



Program of Studies

2026 Year 8 Semester Electives



Education
Public Schools

YEAR 8 SCHOOL CURRICULUM 2026

Stage 4 Electives

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YEAR 8 SEMESTER ELECTIVES CHOICES - 2025

Students in Year 8 in 2026 will have the opportunity to study **TWO ELECTIVES. They will study one elective in Semester 1 and another in Semester 2.** This will be in addition to the other subject requirements for Year 8.

Information about Electives and Selections

1. Students will be asked to select **TWO electives** from the subjects listed in the following pages along with **3 reserves**.
2. One of these electives will be studied in Semester 1 and the other will be studied in Semester 2.
3. There will be 3 periods of the elective each fortnight.
4. Classes are formed based on student interest and school resources such as the number of specialist rooms or available teachers.
5. Once you have made the **final selection of your subject** students will be placed in courses. Students are advised to choose carefully as changes to student's electives may not be possible. Students can only change their elective through an application to the relevant Deputy Principal **by the end of Week 3, Term 1, 2026**.
6. Students and parents are welcome to discuss specific electives and requirements with Head Teachers to ensure that they have an understanding of the subjects before making final elective choices.
7. **Some electives involve a fee to cover the cost of materials or consumables. The selection of the subject signifies a willingness to contribute to this expense.**

YEAR 8 – 2026 ELECTIVE LIST AND SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

TAS (TECHNOLOGICAL & APPLIED STUDIES)

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY – STEM Engineering/Electronics

Contact Person: Mr Lloyd, HT TAS

The Engineering focus area provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to engineering and electronics and its associated industries. Students will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in the use of tools, materials and techniques related to Engineering and development of electronic circuits.

In Stage 4 students will use the concepts of science, mathematics, engineering and technology to design a carbon dioxide powered car. Students will also have the opportunity to design and construct electronic projects using advanced manufacturing technologies including CNC equipment and 3D printing to build projects including a light activated alarm and a flashing bike light.

Students participate as individuals in the design process, building prototypes and in the pretesting stage of their cars. The engineering component of the course will focus around the concept of friction, mass, force and aerodynamics. Technology lessons focus on design, materials and the construction phase utilising advanced manufacturing processes.

Cost: \$60

This contribution will be used to cover material costs for all projects in the course.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY – Mixed Materials

Contact Person: Mr Lloyd, HT TAS

Industrial Technology is suited to both boys and girls and provides the opportunity to engage in a range of creative and practical experiences using technologies available in industrial and domestic settings. The course helps to encourage the enjoyment of learning, to be self motivated and take part in further study.

The major emphasis in the elective is on students actively involved in the planning, development and construction of practical projects. They will be provided with practical experiences using tools and machines to enhance personal satisfaction and develop self confidence. The students will also be allowed to have the opportunity to have input in the design of their finished practical projects.

Throughout the year there will be a wide range of technologies used. They will include metal, timber, plastics, graphics and Computer Aided Design.

For students to undertake this course they will need to wear footwear acceptable for use in the practical room due to WHS guidelines. That is, fully enclosed black leather shoes.

Cost for the course: \$60

This contribution will be used to cover material costs for projects tool makers clamp, chopping boards and CAD drawing.

CHILD STUDIES – PLAY

Contact Person: Mr Lloyd, HT TAS

Course Description.

Play is an important part of children's learning and development. This course will allow you to compare and create a range of toys and resources for children's play.

You will also participate in a range of play and craft activities suitable for children of different ages and development stages.

What will Students Learn About?

Child Development, including cognitive and motor skill development

Importance of play, including social, emotional and cognitive reasons

Design and participate in play and craft activities that could be used in Early Childhood Centres or voluntary caring roles.

Assess play choices, environments and activities in terms of learning, suitability, sustainability and safety.

Career Relevance/Pathways/Transferable Skills

The knowledge, understanding, skills and values developed through Child Studies provides a foundation for a wide range of study options in and beyond school and also a range of vocational pathways that support and enhance the wellbeing of children. Study of this course will also support students engaged in voluntary caring, supervision and child support roles and in formal work opportunities such as childcare and education.

Cost: \$25 to cover consumables used in the course

FOOD SKILLS- Let's Bake

Contact Person: Mr Lloyd, HT TAS

Course Description.

Food is an integral part of life and it is important for every person to develop knowledge of food and preparation techniques.

The increasing interest in food preparation, presentation and service is increasing. Students will develop skills in the area of baking and produce quality baked food products. Students will explore the richness, pleasure and variety that food adds to life and how it contributes to life experiences.

What will Students Learn About?

A range of baking techniques

Competent use of kitchen equipment and utensils.

Food Preparation and Presentation- inspired by Master Chef

Major Project

Students will have to design, bake and decorate cupcakes that would be of MasterChef standard. This means that they could be sold in a commercial cake shop.

Directional Benefits

This course is designed to provide practical lifelong skills that will enable the student to achieve in a variety of areas. It is useful in providing a basis for Stage 5 and 6 courses such as Food Technology and Hospitality. It would also be an asset for those students wishing to undertake tertiary study in areas such as Nutrition, Health and Hospitality.

Career Relevance/Pathways/Transferable Skills

Dietician, environmental health officer, food technologist, nurse, nutritionist, sports scientist, baker, bar attendant, barista, butcher, café or restaurant manager, catering manager, chef, conference and event organiser, pastry chef.

Contributions and Safety and Hygiene Requirements

Fully enclosed black leather shoes. This is a Work Health and Safety requirement.

White apron and cap which is available from the front office to purchase.

Cost: \$50

This contribution will be used to cover consumable costs for practical cooking sessions.

FOOD SKILLS- Let's Cook

Contact Person: Mr Lloyd, HT TAS

Food is an integral part of life and it is important for every person to develop knowledge of food and preparation techniques.

The increasing interest in food preparation, presentation and service is increasing. Students will develop skills that can be applied in a range of different contexts enabling them to produce quality food products. Students will explore the richness, pleasure and variety that food adds to life and how it contributes to life experiences.

What will Students Learn About?

- A range of cooking methods
- Competent use of a kitchen equipment, utensils and knife skills.
- Food Preparation and Presentation- inspired by Master Chef program

Directional Benefits

This course is designed to provide practical lifelong skills that will enable the student to achieve in a variety of areas. It is useful in providing a basis for Stage 5 and 6 courses such as Food Technology and Hospitality. It would also be an asset for those students wishing to undertake tertiary study in areas such as Nutrition, Health and Hospitality.

Career Relevance/Pathways/Transferable Skills

Dietician, environmental health officer, food technologist, nurse, nutritionist, sports scientist, baker, bar attendant, barista, butcher, café or restaurant manager, catering manager, chef, conference and event organiser, pastry chef.

Contributions and Safety and Hygiene Requirements

- Fully enclosed black leather shoes. This is a Work Health and Safety requirement.
- White apron and cap which is available from the front office to purchase.

Cost: \$50

This contribution will be used to cover consumable costs for practical cooking sessions.

TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY – Fun with Fashion

Contact Person: Mr Lloyd, HT TAS

Course Description.

This course involves designing and making fashionable clothing and accessories. Students will study design and colour and apply this to their own projects. Students will design items that reflect their strengths and personality.

What will Students Learn About?

Current fashion trends

Producing/making accessories such as bags, pillows, fashion accessories

Fashion drawing skills

Garment construction for example pyjamas and or skirt/shorts.

Introduction to commercial patterns and their role in clothing manufacture.

Course Costs and Safety requirements

Cost is to cover consumables used in the course. Students will be expected to purchase fabrics and related equipment for major projects.

Career Relevance/Pathways/Transferable Skills

Students interested in design, fashion, interior design or styling would all benefit from studying Textiles and Design. This subject continues into Stage 5 and Stage 6 Textiles and Design.

Safety Requirements

Fully enclosed black leather shoes. This is a health and safety requirement

Cost: \$50

This contribution will be used to cover fabrics, notions, and consumables for projects created.

EMPOWERING GIRLS THROUGH SPORT

Contact Person: Mr Harradine, HT PDHPE

This course is designed for those students with a genuine interest in a physical activity.

The course is being offered as a school course to give girls the opportunity to involve themselves in activities such as **AFL, Netball** and **Football (Soccer)**. The course is designed to supplement and enrich the students' core, practically based, Physical Education program by:

1. Providing students with the opportunity to appreciate the importance of exercise, the role of sport in society and their relationships to human movement.
2. Encouraging students towards lifelong participation in sporting, recreational, social and leisure time activities.

It is expected from this course, that students will develop an interest and understanding of human performance, physical capability and physical activity. This is an introductory course to Physical Activity and Sport Studies in Years 9 and 10. As this course is primarily practical based, sports uniforms must be worn for these lessons. This **may** necessitate purchase of an extra set **or** organisation on behalf of the student to ensure they have the correct equipment.

Cost: Nil

Junior PASS

Contact Person: Mr Harradine, HT PDHPE

A subject for people who like to be active. Students will be involved in a wide variety of practical activities. Students will learn about the rules and tactics of sports such as badminton, lacrosse, flag football and other team games. Students will be required to have sports uniforms for this class which may necessitate families purchasing an extra sports uniform.

This course is designed to supplement and enrich the student's core, practically based physical education program by;

1. Providing students with the opportunity to appreciate the importance of exercise, the role of sport in society and their relationship to human movement.
2. Encouraging students towards lifelong participation in sporting, recreational, social and leisure time activities.
- 3.

It is expected that from this course, students will develop an interest and understanding of human performance, physical capability and physical activity. This is an introductory course to Physical Activity and Sports Studies in Years 9 and 10.

Cost: Nil

Cost: Nil

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Contact Person: Mr Harradine, HT PDHPE

This course is designed for those students with a genuine interest in a physical activity and the human body.

The course is being offered as a school course to give these students the opportunity to study Physical Education and Sport in greater depth. "Outdoor Recreation" is designed to supplement and enrich the students core, practically based, Physical Education program by:

1. Providing students with the opportunity to appreciate the importance of exercise, the role of sport in society and their relationships to human movement.
2. Encouraging students towards lifelong participation in sporting, recreational, social and leisure time activities.

It is expected from this course, that students will develop an interest and understanding of human performance, physical capability and physical activity. This is an introductory course to Physical Activity and Sport Studies in Years 9 and 10. As this course is primarily practical based, sports uniforms must be worn for these lessons. This **may** necessitate purchase of an extra set **or** organisation on behalf of the student to ensure they have the correct equipment.

The course is divided into units of study as follows:

- A. Practical games- students will experience a range of physical activities. Study will incorporate the rules, strategies and tactics that can be employed to achieve success.
- B. Bike safety and Bike Camp- students will study how they can ride their bike safely, they will go on rides along the Fernleigh Track and go on a 3 day camp "Tour de Clarence Town" in term 4.

****This course can be studied as either Semester 1 or Semester 2. Students will still have the opportunity to attend the 3 day camp regardless of whether it is studied as a Semester 1 or a Semester 2 elective***

Cost: \$10 Bike Consumables plus camp costs.

DANCE

Contact Person: Mr Brent Budden (Relieving HT CAPA)

The Dance elective is an excellent way to become involved in the performing arts within our school. This is a practical subject that will explore performance components in a range of different styles. You do not have to have any prior dance experience to be in the dance class at school. All ability levels are catered for.

Students will learn:

- Performance: A range of dance styles including jazz, hip hop and contemporary. Class dance works are developed in a fun, energetic and creative environment, while exploring Safe Dance Practices.
- Composition: Create their own dance works in small groups, exploring the Elements of Dance.

Students will have the option to participate in:

- Hunter Dance Camp- overnight stay and camp, learning from a range of choreographers
- Star Struck
- School Musical
- MADD Night
- Showcase events for partner primary schools

Cost: Nil

DRAMA

Contact Person: Mr Brent Budden (Relieving HT CAPA)

If you are energetic, creative and enjoy collaborating with others, then Drama is the option for you. This is a practical subject that gets you up and moving and plays lots of competitive drama games to develop your confidence. You will have a lot of choice about what you will learn and what you will create in this elective.

Through their study of Drama, students will be challenged to maximise their dramatic abilities and enjoyment of drama through making, performing, and appreciating dramatic film and theatrical works. Students will create drama that explores a range of created and imagined situations. They will perform devised and scripted drama using a variety of performance techniques, dramatic forms, and theatrical conventions.

Students will learn:

- Elements of Drama: improvisation, character, role play, play building
- Short Film Making: camera angles and techniques, acting techniques, editing
- Elements of Production: costume design, script writing, lighting, sound

Students will have the option to participate in:

- Star Struck
- School Musical
- MADD Night
- Theatre Sports Competition
- Excursions to view theatre pieces

Cost: Nil

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Contact Person: Mr Brent Budden (Relieving HT CAPA)

The Music Performance course is designed for students who wish to further their studies on their chosen instrument (including voice). As this course builds on the Stage 4 mandatory music course, no prior knowledge or private tuition is required, and should be selected by students who have a passion for performance and improving musicianship.

Students will learn:

- Skill in reading notation
- Performing as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble with the aim of performing live music both within the classroom and school community

Students will have the option to participate in:

- MADD Night
- Live Lunches
- Kahibah Sports Club community event
- Music showcases

Cost: Nil

MUSIC COMPOSITION

Contact Person: Mr Brent Budden (Relieving HT CAPA)

The Music Composition course is designed for students who wish to further refine their music composition skills through the use of instruments and digital software (Soundtrap). As this course builds on the Stage 4 mandatory music course, no prior knowledge or private tuition is required, and should be selected by students who have a passion for creating music both live and digitally.

Students will learn:

- Skill in navigating DAWs (digital audio workstation).
- Composition and music mastering skills to create and refine music

Students will have the option to participate in:

- Launching their music through online platforms: Spotify, Apple Music etc.
- Performing their compositions live at events such as: MADD Night, Kahibah Sports Club and CAPA Showcases.

Cost: Free

STREET ART

Contact Person: Mr Brent Budden (Relieving HT CAPA)

This practical creative course explores graffiti and street art. Students will investigate examples of contemporary art in public spaces looking at local and international artists who use words and images to convey messages.

Students will learn:

- Improvement in art making techniques such as painting, stencilling and lettering/signage
- Explore themes and issues involved with public art and discover how the other artists have expressed their ideas including Banksy.

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Develop a design on a skateboard deck that defines your personality and interests
- Use mixed media to create striking mural works, painted boards and sticker designs
- Produce exciting designs inspired by graffiti art for urban items such as clothing and shoes

Cost: \$40

Covers the cost of materials required for the course

ABORIGINAL STUDIES

Contact Person: Ms Nunn, HT HSIE

This course is designed for students who want to investigate the diversity of Aboriginal cultures and identities as well as the social factors that affect them.

It is being offered to give students the opportunity to learn about individual and collective experiences in the local community, wider Australian society and in other places around the world.

The course will allow students to better understand their local area as well as investigate how it compares to other places in Australia and around the world. Culture and identity will be a key focus of this course and the study of a variety of case studies will allow students to increase their skills and understanding.

Cost: Nil

ELECTIVE HISTORY

Contact Person: Ms Nunn, HT HSIE

This course is designed for students who enjoy studying history and want to investigate further aspects of life and experiences in past places, cultures and societies.

It is being offered to give students the opportunity to further develop their knowledge of people, places and events from the past that are not usually studied in the mandatory history course.

The course has three topics as listed below.

- Topic 1: History, Heritage and Archaeology (examples: an archaeological site, local or family history, film as history)
- Topic 2: Ancient, Medieval and Modern Societies (examples: a society in Africa, Asia, the Middle East or Australia are studied at a specified time in history)
- Topic 3: Thematic Studies (examples: crime and punishment, heroes and villains, music through history, world myths and legends)

Cost: Nil

GERMAN

Contact Person: Ms Nunn, HT HSIE

German is an interesting and fun subject that caters to all students with or without any prior knowledge of German. German is logical, fun, and helps improve your memory, focus, and thinking skills. Great for students who love structure and patterns. German is spoken in Germany, Austria, Switzerland and more and is one of Europe's most widely used languages. Knowing German opens doors to travel, exchange programs, and scholarships in some of the world's top universities and companies. German is also a language of science, engineering, and innovation. Explore the rich and exciting world of German culture from traditional festivals to pretzels and pop music.

In Year 8 German you will develop your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through the study of a series of interesting topics including: This is us! -Das sind wir! and What do you like to eat? - Was isst du gern?

You will also learn about the geography and history of Germany, important landmarks, pop music and popular German foods.

You will do many different activities such as:

Go to German restaurant

Celebrate German Festivals

Take a virtual trip to Germany

You will use digital media to produce presentations to enhance your learning of German. Learning German will be useful and fun!

Cost: Nil

JAPANESE

Contact Person: Ms Nunn, HT HSIE

Japanese is a practical and fun subject choice. Japan is one of Australia's major trading partners and Australia has a very strong relationship with Japan. In addition, Australia is a very popular destination for Japanese tourists and many Australians travel to Japan for business or leisure. The ability to communicate in Japanese, together with other skills, can enhance job opportunities in many areas such as trade, tourism, diplomacy, banking, retail, technology and education.

In Year 8 Japanese you will develop your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills through the study of a series of interesting topics including travel, food, housing and festivals.

You will learn about sumo, pachinko, anime, manga, Harajuku, samurai, robots and more. You will do many different activities such as:

- Prepare a Japanese meal
- Create your own manga and anime
- Celebrate Japanese festivals
- Take a virtual trip to Japan
- Play Japanese computer games
- Excursion to a Japanese restaurant

You will use digital media to produce presentations and create your very own Japanese speaking avatar.

Learning Japanese will be useful AND fun!

Cost: \$40

SCIENCE

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Contact Person: Mr Steven Edwards, HT Science

Welcome to the amazing and magical world of forensic science. It's an ever exciting and changing field - new technology is popping up faster than we can keep track! But in a way that's good news, because new types of crimes are popping up everywhere too. Students will learn how the field developed and investigate some of the techniques used.

Students who enjoy watching CSI and NCIS Crime investigation TV shows will thoroughly enjoy this elective course. Forensic Science is an exciting and interactive course where observation and deductive reasoning combine with the science that students are learning in the laboratory, to solve crimes in the real world. Students will take a journey into the world of the Forensic Scientist and learn how Forensic Science helps the Police to solve crimes every day. They will discover how forensic evidence is gathered, how it is analysed and how the results of these analyses are compiled to provide detailed picture of the events leading up to a crime. As part of this course, students will also take part in a Forensic Science Workshop run by real Forensic Scientists. Students are required to wear firm leather upper shoes if they wish to study this course.

In this subject, students will discover:

- the importance of observation and deductive reasoning in interpreting results of forensic tests
- how microscopy is used in the identification and origin of hair and fibre samples
- the use of fingerprinting, footprints and chromatography in forensic investigations
- how to check or verify forgery
- DNA profiling and how this is used to identify and link suspects to the crime scene

Students will investigate areas such as:

- Crime scene and eyewitness basics
- Physical evidence
- Fingerprinting
- Impression evidence
- Hairs and fibres
- Chromatography
- Blood analysis
- DNA analysis
- Accident reconstruction analysing collisions
- And finish with a Crime Scene Investigation adventure using their skills.

Cost: \$10

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Contact Person: Mr Steven Edwards, HT Science

Science & Engineering is a project-based subject that highlights the growing needs of 21st century skills. The subject is based on the four disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This interdisciplinary and applied approach will allow students to show their creativity and thinking skills in a practical environment based on real-world applications.

The course involves 4 x 5week projects based around each of the science disciplines.

Project 1 - Bridge Building

- **Science**- Physics, experiment measuring the forces supported by each style
- **Technology** – Digital poster to present research
- **Engineering** – Research bridge types
- **Art** – drawings/photography of bridge types
- **Mathematics** – calculations of force in Newtons

Project 2- Bionics

- **Science**
- Biology, skeletal and muscular system, experiment to investigate which design can pick up the largest mass (tennis ball size)
- **Technology** – Video advertisement to 'sell' bionic hand design
- **Engineering** – Design and build a working model of a bionic hand
- **Art** – sketches of prototypes
- **Mathematics** – Dimensions of hand and strength to be in advertisement

Project 3 – Atoms

- **Science** – Chemistry, research structure of an atom and radioactivity
- **Technology** – Digital 3D model of chosen atom
- **Engineering** – Build a 3D model of an atom
- **Art** – 3D model of atom
- **Mathematics** – Measurement and graphing of radioactivity

Project 4 -

Student Choice: Students can spend 5 weeks investigating an area of their choice.

Requirements: Must involve a research component (secondary or primary) and a model

- Cover each of the STEAM areas
- Presented as a portfolio

Cost: \$10

YEAR 8 ELECTIVE CHOICES 2026

- Open the email that has been sent to your school email titled **Edval Timetables Stage 4 Electives** and follow the instructions given.
- You will have to make **FIVE** choices for your electives for next year. You will only study **TWO** electives over the year but we may need to use your reserves if you miss out of your first choices. Your selections must be in order of your preference.
- The sheet below can be used as a **planning sheet only**. The actual selections will be made online. Place a **1** (first choice), **2** (second choice), **3** (third choice), **4** (fourth choice) or a **5** (fifth choice) next to the subjects to indicate your preference.
- It is very important that you choose carefully for all 5 choices as you may get any of these choices to study in 2023.
- If there are insufficient numbers, the class will not be timetabled and those who choose that class will be allocated their next choice. There is **no guarantee** that you will get your **1st or 2nd choice**.
- If demand for a course exceeds the number of classes possible, class allocation will be made on the order of priority given, late returns may miss popular subjects. All selections made by the due date will be treated equally.
- **Remember that some subjects have costs associated with them.**
- Once you have submitted your selections and enrolled in the classes formed at the school, you cannot make changes other than by **application to the relevant Deputy by Friday Week 3, Term 1**.

| SUBJECT | FACULTY | COST (DUE T1, 2026) | SELECTION (1, 2, 3, 4 or 5) PLANNING ONLY |
|--|---------|------------------------|---|
| Industrial Technology – STEM Engineering/Electronics | TAS | \$60 | |
| Industrial Technology – Mixed Materials | TAS | \$60 | |
| Child Studies- Play | TAS | \$25 | |
| Food Skills – Let's Bake | TAS | \$50 | |
| Food Skills – Let's Cook | TAS | \$50 | |
| Textile Technology- Fun with Fashion | TAS | \$50 | |
| Empowering Girls through Sport | PDHPE | Nil | |
| Junior PASS | PDHPE | Nil | |
| Outdoor Recreation | PDHPE | \$10 | |
| Dance | CAPA | Nil | |
| Drama | CAPA | Nil | |
| Music Composition | CAPA | Nil | |
| Music Performance | CAPA | Nil | |
| Street Art | CAPA | \$40 | |
| Aboriginal Studies | HSIE | Nil | |
| Elective History | HSIE | Nil | |
| German | HSIE | Nil | |
| Japanese | HSIE | \$40 | |
| Forensic Science | Science | \$10 | |
| Science & Engineering | Science | \$10 | |

Please complete your selections online by Monday 18 August.

Details on how to complete this online form will be emailed to you.

Remember unless enough students select a subject, a class cannot be formed, and students choosing that subject will be allocated their selections in the order of their preference.