



Launceston
Grammar
EST. 1846

Grade 8 Student Handbook / 24

Senior Campus



Grade 8 Academic Programme



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Grade 8 Subject Selection for 2024

Students in Grade 8 in 2024 will study a range of subjects, most of which form the core of their academic programme and as such are compulsory. The rest of their programme is made up of elective subjects.

Core Subjects:

Eight subjects form the basis of the Grade 8 curriculum. They are English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Health and Physical Education, Languages (French or Chinese) or Language and Literacy, and Christian Studies. Students are organised into core classes for these subjects with the exception of Mathematics, where students are grouped according to their relative mathematical strengths, and Languages, where students continue to be grouped according to the language that they study. Language and Literacy is provided as an alternative to a foreign language for those students have been identified as needing additional learning support, particularly in literacy. Entry to this subject will take place in consultation with Mr David Clark, Head of Learning Enrichment, and the family involved.

Elective Subjects:

Grade 8 students study **six** elective subjects during the year, with each subject running for a semester. Students may opt to study some subjects for the full year, however they are encouraged to have a balance between subjects and to take the opportunity to experience new areas of the curriculum. At this level, previous experience is not required for any of the subjects.

Please note: If a student is the holder of a **scholarship** in a particular area, such as Music, Drama or Dance, the corresponding elective should be selected for study in each semester. Students on scholarships are encouraged to check their letter of offer and conditions to inform their choices, and discuss with the Head of Senior School if they have any questions.

Agriculture and Sustainability

Students investigate agriculture as a dynamic interactive system that uses plants and animals to produce food, fibre and other derivatives. The course content identifies and explains interactions between the agricultural sector and Tasmania's economy, culture and society. Throughout the year, students develop skills and understandings of numerous agricultural and sustainability perspectives which may include Aboriginal sustainability and preservation of land (implementation of bush tucker garden); worldwide land management practices – comparison; sustainable practices (past and present); biosecurity practices and the importance on protecting Tasmania's economy and farmer livelihoods; ethical practices that support productive and profitable agriculture; differences between large scale and small-scale production and product quality; environmental health and green buildings.

Art

The Grade 8 Art course is designed to extend the students' skills, knowledge and experience in the subject in a friendly and supportive environment. Students who tackle the subject for the full year will pursue innovative projects in areas including drawing, printmaking, painting and 3 dimensional constructions which form a valuable basis for the Grade 9 and 10 Art programmes.

Aviation

This semesterised course introduces students to the world of aviation. There is an emphasis on engaging students with relatable, fascinating topics and developing an understanding of the substantial role that aviation plays in our lives. The course is experiential with foundational learning that leads to further studies in Year 9 and Year 10. Proposed learning experiences include aircraft design and use, general aircraft knowledge, model making, basic aerodynamics, what makes a good pilot, aviation terminology, experiments with lift, introduction to UAS, and backstage at the airport.

Classical Studies

In Semester 1 students will learn about Greek myths and legends, the role of the Greek gods and goddesses in the lives of ancient peoples and the stories they told to explain phenomena, such as the creation of man, the great flood, and the seasons of the year. We will also meet Greek heroes and heroines through narratives on the struggle of humans against nature. Learn about flying horses, dragons, monsters, and the symbolism behind them that informs the writers of fantasy today. In Semester 2, the origins of theatre, government, nation building, the role of women, slavery and justice will be examined through the example of Athens. Ancient texts, such as plays, speeches, and ancient pottery will help inform our exploration as we develop both literacy and analytical skills. Come on a time travelling adventure into another world!

Craft and Design

The Craft and Design course introduces students to a range of craft areas including stained glass, jewellery making, mosaics and leather craft. A design-based subject, students will design and produce individual pieces of work within set parameters.

Creative Writing

Students develop their writing skills by examining a number of genres and the stylistic components which form the basis of these. They will produce a collection of their own writing and develop proof reading and editing skills in a collaborative environment. Students will engage in discussions of texts and techniques as a source for their own ideas and style of writing.

Dance

Through the Dance course students will be introduced to the principles and terminology of dance and dance making. They will learn to create dance works which have structure, and which communicate a particular intention. Physical proficiency is expected to develop over the course as well as an awareness of safe dance practices. Journal work will reflect the students' planning and assessment of their own work and the work of others. Students will be expected to present group polished performance work in public.

Digital Technology

Digital Technology gives students the opportunity to learn and further develop skills relevant in today's world. ICT skills are taught to develop logical, creative and critical thinking skills. The areas of graphic manipulation, video creation, animation, coding, artificial intelligence and virtual reality are taught. This is a project based subject and students can work individually or as a productive member of a team.

Drama

Through this course students will acquire an increased understanding of the use of spoken language, drama and movement. They will be involved in working co-operatively and creatively with others to explore social issues, attitudes and opinions. Students will be expected to present polished performances in public. They will also be involved in problem-solving situations. The development of knowledge and skills in speaking, listening, script-writing and performing will be undertaken to an appropriately high standard. This will be achieved through the setting of short-term goals and reflecting on personal achievement throughout the course.

Food Studies

The Food Studies course gives students an opportunity to develop cooking skills along with an understanding and awareness of food in our daily lives. In line with food sustainability guidelines, students are encouraged to make wise food choices when planning meals for themselves and their family. Students will prepare and present a variety of nutritious meals and snacks as well as some festive foods. Student who complete this subject will have a strong foundation for further studies in food and nutrition.

Graphics and Design

Through the Graphics and Design course, students gain an understanding of the importance of graphics as a means of communicating information in a range of professions. They will learn a range of 2 and 3-dimensional drawing projections and the standards associated with them. Emphasis will be placed on developing drawing skills both with standard drawing equipment and using Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) programs. Student's thinking and design skills will be developed through a range of challenges which require students to apply skills learnt. Using 3D printers and Laser technology, students will produce prototypes of their design ideas, enabling detailed testing and analysis to occur.

Grassroots Goals

In this semesterised course students will take action to contribute to fixing some of the world's biggest problems! We will learn about the development Human Rights through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and evaluate the role, purpose, and effectiveness of the United Nations. Students will then take action on one of the Sustainable Development Goals to help contribute to a better world in our own backyard. This will involve volunteering and service learning; for instance, students may choose to work with a local charity, clean up rubbish, or collect donations. The key concepts include: sustainability, peace, progress, and citizenship. There is also an opportunity to be involved in a model UN, building public presentation skills as well as constructing an argument and using evidence to support the argument.

Language and Literacy

Students are provided with explicit language and literacy intervention through the implementation of the Orton Gillingham approach, which is a direct, explicit, multisensory, structured, sequential, diagnostic, and prescriptive way to teach literacy. This subject also uses The Writing Revolution and Big Write methodology which is an explicit way of teaching language and literacy that enables students to master the skills that are essential if they are to become competent writers. This course is designed to assist students with significant language difficulties as evidenced by a professional report or school-based assessment. Parental consent is required following identification of need; students enrolled in this course will be exempt from learning a second language.

Music

The Music course enables students who have enjoyed music in grade 7 to further develop their skills. Students will focus on instrumental/ vocal development and composition work. There will be opportunity to explore and develop ideas by creating and arranging music, both live and using computer technology.

PACE: Passion, Acceleration and Curriculum Extension

Students are expected to submit an application prior to enrolment to identify the specific areas of giftedness, talent and passion to plan an individual project. Student application should include a written reference, professional reports, and/or school reports or assessments that demonstrate their strengths and ability to work autonomously. Students may also work on a group project to solve multidimensional problems utilising higher order thinking skills and networking with specialists in a real-world context.

Philosophy

Philosophy explores a range of big questions: some foremost in students' minds, others more obscure. The Grade 8 course is designed to expose students to several types of philosophical problems, selected to showcase different elements of philosophical reasoning and questioning. Semester 1 focusses on the ethics of genetic engineering and the nature of happiness, while Semester 2 focusses on the nature of obligation and the ethics of lying. In both semesters there will be an opportunity for students to undertake a negotiated study of an area of philosophical inquiry that interests them.

Robotics

This course for Grade 8 is aimed at beginning programming and developing problem solving skills in students, with a focus on robotics (EV3) and coding. Students completing this course will be able to begin from their current level of expertise and build on that expertise to complete robotic challenges.

Technology

In Technology students follow a problem-solving approach through the design and production of small projects in a range of materials including wood, metal, and plastics. Students gain experience in using tools and equipment and learn relevant processes associated to these materials. Personal safety and workshop operation are important aspects also covered by the course.

Textiles and Design

The Textiles and Design course provides opportunities for students to develop practical skills in designing and creating textiles items. Students learn to use sewing equipment and develop an understanding of sustainable textiles production as they work through design briefs. The use of fibres, yarns, fabrics, and colouration techniques enable students to become creative independent learners in this area. Students who complete this unit will have a solid foundation for further studies in Textiles.

Ms Sarah Shepherd

Director of Teaching and Learning