HIGHVIEW COLLEGE

2025

YEAR 9 COURSE HANDBOOK

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WHAT IS THE POINT OF YEAR 9?

Year 7 is exciting and new, Year 8 is a year of consolidation and Year 10 leads into VCE. Once you progress into Senior School, your goals are in place and your focus is firmly fixed on the future. Year 9 provides an opportunity to take risks and explore. We urge students to take every opportunity to build self-knowledge, to practise compassion and tolerance, to develop an ability to accept differences in others and themselves, build resilience, extend their communication skills, move out of their comfort zone and try things they never imagined they might try.

After following a broad curriculum at Years 7&8, students at Year 9 reach the Middle Years of their secondary schooling and an important stage in their physical, intellectual and social development. At Year 9, Highview College continues to offer a broad curriculum and students have the opportunity to start to specialise in areas of interest and strength. We acknowledge the unique growing phase that 14 to 15 year olds experience and, through a rich and innovative curriculum, strive to provide opportunities for students to become independent and active learners. Highview's Year 9 Program is designed to enhance each student's enthusiasm for learning by constructing a learning environment in which they know they are respected and valued, and within which they can make mistakes while exploring their talents and strengthening their competencies.

Year 9 students will study an interconnected course with three components

Student Wellbeing	DELTA
Core Subjects	English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Physical Education
Elective Subjects	Select four studies (semester-long)

Carefully selected units from the available options in the Elective Program will ensure that each Year 9 student has an interesting and stimulating program, and the opportunity to be well prepared for Year 10 and beyond.

This Handbook outlines details of the core and elective subjects being offered at Year 9 in 2025.

It is the sincere hope of all Highview staff that the 2025 Year 9 students have a wonderful first year in Middle School.

Brogahn Richards
Head of Year 9

CONNECTED LEARNING WITH TECHNOLOGY

All Highview College students are supplied with a laptop in Year 7. This is replaced with a new one for their Senior study in Years 10-12.

SEQTA is an all-in-one collaborative teaching and learning ecosystem that empowers the school to change the way we see the relationship between school and home, simplifying and enriching the experience for teachers, students, and parents. When we made the decision to move to SEQTA, our priority was to have a product that improved outcomes for our students, as well as improving the school experience for teachers and parents.

Our use of SEQTA has changed the way we conduct our business, delivering benefits for all stakeholders, including:

- Increasing engagement between teachers, students, and parents – as students are able to access important course materials and notes at any time, and parents are able to view these notes and engage with their children and teachers as necessary
- Improving communication between teachers, students, and parents, allowing for a full, unhindered education 'conversation' between school and home – no longer are classrooms hidden behind doors and curtains, but the work of teachers and students is being showcased
- Online lesson delivery – richer content, with the ability for teachers to upload any number of relevant resources and notes to help students succeed, and allowing students to use SEQTA as an important revision and study tool, even when they are absent from school. This provides dynamic lessons and increased powers of differentiation in classrooms
- Making homework and assessment details known – relieving some of the stress for both students and parents as information is easily accessible
- Timely and relevant feedback to students – taking advantage of the research that shows just how valuable timely feedback is to student development

DELTA PROGRAM

DELTA is the Highview College Student Wellbeing Program which we have developed as a proactive approach to maximising student wellbeing. The program has been designed by Highview College staff specifically for our students. There are three main elements incorporated into the program, all under the banner of wellbeing: Study Skills, Safe Behaviours and Personal Development. These three areas reflect our school motto 'Education Through Wholeness'.

The Program also explores issues relevant to each year level, with a specific focus on areas such as Resilience Training, Cyber Safety and Healthy Relationships.

Students will have a DELTA session every day with their DELTA Mentor who will facilitate and guide them through the Program. Each student's DELTA Mentor will be the 'go to' teacher for both students and parents. With this consistent point of contact in a non-academic setting, students will foster meaningful relationships with their Mentors.

The DELTA Program promotes Health and Growth in students – physically, intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. It supports positive change and development in students' thinking, fosters learners who are able to engage and thrive and helps adolescents grow into strong and resilient adults.

The name DELTA was chosen for a number of reasons. In scientific terms, DELTA symbolises change. In geographical terms DELTA refers to the place where rivers meet the sea and is a place of growth. The Greek alphabet symbol for DELTA is a triangle – representing the three elements of our program: Study Skills, Safe Behaviours and Personal Development. With this in mind, our DELTA program stands for:

Developing
Engaged
Learners &
Thriving
Adults

OUR VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

Highview College aspires to be an exceptional, co-educational school founded on Christian values. We are an inclusive community that welcomes families from all faiths. Our core values are; Growth, Respect, Aspiration, Compassion and Excellence guiding everything we do.

Highview College was established in 1974 as the first ecumenical school in Australia. The belief that those of all faiths and cultural backgrounds should be welcomed, laid the foundation of our College and is ingrained in its rich tapestry. This inclusive ideology holds strong today. The original building was constructed in 1902 when the Brigidine Sisters opened St Joseph's College. In 1973 the Brigidine Sisters transitioned the management of the school forming the Highview College we know today.

CORE SUBJECTS

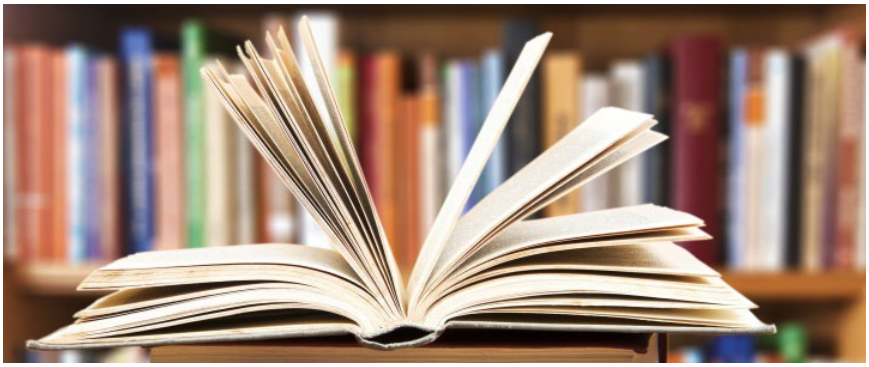
ENGLISH

The study of English sees students developing a range of skills including:

- the ability to experiment with various forms of writing
- confident and competent speaking and listening skills
- creative and critical thinking
- reading and responding to a range of texts
- vocational and life language skills
- an awareness of the media and the role of media in our society
- an enjoyment of, and broadening experience with literature.

The units provide a comprehensive foundation to enable students to continue their academic education and to participate effectively in the workforce and society.

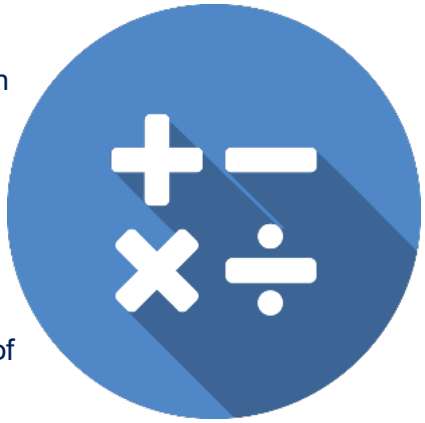
Students in Year 9 English are guided to explore and interpret different perspectives on increasingly complex issues and to construct spoken and written responses relating these perspectives to a personal understanding of the contemporary world. Students develop a critical awareness of language and how it both shapes and is reflected in texts. This knowledge is the foundation of further study of the English language.



MATHEMATICS

The broad aim of the Year 9 Mathematics Program is to encourage the development of important ideas in more depth, and to promote the interconnectedness of mathematical concepts.

A common core of topics from each of the Mathematics dimensions include Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. Year 9 Mathematics units offer a range of learning experiences which include skills practice and applications, modelling activities, problem solving and investigations, and technology applications.



Mathematics classes provide an opportunity for students to work with others of similar ability. Teachers are able to move students more quickly toward understanding when they can shape their teaching to meet the needs of the group.

Access Maths is a special program which runs at Years 7-9 to support students who find Mathematics challenging. We also offer Extension Mathematics and General Mathematics Mainstream classes which are tailored to the learning needs and confidence of students.

SCIENCE

Science provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of important science concepts and processes. Students will explore practices used to develop knowledge of Science's contribution to our culture and society and its applications in our lives. The curriculum supports students to develop scientific knowledge, understandings and skills to make informed decisions about local, national and global issues.

Science understanding at Year 9 level covers Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science, Health Science, Space and emerging sciences including Biotechnology, Green Chemistry and Nanotechnology. Science Inquiry allows students the opportunity to undertake and reflect on their own investigations.

Students explore ways in which the human body as a system responds to its external environment including aspects of nutrition, health and disease. Students are introduced to the notion of the atom as a system of protons, electrons and neutrons, and how this system can change through nuclear decay. Students will learn that matter can be rearranged through chemical change and that these changes play an important role in many systems. Students also begin to apply their understanding of energy and forces to global systems such as continental movement; and investigate electricity and explore electronics. Students are exposed to the process of designing, reporting and evaluating practical investigations along with the design of research projects.

HUMANITIES

The Humanities provide a framework for students to examine the complex processes that have shaped the modern world and to investigate responses to different challenges including people's interconnections with the environment.

In **Geography** and **History** students explore the processes that have shaped and which continue to shape different societies and cultures, to appreciate the common humanity shared across time and distance, and to evaluate the ways in which humans have faced and continue to face different challenges.

In **Civics and Citizenship** and **Economics and Business** students explore the systems that shape society, with a specific focus on legal and economic systems. Students learn about Australia's role in global systems, and are encouraged to appreciate democratic principles and to contribute as active, informed and responsible citizens.

GEOGRAPHY

Students' geographical and conceptual thinking is developed through two topics:

Biomes and food security

Biomes and food security focuses on investigating the role of the biotic environment and its role in food and fibre production. Students examine the biomes of the world, their alteration and significance as a source of food and fibre, and the environmental challenges and constraints on expanding food production in the future.

Geographies of interconnections

Geographies of interconnections focuses on investigating how people, through their choices and actions, are connected to places throughout the world in a wide variety of ways, and how these connections help to make and change places and their environments.

HISTORY

Analyse pivotal events such as the World War 1, and the struggle for civil rights and independence across the globe. Students study how these events reshaped national borders, influenced international relations, and led to significant social and political changes. Students investigate key figures and movements that have defined modern history, and understand the causes and consequences of these major historical milestones.

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

The curriculum builds students' understanding of Australia's political system and how it enables change. Students examine the ways political parties, interest groups, media and individuals influence government and decision-making processes. They compare Australia's system of government with another system of government in the Asian region.

Through case studies, debates, and research projects, students will develop critical thinking skills and a deeper understanding of current global dynamics. This comprehensive exploration will prepare students to engage with contemporary issues and contribute to global conversations with informed perspectives.

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Students consider how the Australian economy is performing and the importance of its interactions and relationships with the Asia region and the global economy in achieving growth and prosperity. This includes the significance of trading relationships in supporting prosperous outcomes for the economy and the business sector. Students explore the relationship between economic performance and living standards as well as the reasons why these differ across regions within and between economies.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION / RECREATION

In Year 9 Physical Education students participate in a variety of activities that aim to refine previous skills and further develop their self-confidence, independence and leadership qualities. They experience a wide range of sporting activities as well as the 'Sport Education Physical Education Program' (SEPEP), Sports Coaching experience, and other similar sports-initiative Programs.

Personal Development education assists students to perceive and value themselves and others, to enter into personal relationships and to make practical decisions and take actions that are personally and socially responsible. The subject matter of Personal Development focuses on personal and social health, movement and fitness, safety in the outdoors, responsibility and leadership skills within the sporting community.

'STRIVE'

(Strength, Thinking, Reflection, Innovation, Versatility and Energy)

Year 9 'STRIVE' aims to develop a real 'sense of belonging' to Highview and enhance a positive school culture. It supports students to strive to be the best that they can be. It encourages self-directed learning and independent thinking. Students will have opportunities to become more aware of their community, reflect on what makes them who they are and to focus on establishing goals for their future. STRIVE also provides an opportunity for students to undertake a major project focusing on an area of personal interest. STRIVE is designed to push students out of their comfort zone in a fun and challenging way. It aims to encourage growth, both physical and emotional.

Year 9 STRIVE:

- contributes to students' personal development through building relationships, self-esteem, independence, resilience, self-reflection
- focuses on teamwork and co-operation
- encourages problem-solving, decision-making, reasoning and creativity
- facilitates strong community links

YEAR 9 ELECTIVES PLANNING SHEET

Most Electives run for one Semester which allows students to experience four of these electives over the year. Each of these electives is explained in this Handbook.

In addition, there are two special programs which run for a whole year.

Students need to list six preferences (number 1 being the most desired choice and 5&6 being reserve choices) from the following Electives:

STUDY AREA	ELECTIVES	PREFERENCES
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	ANY LOTE Distance Education Indonesian class may be delivered at Highview, dependent on numbers. Requires two semester units	
	SUPPORTED STUDY Can be one or both semesters Consult with Learning Diversity Team	
THE ARTS	ART	
	VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN	
	MEDIA	
	MUSIC	
	DRAMA	
TECHNOLOGIES	FOOD STUDIES	
	SYSTEMS ENGINEERING	
	PRODUCT DESIGN	
SCIENCE	FORENSIC SCIENCE	

LOTE: INDONESIAN

Indonesian is a year-long subject in which students continue to develop their language skills and cultural understanding through an engaging and immersive program focused on the topics of Travel & Taste and Environment. Students explore complex grammatical structures, expand their vocabulary and engage in regular conversations, enabling them to refine their communication skills. The move from a personal perspective to a more functional understanding of the language is facilitated through the use of diverse texts, multimedia resources and interactive activities within a group-based format. Students will learn practical skills relating to preparing for a trip, ordering food and describing the weather and environment around them. They will also gain insights into Indonesian society, traditions and values, fostering global awareness and intercultural competence.

ART

This unit allows students to build on their technical skills in Art. By studying various techniques and materials, used by both artists of the past and present, students will learn the tricks of the trade. Art Movement students will study: Impressionism, Fauvism, Cubism, Pop and Contemporary (in order to produce their own individual works of art). Students will explore painting, ceramics, and digital photography while also working with charcoal and other traditional art mediums. Students will also get the opportunity to visit online and local art exhibitions.

NB. A materials levy will apply to this subject.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

Year 9 Visual Communication Design is a continuation of the skills developed in Year 8. Students will focus on the production of visual communications and design. Students will explore the design process using a range of methods, media and materials. Students will learn technical drawing systems such as isometric and planometric projections and learn how to draw using one and two-point perspective. Students will also learn about digital manipulation skills such as Photoshop and Illustrator.

NB. A materials levy will apply to this subject.

MEDIA

Media focusses on the skills involved with photography, film making, special effects, sound editing and animation. Students explore photographic studio techniques such as three-point lighting, green screen photography and portraiture. Students learn about handling equipment such as cameras, tripods, lighting equipment and backdrops. Students will use film making process such as storyboarding, production and post-production editing, camera angles and movements and sound editing techniques. Animation techniques such as claymation and stop motion animation will be explored. Through the study of these areas, students will develop a digital folio of imagery, animation and short film.

NB. A materials levy will apply to this subject.

MUSIC

Music in Year 9 is a predominately practical based subject that concentrates on exploring a variety of different styles and has a high emphasis on performing. Students will choose an instrument to focus on and prepare solo and group works for performance. There will also be opportunities for students interested in recording and mixing songs to further their skills in these areas.
Students will demonstrate their learning through: solo and group performance; song analysis using the elements of music; arranging music for a small group; and covering songs, including mash ups and reimagining songs in different styles.

This subject is for anyone with an interest in music, not only for students already experienced in playing an instrument.

DRAMA

A continuation of the skills developed in Year 7 and 8 Drama, this course is designed around the theatrical style of Horror and Suspense. Mood and tension is created through the students' use of lighting and sound technology. The practical workshops are supported by some theory lessons. Special effect makeup is also taught in this unit to allow students to creatively apply makeup to create a character e.g. Frankenstein. The unit culminates in a student devised horror performance that demonstrates their understanding of the style and how lighting and sound can be used for dramatic effect.

NB. A materials levy will apply to this subject.

FOOD STUDIES

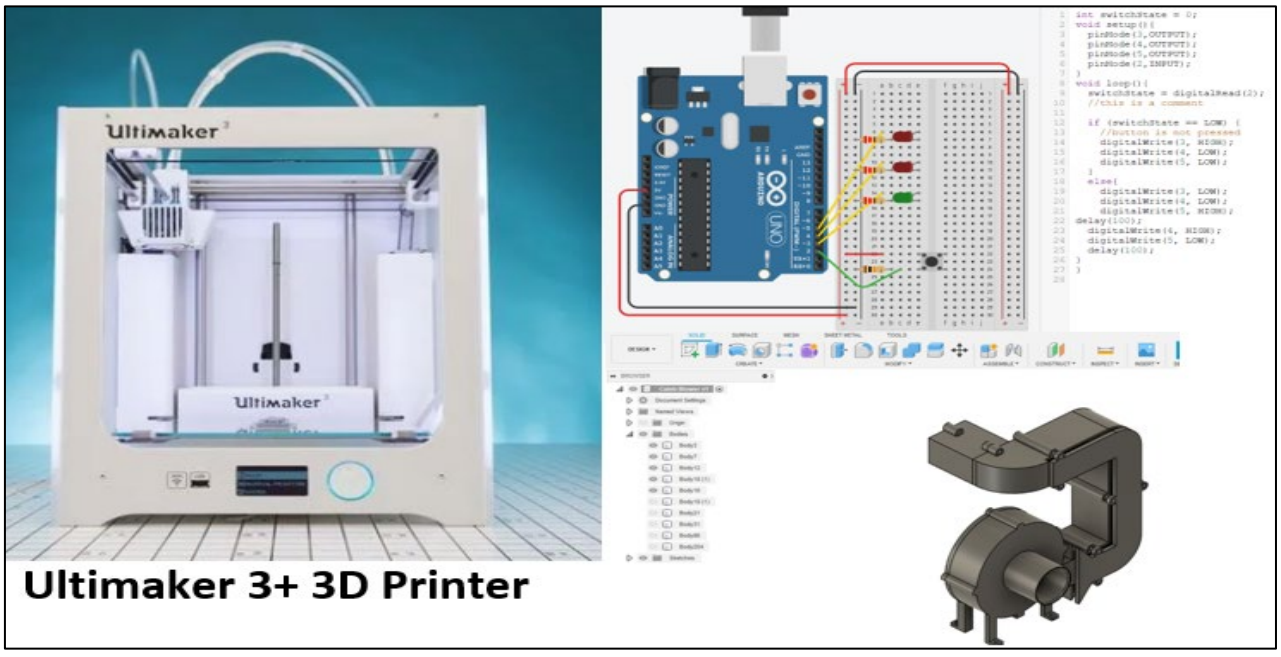
Students explore advanced food production and preparation methods from a diverse selection of cuisines and cultures throughout this unit of study. They utilise traditional and modern cookery methods whilst developing a further understanding of the safe and hygienic preparation of ingredients and flavour combinations.

NB. A materials levy will apply to this subject.

SYSTEMS ENGINEERING - DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING

This unit focuses on the development of problem-solving and critical and creative thinking required for the design, production and evaluation of different engineering projects. Students will learn using cutting-edge equipment how the digital age will transform processes and production to improve efficiency whilst still learning critical traditional skills with a variety of specialised tools. In particular, this subject focuses on; design projects using Fusion 360, the ability to program an extensive range of sensors and other electronic components via the use of a suite of Arduinos, 3D print models, and laser cut components to achieve a variety of engaging projects.

NB. A materials levy will apply to this subject.



PRODUCT DESIGN – METAL / WOOD / PLASTICS

This unit creates an opportunity for students to extend their practical skills, whilst using specialised equipment. Students will create a design brief for a client and manufacture a product that serves a practical need. Materials include wood, metals and plastics.

This unit requires students to demonstrate advanced skills in: building from a plan; manufacturing to a time limit and to client specifications; using Safe Operating Practices in the workshop; and competently using various specialised tools.

Students will produce a set project using the Design Process to improve their craftsmanship skills. Product evaluation will reflect on the success of the production processes as well as the suitability. Laser cutting and etching, 3D printing and CNC routing are all at the student's disposal during this unit of work. Students will also refine their Computer Aided Design (CAD) skills by utilising Fusion360, MetalCut and VCarve Pro.

NB. A materials levy will apply to this subject.

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Forensic Science is offered in addition to Core Science. Forensic Science is a rapidly expanding field that utilises the skills and information from a very broad range of sciences: physical sciences, chemical sciences and biological sciences. It presents the opportunity to cover a very broad range of both theoretical and practical skill development in its investigations. It encompasses the practice of crime-scene investigation, applying skills and knowledge, reinforced by laboratory analysis. Students will apply their knowledge and skills learnt throughout the semester to investigate and solve a simulated crime scene.

NB. A materials levy will apply to this subject.