



Course Selection Handbook

Year 9



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Introduction & Selection Guidelines

At Blackburn High School we provide a rich and diverse curriculum program and pathway opportunities for our Year 9 students.

This consists of core subjects and enrichment electives

Core Subjects studied all year

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Health and Physical Education
- Arts and Technology
(elective choices within these Learning Areas)
- Sport (elective choices within this Learning Area)

Students can then choose 6 enrichment electives for the year which must include at least one Art and one Technology elective.

All electives are semester based except for Languages which run the full year and will occupy two elective spots.

The provision of a diverse program and pathways recognizes the particular needs and abilities of our students and challenges them to further develop their talents and fulfil their potential.

Selection Guidance includes:

- Year 9 Program Information Mentor Group Session
- Careers and Subject Expo
- Optional draft elective selection form (Appendix A)
- Online subject selection
- Students should follow their interests when choosing their subjects and consider their pathway
- Students should choose a balanced program with a variety of subjects



Enrichment Electives

English: Graphic Worlds, Writer's Workshop, EAL Support (for EAL students only).

Science: Mythbusters, Forensic Science.

Maths: Puzzles and Conundrums, Cryptography.

Humanities: People and Power in History, How to be an explorer: Field Work in Geography, Connections.

Health and Physical Education: Duke of Edinburgh, The Science of Health and Physical Education.

Languages: French.

Art (including Music): Songwriting and Recording, Industry and Performance, Art, Ceramics, Dramatic Arts, Media, Photography, Visual Communication.

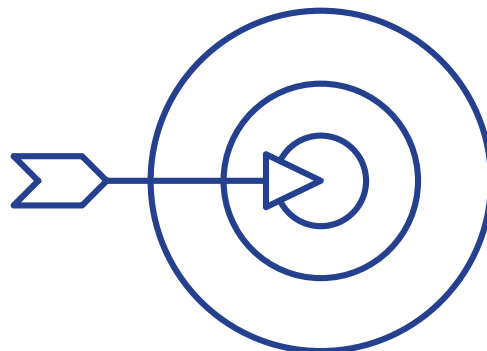
Technology: Food Studies, Materials, Textiles, Systems, Computing.

Sport Electives

Dance, Lifelong Health and Wellbeing, Gym Fitness, Mixed Games, Indoor Sports, Leisure and Recreation, Self-Defence.

Year 9 High Achievers' Program

Year 9 students in the High Achievers' Program will study the same content outlined in the core subjects, with a focus on gaining a deeper understanding, finding connections between topics, and thinking critically about ideas and information. They will also have the opportunity for enrichment and extension activities.



Year 9 Core Subjects

English

Year 9 English focuses on students' interest in personal identity and the desire to articulate their views. Students analyse a range of texts, including social media, and consider the views and values they reflect and how they are shaped by audience and context. They study how current social issues are represented in different texts, including memes and social media, and how they are shaped by audience and context. Creative and analytical styles of writing are undertaken in Year 9 English.

Mathematics

In Year 9 Mathematics, students establish a strong foundation in Numbers, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Statistics and Probability. Through Maths Pathway, Rich Tasks, and Projects, students will develop problem-solving and reasoning skills and consolidate their mathematical understanding. Learning mathematics creates opportunities in the lives of all students.

It develops numeracy capabilities needed in their personal, work, and civic life, and provides the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built.

All students are expected to have a scientific calculator.

Science

In Year 9 Science, students are challenged to further their scientific literacy by making connections between important scientific concepts and how these concepts relate to the world. The following questions are explored: How do we know what is pseudoscience and what is fact? How do vaccines protect us? How does the atomic model help our understanding of reactions? How has our planet and humanity evolved over time? Science provides the opportunity for students to think creatively and critically, solve problems, work in teams and develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world.





Humanities

Humanities develops students' critical and creative thinking, ethical understanding, intercultural awareness, and personal and social capabilities. Through the study of History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Commerce, students investigate how societies, economies, governments, and environments have changed over time and continue to shape the world today. In Year 9, students explore topics including Australia and China from 1750–1914, World War I, globalisation and increasing global interconnectedness, trade, biomes and food security, and the role of citizens, businesses, and governments in society. Throughout these units, students develop skills in analysing evidence, interpreting sources, identifying continuity and change, examining causes and consequences, and evaluating contemporary issues from multiple perspectives.

Health & Physical Education

In Year 9 Physical Education, students will take part in a range of game sense units focusing on skill and strategic development. Within the units, students will enhance their understanding of strategies and tactics, stages of learning, coaching points, and types of feedback. Students will measure and analyse their own personal physical activity behaviours and apply their knowledge to plan, implement and evaluate improvements in their physical activity. The Health unit focus is Respectful Relationships and Youth Health Issues. Students will explore the sexual health of young people and the impact of alcohol and drugs on decision making. Students will learn about policies and laws relating to consent, sexual harassment, homophobia, and discrimination. Students will be provided with information on how to access reliable health information, support strategies and health services for young people.

The Arts

Students select at least one Art elective for the year, from the following:

Music – Songwriting and Recording

Learn to develop your song writing, composition and recording skills in this practical subject. Enhance your musical skills through many creative projects and demonstrate final projects through live performance in groups of all styles and genres, as well as recording and mixing within a studio environment.

Music – Blues ‘n’ More

In this class students will undertake a deep learning of jazz. Through the study of repertoire and playing in musical groups, students will apply rhythmic, harmonic and melodic elements to develop skills for performance and improvisation. The transferable skills from this class will include, critical thinking, communication, resilience, patience, and persistence. Performing in a jazz ensemble teaches us the service to community while simultaneously having a respect for individualism. This is a unique program, designed with input from Jazz @ Lincoln Centre and Jazz Music Institute that is not offered at other schools.

The Arts – Art

Explore the elements and principles of Art. Students learn rendering techniques and undertake colour theory exercises, portraiture, painting, printmaking and mixed media collage. Research assignments will be based on practical work and weekly sketches in the Visual Art diary will occur.

The Arts – Sculpture

Students design and produce artwork using hand building techniques and are introduced to the use of a range of sculpture techniques. Various 3D art pieces are made using air dry clay, paper mache, plaster, cardboard and wire. Sketches and development work are documented in a Visual Diary.

The Arts – Dramatic Arts

Step into the spotlight and behind the scenes in Dramatic Arts – a dynamic new course that brings together the best of Drama and Theatre Studies! These exciting subject invites students to explore the world of performance through physical comedy, slapstick, and mime, learning how to express big ideas without saying a word. Work in groups to devise your own performances, script scenes, and experiment with props and set design to bring your creative vision to life. But the magic doesn't stop on stage! You'll also explore key production areas and get hands-on experience in how a show comes together. Whether you love to perform, create, design, or lead, the Dramatic Arts gives you the chance to build confidence, refine your performance skills, and take your creativity to the next level!





The Arts – Media

Develop understandings of media production processes to analyse, create and distribute media products. Learn media production skills, including image manipulation, and video and audio editing. Students learn about genre to create a film poster and music video, using a range of media production software, including Adobe Photoshop and Premiere Pro.

The Arts – Visual Communication

Students generate and develop design concepts using a range of design elements and principles, rendering techniques and drawing methods. Students produce a folio of drawings that incorporates the design fields of practice of messages, objects, environments and interactive experiences. Students produce a folio of drawings that incorporates the design fields of practice of messages, objects, environments and interactive experiences'

The Arts – Photography

Learn about the works and themes of photographers and photograph a selection of subject matter that represent elements and principles of design.

Students trace the development of the camera and photography to produce a timeline and also complete a series of written worksheets and projects on the parts of the camera and its functions.

Students learn the parts and functions of DSLR cameras to experiment with settings and use Photoshop for editing. Students research the history of photography and analyse photographs in various genres. Students explore rules of composition to inspire their own practice. A digital folio records the art process and design decisions made through learning tasks.



Technology

Students select at least one Technology elective for the year, from the following:

Design Technology – Food Studies

Students further their knowledge on safety and hygiene to produce a variety of dishes and improve their production skills. They investigate food selection and why sustainability is important for future generations. Students research ways in which to minimise food waste and use The Design Process to collaboratively plan, produce, and evaluate a meal focusing on sustainable seafood.

Design Technology – Materials

This program gives students the opportunity to develop analytical and problem-solving skills in the context of wooden product manufacture. Students will construct a number of projects while using the technology process of investigating, designing, producing and evaluating.

Digital Technology – Computing

Students investigate how digital systems manage, control, and secure access to data in networks. Students investigate simple data compression techniques. They represent documents as content, structure, and markup. They acquire, manipulate, and validate data using spreadsheets and relational databases. They use project management tools to plan and manage individual and collaborative iterative projects. Students design, validate, and test algorithms using flowcharts and pseudocode. They implement algorithms and debug programs using an object-oriented programming language.

Design Technology – Textiles

Students develop construction skills using sewing machines and fabric material. Students construct a teddy bear using fur fabric, a pair of satin boxer shorts, and time permitting, a patchwork cushion. Students research fashion design and the properties of fabrics and complete an assignment on a historical style of a soft toy.

Design Technology – Systems

Students develop analytical and problem solving skills in the context of electronics and control circuitry. Students will construct a number of projects while using the technology process of investigating, designing, producing and evaluating. Students are also given the opportunity to utilize 3D printing technology to enhance their individual products.



Sport *Year 9 Sport Electives incur a cost; electives have an estimated cost of over \$150-\$180, excluding Mixed Games, which is free of charge.*

All Sport Education subjects are one semester in length. Students must undertake two sport electives over the year: one per semester, from the following:

Dance

Students will participate in a variety of dance styles both at school (incursions) and at a local dance studio (excursions). Examples include Zumba, Cheer, Break Dancing, Hip Hop, Contemporary, Ballroom etc. Approximately 16 sessions.

Indoor Sports

Students will travel to Indoor Sports Centres and participate in activities such as indoor Cricket, indoor Football, Squash, indoor Volleyball, indoor Soccer and indoor Netball. Approximately 10-12 sessions.

Lifelong Health & Wellbeing

Students will participate in a range of incursions, excursions and teacher led classes that will expose students to a wide variety of lifelong health and wellbeing activities e.g. Pilates, Yoga, Meditation, Water Aerobics, Stretching, Relaxation activities etc.

Leisure and Recreation

Students experience a range of recreational activities both in and out of the school including; Ten Pin Bowling, Martial Arts, Gym/Fitness, Indoor Sports, Laser Tag, Boot Camp, Mini Golf, Roller Skating, Rock Climbing, Lawn Bowls and Bounce Trampoline Stadium.

Gym Fitness

Students will walk with their teacher to local fitness facilities and gyms in the Blackburn area. They will develop a fitness training program and participate in basic weight training, cardio fitness and fitness circuits. Some sessions include working with a personal trainer and the school fitness room.

Self Defence

Students will participate in a variety of positive activities that assist with building self-esteem and basic physical self-defence skills. Students will learn and develop new skills to understand the importance of keeping active and healthy, how to manage difficult situations, including conflict management.

Mixed Games

Students will experience a range of school-based team sports, non-traditional sports, and minor games throughout the semester.



Year 9 Enrichment Electives

English – Graphic Worlds

An English enrichment subject where the texts are all visual: students use contemporary graphic novels, imagery, film and multimodal texts to explore real world challenges such as racism or social injustice. Students learn how visual imagery can be used to influence an audience, and how to analyse it for meaning. This is a great elective for students who love English but want something different, or who are interested in Media.

English – Writer’s Workshop

Welcome to the shop you will never want to leave: the Writer’s Workshop. A bit like Harry Potter’s first trip into Hogsmeade, you too will enter a world of curiosity and fascination in which we engage in the dark arts of metaphorical language and discover true magic when we share ideas for our stories. Writer’s Workshop is perfect for students who enjoy writing or want to improve their writing ideas, stamina or expression.

English – English as an Additional Language (EAL) Support*

The Year 9 EAL Support Program is designed to support EAL students who qualify for the program. Students focus on developing reading, writing and listening skills. They will learn to write in different text types that are required across the curriculum. Aural and listening tasks will be conducted to enable students to develop their communication skills. ****Students who qualify for EAL status must select this subject as an elective.***

Mathematics – Puzzles and Conundrums

Do you enjoy Maths and challenging problems? In this elective, focus on the development of advanced problem solving skills through a range of puzzles and open-ended explorations of mathematical conundrums. Develop strategies for coping with challenging mathematical questions, as you work your way through a range of puzzles. Students will participate in the Australian Mathematics Trust’s Challenge or Enrichment competition program.

Mathematics – Cryptography

Crack famous ciphers and cryptogram! Throughout history these ciphers and cryptograms have been employed by organizations, particularly spy agencies, to disguise important messages. Study the famous Enigma code and use statistical analysis and other methods to unravel codes. Explore the latest modern adaptation of encryption (and block-chain technology), which supports the current phenomenon of cryptocurrencies, such as BitCoin and Nemo.

Science – Mythbusters

The aim of this science enrichment elective is to develop an understanding of the design thinking and scientific process through the application of STEM. Students will become master science investigators and conduct a science investigation around an area of interest just like in Mythbusters. As well as working on their science inquiry skills they will develop their knowledge of STEM and the design thinking process to create a solution for a world problem they see around them. Students are assessed according to the Victorian Curriculum Strands: Science Understanding and Science Inquiry. Their assessment tasks include projects, scientific reports and topic test.

Science – Forensic Science

Investigate the history of forensic science and the process of crime-scene investigation before “discovering” a crime scene which they will investigate, using the skills they have developed. Techniques covered include observations and attention/perception; forensic investigation technologies and processes; blood-type analysis; microscopy; fibre and powder analysis; soil analysis; and DNA extraction and profiling.

Humanities/History – People and Power

People and Power explores the different types of power and how individuals, groups, and nations influence the world around them. Students will investigate influential figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, major historical events including the Vietnam War and the Cold War, and examine how power can shape societies, inspire change, and impact global history.



Humanities/Geography – How to be an Explorer

Investigate the significant human impact on natural systems and explore ethical questions regarding human exploitation of these systems. They will focus on collecting, recording, structuring, and representing geographical data. The course is designed to enrich, extend and engage students with Geography.



Humanities – Connections

This elective supports students to make connections between all their learning areas and to look at the challenges and solutions to social issues. Through inquiry-based learning tasks and collaborations, students realise they have the power to make positive changes in themselves, the way they learn, and in the world around them.

Languages – French

This elective is aimed at Year 9s looking to extend their language journey whilst continuing to develop their skills and understanding of language and culture. Students explore a wider range of topics within the French speaking world through a broad range of contexts, text types and ways of speaking. By further expanding their communicative skills, students further build their capacity to use their language for travel, work or just for fun! Students participate in a range of activities, such as creating posters, role plays, texts and further developing their grammatical knowledge. By building on their foundational knowledge, students develop their accuracy and fluency in speaking, reading, writing, listening, and viewing.

Health & Physical Education The Science of Health & Physical Education

This elective provides a practical and theoretical insight into the concepts behind physical activity and improving athletic performance. Students will participate in a variety of Team and Individual Sports or Activities, whilst linking them to important concepts of Biomechanics, Energy Systems, Physiological responses, Equipment development, Nutrition and many more. The key knowledge and skills within this subject aim to prepare students to undertake studies within VCE Physical Education



Health & Physical Education – Duke of Edinburgh

The Duke of Edinburgh is a yearlong elective offered to students in year 9. Students will be given the opportunity to achieve the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's International Award. This award is an internationally recognised program, and each student who takes part will challenge themselves in achieving a goal towards a skill, physical recreation activity, and service within their community. In addition to the practice logs, students completing the Bronze Award recipients will be eligible to attend a 4-day hike camp - Adventurous journey.

The approximate cost to take part in the Bronze Award is \$190 with the camp being an additional expense. Other school-based units of work include understanding risk management, environmental sustainability, wilderness first aid, outdoor living skills, water safety, health promotion and facilitating sporting competitions.

Blackburn High School Instrumental Music Program

Blackburn High School offers a comprehensive Music Program, incorporating opportunities in Classroom, Instrumental, and Ensemble Music.

The Music Program provides opportunities that enable students to experience a level of excellence in performance and encourages students to take advantage of the numerous performance opportunities available.

Instrument Tuition on Offer @ BHS

Blackburn High School offers tuition on Orchestral and Wind Band Instruments, including Percussion (orchestral). Guitar, Voice and Piano places are offered by audition only.

Students intending to undertake or continue Instrumental Music in Year 10 must select it in Web Preferences. Please note, the cost of these lessons are separate to school fees.

Appendix A: Year 8 into Year 9 Draft Elective Form

Name: _____ Mentor Group: _____

This form can be used to do your draft subject Electives. Once you have finalized your subject Electives, you need to go online and put your subjects into the system. You will get your login codes in Mentor Group. You can only choose each subject once. You choose reserves for each category in case you do not get your first preferences or not enough students choose a subject.

Art	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:
Technology	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:
Open Block Elective You may choose from Enrichment electives and or Art or Technology electives	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:
Open Block Elective You may choose from Enrichment electives and or Art or Technology electives	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:
Open Block Elective You may choose from Enrichment electives and or Art or Technology electives	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:
Open Block Elective You may choose from Enrichment electives and or Art or Technology electives	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:
Open Block Elective You may choose from Enrichment electives and or Art or Technology electives	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:
Sport	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:
Sport	First Preference:
	Reserve 1:
	Reserve 2:

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Learning Area Leaders – Student Support

- Humanities - Ms Wilson (Freeman) & Ms Talevski (Melba)
- Health and Physical Education - Ms Van Der Westhuizen (Melba) & Mr Nicholson (Dunlop)
- Science and Technology - Ms Hellweg , Mr Meatheringham & Ms Reber (Hollows)
- English Mr Moss (Dunlop) & Ms Giangiolio (Melba)
- Mathematics Ms Mowat (Freeman) & Ms Hang (Freeman)
- The Arts Ms Angus (Dunlop) & Ms Roach (Freeman)
- Languages Mr Conte (Front Office)
- Music Mr Ziino (Melba) & Ms Gammune and Ms Birze (Melba)

