Choosing an Elective

Introduction

This curriculum booklet lists the elective courses being offered for 2014 at Cessnock High School, for students in Year 8. 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.

Choosing and experiencing an elective in Year 8 will make it easier to choose your electives for Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) and Stage 6 (The College).

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 possible 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. Paying these fees by the end of Term 3 will secure a place for a student in the timetabled elective class. If money is a problem, please apply for assistance through the Student Assistance Scheme at the office.

I wish you the very best in choosing your subjects for Year 8. I am sure that you will find them 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.
Subject Choices: Year 8 – 2015
(For students in Year 7, 2014)

In year 8 you will participate in these subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science History
- Geography Visual
- Arts Music
- Technology
- PDHPE

PLUS TWO (2) elective courses. Each course is one semester (two terms) long. Please note that some of these electives have course fees for materials used. These fees must be paid before the end of 2014. Only electives with 15 or more students will run in 2015 due to staffing restrictions.

Each elective is described in this booklet. Please choose carefully based on your interests, abilities, and future career aspirations. Electives are chosen from the list below:

- Agriculture
- Ceramics
- Dance Performance
- Drama
- Food Technology
- Industrial Technology – Electronics
- Industrial Technology – Metal
- Industrial Technology – Timber
- Information Technology
- Music – Instrumental Development
- Photographic and Digital Media
- Physical Activity and Sports Studies
- Technical Drawing
- Textile and Fashion
- Visual Design
### Agriculture
This course offers an introduction to agricultural studies related to plants, animals and their management. Practical experiences involving garden plots, farm animals (sheep, calves, chickens and ducks), machinery, tractor operation and assignments are considered essential parts of the course and students are encouraged to participate. Responsibility, involvement and achievements are considered important aims in this subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: $10 to cover costs in involved in practical activities. Students can recoup this through selling produce they grow.</th>
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</table>

**Enquiries:** Ms Northey

### Ceramics
Work with clay and learn to make a wide range of pots, bowls and other useful and decorative items. This course will teach you about both handmade and wheel thrown pottery and will introduce you to glazing and firing. What you make is what you keep.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: $30 to cover costs for glazes and clay.</th>
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**Enquiries:** Mrs Falconer or Art Staff

### Dance Performance
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, eg creative, modern, tap, primitive, jazz and musical theatre dance, as well as choreographing dances, costume design and costume making. The students may have the opportunity to perform in various performances in and out of the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions: There may be occasions for students to perform as well as attend concerts.</th>
<th>Costs: Nil, however there are costs involved in purchase of materials for costumes and travel costs to performances.</th>
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</thead>
</table>

**Enquiries:** Ms Thompson or Ms Burke
**Drama**

This course is designed for students with an interest in drama. It will cover both theory and practical aspects. Students will need to supply a workbook and complete a Drama journal. Performing is a compulsory part of Drama. All students must be prepared to perform in front of various audiences.

Subjects covered in Drama could include:
- Drama exercises
- Movement, mime, gesture
- Use of voice
- Improvisation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: Nil</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Students will need to supply a workbook and a journal.</td>
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**Enquiries:** Mrs Falconer

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**Food Technology**

Students learn about food through practical experiences and processes. Students will look at Food for Special Occasions, where they prepare and present foods suitable for use on occasions such as Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, Birthdays etc. Students will also learn about Australian foods and how they have changed throughout our history. This course links well to Food Technology which is an elective in years 9 and 10.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: $40 per semester</th>
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**Enquiries:** Home Science Staff

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**Industrial Technology Electronics**

This elective will provide the opportunity for the novice to experiment and build basic electronic projects. Students will learn how to identify components, assemble practical circuits, whilst developing proficiency in soldering, printed circuit board manufacture, testing and fault finding. Safety is a prime consideration with all projects using low voltage. Students will use computer electronic simulation software and CAD drawing programs to develop and test prototype circuits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: $30 per semester</th>
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</table>

**Enquiries:** Industrial Arts Staff
### Industrial Technology Metal
This course aims to develop practical skills using both power and hand metalworking equipment. This is achieved through projects constructed using 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. The skills and knowledge achieved provide a strong foundation for students seeking an apprenticeship in the metals industry and form an essential part of all related TAFE trade, and technical courses.

| Excursions: | Costs: $30 per semester
Safe shoes are required in practical rooms. |
|-------------|----------------------------------|

**Enquiries:** Industrial Arts Staff

### Industrial Technology Timber
This course aims to develop practical skills using both power and hand woodworking equipment. This is achieved through projects constructed using lathes, 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 industry and form an essential part of all related TAFE trade, construction and technical courses.

| Excursions: | Costs: $30 per semester
Safe shoes are required in practical rooms. |
|-------------|----------------------------------|

**Enquiries:** Industrial Arts Staff
**Information Technology (IT)**

Skills in Information Technologies are essential in our modern world. The study of Information Technology (IT) allows students to develop skills to solve problems in real life contexts using technology. Students will develop technology based solutions through practical project work, both individually and collaboratively. This course also provides a base knowledge of computing applications (including Office, Multimedia, Photo and Audio Editing, Website Development and Web 2.0 Technologies) which can be built on during future years and applied across all subject areas.

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

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**Music – Instrumental Development**

This course is for students who wish to develop their skills in voice, guitar, keyboard or drums. Students may have experience in one or more of these instruments. Students may also have the opportunity to perform in school concerts and assemblies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: $10</th>
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**Enquiries:** Mrs Falconer

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**Photographic and Digital Media**

Learn how to use the camera and darkroom to develop and process your own photographs. The course will teach you to take successful photographs on a variety of subjects, using a variety of films and lenses.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: $30 to cover camera, chemicals, film and darkroom</th>
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**Enquiries:** Mrs Falconer or Art Staff
**Physical Activity and Sports Studies**

This course introduces you to the exciting world of sports and physical activity in Australia. The course is divided into theoretical and practical components and can include areas such as Sport in Australia, Sports Nutrition, Golf, Orienteering, Outdoor Recreation and Team Games. Students will be required to bring their sports uniform and appropriate shoes for all practical classes.

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

**Enquiries:** Mrs Myles and PDHPE staff

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**Technical Drawing**

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 program called Auto Sketch. The outcomes are outstanding and this application of modern technology provides great student satisfaction and confidence in their own ability, together with 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. Technical Drawing is an essential part of all TAFE trade, engineering and technical courses. A sound knowledge of and skills in this subject area will improve student chances of getting an apprenticeship.

| Excursions: |
| Costs: Nil |

**Enquiries:** Industrial Arts Staff
### Textiles and Fashion

This course will help to give students skills with a wide range of materials so that they can produce small items suitable for gifts or to decorate the home. Students should get a great sense of satisfaction on completion of items such as teddy bears, toys, folk art, jewellery cases, cottage crafts etc. The skills and techniques learnt may provide students with positive leisure time pursuits. This course links to Textile Technology which is an elective in years 9 and 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: $30 per semester (some small items may be required from home to meet personal tastes).</th>
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**Enquiries:** Home Science Staff

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### Visual Design

Develop imagination. Illustration, sketching and cartooning skills suitable for mural painting, animated cartoons and Mambo products like CD covers, T-shirts and magazine articles, this will include all forms of printmaking, lino, silkscreen, photography. This is an ideal introduction to the advanced Visual Design course in years 9 and 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excursions:</th>
<th>Costs: $30 will buy you a kit of materials and equipment that you will use in this course.</th>
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</table>

**Enquiries:** Mrs Falconer or Art Staff