growing of chickens, area of individual vegetable and crop plots, experimentation, tractor and machinery operations, seedling, citrus and grape propagation. Emphasis is placed on aspects related to our local area. Students entering the course must be prepared to undertake Practical Activities and are encouraged to participate. Responsibility, involvement and achievement are considered important aims in this subject. Knowledge, skills and understanding are assessed throughout the course.

**Excursions:**

**Subject Contributions:** $20 per year. This can be recouped through the sale of produce grown by each student.

**Enquiries:** Ms Northey

### Ceramics

**Description:** Ceramics is a “hands on” creative and fun course. During the year you will learn skills and techniques to make functional and non-functional wares ... makes great presents for family, friends and pets!

**Excursions:**

**Subject Contributions:** $30 per year covers the cost of all clay, glazes etc. You get to keep anything that you make.

**Enquiries:** Art staff
### Child Studies
**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** This course has been developed to cover the many different aspects in Child Care. The students will examine topics from conception to birth, the role of the family in child care, learning through play, child safety, childhood health, child abuse and children with special needs. Students will learn through practical experience, observation, research and guest speakers. If you have an interest in studying Child Care in the College or going to TAFE, this course is an excellent introduction for a future in Child Care.

Closed in leather shoes are required.

**Excursions:**

**Subject Contributions:** $50 per year. This will cover the cost of food in food preparation lessons as well as basic craft type activities. Students will be required to make a major practical item (e.g., baby quilt).

**Enquiries:** Mrs Fairweather and Mrs Hopkins

### Commerce
**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** Commerce enables young people to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and values that form the foundation on which they can make sound decisions about consumer, financial, legal, business and employment issues. It develops in students the ability to research information, apply problem-solving strategies and evaluate options in order to make informed and responsible decisions as individuals and as part of the community.

**Excursions:** These are optional and cost is minimal

**Subject Contributions:** Nil

**Enquiries:** Mrs Duncan and HSIE staff

### Dance Performance
**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** This course is designed for the student who is interested in experiencing and developing skills in all areas of Dance. Students will be required to perform various types of dance, e.g.: creative, modern, tap, primitive, jazz and musical theatre dance, as well as choreographing dances, costume design and costume making. Students will have the opportunity to perform in Starstruck, as well as other dance performances within and out of the region.

**Excursions:** There are a number of occasions when students will be required to perform, as well as attend concerts. Some of these will be out of normal school time.

**Subject Contributions:** There are no subject contributions, however students may be required to attend excursions to local facilities and will be notified during the course.

**Enquiries:** Ms Thompson and Ms Burke
### Drama

**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** Drama provides a particularly valuable means of increasing self-confidence and social awareness, through physical and intellectual movement, dramatic activities and performances.

**Topics:**
- Introductory Games and Exercises
- Improvisation
- Control of Voice
- Character building
- Scripting
- Play building
- Mime
- Play reading
- Clowning and Commedia

Students are required and expected to be involved in public performances.

**Excursions:** These are optional and cost is kept to a minimum

**Subject Contributions:** Nil. Costs of excursions is extra. Students will supply their own material for any costumes, props or sets required for performance.

**Enquiries:** Ms Falconer

### Food Technology

**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** This course allows students to learn through observation, experimentation and practical application. Students will learn about nutrition and how to apply their knowledge to particular situations such as designing balanced diets, meals for children, pregnant women etc. Technology has led to many convenience foods becoming available to consumers. Students will learn about their manufacture, as well as experiment to compare homemade with convenience foods. Students will also become aware of how these foods are advertised to encourage consumers to buy them.

This course is a good basis for students who wish to continue in College Food Technology or Hospitality.

Closed in leather shoes are required.

**Excursions:** May be included at various stages of the course.

**Subject Contributions:** $80 per year

**Enquiries:** Mrs Fairweather and Mrs Hopkins

### Geography in Practice

**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** This is a two year course that has been designed to provide students with the opportunity to acquire and develop practical skills in the study of Geography. The subject is designed to give hands on opportunities to students. Students will study and participate in landscaping, aquaculture, development geography and tourism.

This course is recommended for anyone who may be thinking of a career in the environment, education, travel industry and marine studies.

**Excursions:** Beach, city, airport

**Subject Contributions:** $10 per year

**Enquiries:** Mrs Duncan and HSIE staff
**History of the Paranormal**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description:</th>
<th>This course is not for the Squeamish!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This elective aims to provide students with innovative learning experiences across a variety of historical subjects. This elective provides students with the chance to explore a wide range of mysteries that still fascinate us today. They will do this by using a variety of historical and literacy skills which will both improve their performance in other subject areas and while also allowing them to learn the fascinating material contained within this course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics include:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Investigating the truth behind fairy tales, myths and legends.</td>
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<td>• The science behind investigating for ghosts.</td>
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<td>• The Bermuda Triangle</td>
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<td>• UFO’s – Fact or Fiction?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excursions:</strong></td>
<td>Maitland Gaol and to Sydney.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Contributions:</strong></td>
<td>$10 per year</td>
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<td><strong>Enquiries:</strong></td>
<td>Ms Cochrane and the HSIE staff</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Industrial Technology - Electronics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description:</th>
<th>This course aims at providing students with the opportunity to gain “hands on” experience with basic electronic components, equipment and associated tools.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electronics is designed to be an interesting course for Year 9 and 10 students. Whilst it is a practical course involving the manufacture of a number of small fully functional projects, some theory work will be required to introduce the concepts associated with this field of technology.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students will gain confidence and skills in the following areas:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 – <strong>Design</strong> – identification of factors affecting the selection of components, materials, hardware and finishes</td>
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<td>2 – <strong>Planning</strong> – sketching and reading circuit diagrams, selection of components, sequencing of construction steps</td>
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<td>3 – <strong>Construction</strong> – safety: workshop procedures, hazard identification</td>
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<tr>
<td>This course is a good basis for students wishing to consider an electrical trade.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed in leather shoes are required.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excursions:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Contributions:</strong></td>
<td>$80 to cover the cost of materials</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Enquiries:</strong></td>
<td>Mr Sands</td>
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</tbody>
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### Industrial Technology – Metal

**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** This course aims to develop practical skills using both power and hand metalworking equipment. This is achieved through projects constructed using welding machines, lathes, milling machines, shapers and a wide variety of portable power machinery. Hand tools and processes are not neglected and provide an opportunity to display craftsmanship.

A computer operated lathe/milling machine is used by students who, as a result, experience modern manufacturing processes.

The skills and knowledge achieved provide a strong foundation for students seeking an apprenticeship in the metals area and form an essential part of all TAFE trade, engineering and technical courses.

Although not a pre-requisite, Industrial Technology Metal provides a direct pathway to the Year 11 and 12 Metals and Engineering course which provides students with school-based, TAFE recognised trade and traineeship training.

Closed in leather shoes are required.

**Excursions:**

**Subject Contributions:** $80 to cover the cost of materials.

**Enquiries:** Mr Sands and Mr Ryan

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### Industrial Technology – Timber

**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** This course aims to develop practical skills using both power and hand woodworking equipment. This is achieved through projects constructed using lathes, bandsaws, disc sanders, drilling machines and a wide variety of portable power machinery. Hand tools and processes are not neglected and provide an opportunity to display craftsmanship.

The skills and knowledge achieved provide a strong foundation for students seeking an apprenticeship in the timber/construction area and form an essential part of all relate TAFE trade, construction and technical courses.

Although not a pre-requisite, Industrial Technology – Timber provides a direct pathway to the Year 11 and 12 Construction course which provides students with school-based, TAFE recognised, trade and traineeship training.

Closed in leather shoes are required.

**Excursions:**

**Subject Contributions:** $80 to cover the cost of materials.

**Enquiries:** Mr Sands and Mr Ryan
### Information and Software Technology (IST) 2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10

Skills in Information Technologies are essential in our modern world. The study of Information and Software Technology (IST) allows students to develop skills to solve problems in real life contexts using technology. Core content provides students with specialised knowledge of past, current and emerging technologies, data, hardware and software. Students will develop information technology solutions through practical project work, both individually and in groups. Option topics include Internet and Website Development, Authoring and Multimedia, Simulation and Modelling, Database Design, Networking Systems and Software Development/Programming. As a result of studying this course students will be equipped to make appropriate use of technology both at a personal level and in the workplace in the exciting and challenging field of IT.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Local IT business</th>
<th>Costs:</th>
<th>Nil</th>
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Enquiries: Mrs. Fairweather

### Music 2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10

**Description:** This is a two year course that is designed to broaden the musical knowledge of students. Components of the course include: performance, composition and listening. A range of musical styles and periods will be studied. There is a strong emphasis on performance during the course and students may select from drums, keyboard, guitar or voice to develop their skills. Students will be given the opportunity to perform at school and community concerts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Subject Contributions:</th>
<th>$15 per year</th>
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Enquiries: Mrs Falconer

### Photography and Digital Media 2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10

**Description:** Taking photographs can be an enormously exciting and rewarding experience. You can develop your photographic skills to express your ideas and feelings about the things that interest you. The possibilities are endless. You will use the SLR camera, lenses, daylight and studio lighting, process film, darkroom practices, printing and special effects. A variety of subject matter is covered for vocational, artistic and recreational purposes. Careers include: portraits and wedding, photojournalism, fashion, advertising, travel, marine and underwater etc.

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<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Subject Contributions:</th>
<th>$40 per year</th>
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Enquiries: Art staff
### Physical Activity and Sport Studies

**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** This is a course designed for any student who is interested in physical activity, recreation, sport and health related issues. Students will spend time developing skills and knowledge in areas such as personal fitness, outdoor education, disabled sports, aquatics, gymnastics and a range of team sports. Students will also spend time studying issues such as sporting injuries, human anatomy, sports nutrition, coaching and leadership skills through sport.

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<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Subject Contributions: Nil, but out of school activities will cost a minimal amount</th>
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**Enquiries:** PDHPE staff

### Technical Drawing

**2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10**

**Description:** Technical Drawing is necessary for a career in all trades, engineering and advertising. Computers play an important role in modern Technical Drawing and much of the time spent in class is spent on a computer using a programme called AutoSketch. The outcomes are outstanding and this application of modern technology provides great student satisfaction and confidence in their own ability and skills that are of value in the building and manufacturing industries. Traditional board and T-square skills are not neglected with graphical representation including rendering, an important element.

This course provides a good basis for students who wish to continue in Years 11 and 12 following courses such as Construction and Metals and Engineering.

Technical Drawing is an essential part of all TAFE trade, engineering and technical courses. A sound knowledge of skills in this subject area will improve student chances of getting an apprenticeship.

Closed in leather shoes are required.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Subject Contributions: $40 per year</th>
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**Enquiries:** Mr Sands and Mr Ryan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Textiles and Fashion</th>
<th>2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> This course is designed for students who wish to learn more about the clothes that we wear or use. Students will also learn how to sew and make a variety of clothing pieces. Areas of study include fashion design, interior design, fibres, yarns and fabrics. Students will also look at the effect colour has in clothes design.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Closed in leather shoes are required</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excursions:</strong> At least one excursion per year to visit a graphic design studio, TAFE or university design courses etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Contributions:</strong> $80 per year.</td>
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<td><strong>Enquiries:</strong> Mrs Fairweather and Mrs Hopkins</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visual Art</th>
<th>2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Are you good at art? If you enjoy drawing, painting, making sculptures, ceramics, making artwork on computers, photography etc, then this course is for you. This course is recommended for anyone who may be thinking of any of the hundreds of jobs which require imaginative, creative thinking people – jobs like advertising, fashion design, sign writing, computer software design, kindergarten teaching or many others.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excursions:</strong> Excursions and workshops are included in this course. They are optional.</td>
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<td><strong>Subject Contributions:</strong> $35 (year 9)/$40 (year 10) covers the cost of all materials used in the course. You keep anything you make.</td>
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<td><strong>Enquiries:</strong> Art staff</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visual Design</th>
<th>2 Year Course: Years 9 and 10</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> What is Graphic Design? It is advertising, packaging, illustration, magazine layout, sign writing, CD covers, and tourist promotions. If the idea of a career in the Graphic Design industry appeals to you, then this is the ideal course for you. In this course you will learn how to use both traditional and modern methods to produce designs, advertising layouts and technical illustrations which will eventually become your portfolio of work which you will take to job interviews or when applying for tertiary courses.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excursions:</strong> At least one excursion per year to visit a graphic design studio, TAFE or university design courses etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subject Contributions:</strong> $35 (year 9)/$40 (year 10) provides the materials and equipment that you will use</td>
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<td><strong>Enquiries:</strong> Art staff</td>
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