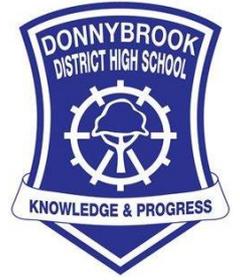


2019



# Year 8 Course Information Handbook 2019

Donnybrook District High School  
Independent Public School  
"Knowledge and Progress"





# DONNYBROOK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

## YEAR 8 COURSE INFORMATION

The Western Australian Curriculum, which is inclusive of what is prescribed in the Australian Curriculum, sets out the knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes students are expected to acquire by the completion of Year 8. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) issue time allocation guidelines for all subjects in the Western Australian Curriculum. Donnybrook District High School has increased the time given to students in English and Mathematics to 250 minutes per week, up from the recommended 180 minutes to further develop student learning in these critical areas. In a full school year, students complete subjects from the following learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)
- Health and Physical Education (HPE)
- The Arts
- Technologies

A typical timetable structure in Year 8 consists of five periods of English and Maths and four periods of Science and HASS. Students have a library period which supports their reading, literacy development and research skills. In addition to this, students have an opportunity to complete additional subjects known as Options, which cover The Arts and Technologies. We endeavour to provide a balanced curriculum, whilst catering for student interests.

Assessments and assignment work are an important part of the curriculum of all subject areas. Year 8 students will receive an assessment schedule at the start of the semester. Parents will be able to access this via Connect or by contacting the classroom teacher. As we are trying to assist students to become autonomous learners, we encourage the use of a diary to help them take responsibility for their learning and assignment work. They may also receive other homework to help them establish an effective study routine early in their high school career. This will be an important part of preparation for upper school studies.

# SUBJECTS

## ENGLISH

The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate with and build relationships with others and with the world around them. The study of English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society. In this light it is clear that the Western Australian Curriculum: English plays an important part in developing the understanding, attitudes and capabilities of those who will take responsibility for Australia's future.

Although Australia is a linguistically and culturally diverse country, participation in many aspects of Australian life depends on effective communication in Standard Australian English. In addition, proficiency in English is invaluable globally. The Western Australian Curriculum: English contributes both to nation-building and to internationalisation.

Students in Year 8 focus upon consolidating their skills in their written and spoken communication, applying the conventions of language correctly. They begin to develop their understanding of the construction of texts which can be written, spoken or multimodal, and in print or visual forms. They continue to develop positive attitudes to regular reading of a variety of texts as part of a structured English and Library program.

English is organised into three interrelated strands and their sub strands which focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in the language modes of listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing:

Language: knowing about the English language.

Literature: understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature.

Literacy: expanding the repertoire of English usage.

Students will also develop skills in Digital Literacy enabling them to find, evaluate, use and create content using information technologies and the internet. They will become more proficient at evaluating websites, understanding the complexities of a digital footprint, learning how to stay safe on the internet, discovering how to avoid plagiarism and master the art of creating bibliographies and referencing work.

## MATHEMATICS

In the Mathematics learning area, students learn the essential mathematical skills and knowledge whilst developing the numeracy capabilities needed in their personal, work and civic life. Importantly they are provided with the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built.

Students in Year 8 will be given the opportunity to work in ability groups that have programs developed to meet their academic needs. All students study the Mathematics content strands: Number and Algebra; Measurement and Geometry; and Statistics and Probability. Students are also shown the thinking of Mathematics explicit in the proficiency strands: Understanding; Fluency; Problem Solving; and Reasoning.

## **SCIENCE**

In Year 8, students will study Biology in the context of life under the microscope and look at a comparison between the cellular structures of a variety of different organisms. In Chemistry, students will study the properties of matter and the differences between elements, compounds and mixtures. In Physics, they will use the context of renewable energy, investigating the different forms of and efficiency of energy. Earth and Space will be taught with the theme of the rock cycle, studying the formation of metamorphic, igneous and sedimentary rocks and soils while studying geological time and resources.

## **HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES**

In the Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area, students learn about the world around them through the core units of History, Economics, Geography and Civics and Citizenship. They learn to express themselves in a variety of different forms, and compare their personal values with those of the world around them. The focus is on the development of investigative and analytical skills through the study of current world issues. To help students gain a deeper understanding of how our past has influenced where we live and work today.

In Semester 1, students are introduced to a range of skills with a focus on Landscapes. Students move on to study urban development in Australia with a particular focus on migration. Students then investigate Medieval Europe, discovering the role of knights and castles with an in-depth study of The Black Death.

In Semester 2, time is spent investigating the way of life in an Asian country which is coupled with study into Economics and Market Influences to gain an understanding of how people live, work and are connected in our world. Students also look at Democracy and Law in Action concepts that help develop vital skills required for success in modern society.

## **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The Health and Physical Education Learning Area at Donnybrook District High School aims to provide students with learning experiences that lead to a lifelong, healthy and productive lifestyle. Students are given opportunities to develop skills and abilities through the many contexts in which this learning area offers. Our programs are designed to be engaging with a developmental focus on pastoral care, teamwork, cooperative learning, leadership attributes and building important relationship skills for the future.

All students participate in courses of Health and Physical Education. The program allows students to develop essential knowledge, attitudes, values, and skills required for life. Students are engaged in both physical and classroom activities that allow them to enhance their well-being, now, and in the future. The ability to communicate and cooperate with other students in practical situations and health classes will also be monitored and developed throughout the course of the year.

## ***Physical Education***

Physical Education and sport play an important part in the development of all Donnybrook District High School students. Many life skills such as team work, cooperation with others and the ability to strive for success against difficulties are valuable lessons that students learn from an involvement in sport. The school encourages students to strive for excellence and to set high goals and standards for themselves while at the same time acknowledging the efforts of those around them. Above all, we encourage participation to the best of each person's ability, regardless of the level at which they perform.

This course gives students the opportunity to experience a range of different sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Netball, Football, Badminton, Cricket and Basketball, while developing core skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, hitting and dribbling. Students are also introduced to sporting offensive and defensive strategies and will set fitness goals to maximise their participation levels.

## ***Health Education***

Students are engaged in lessons where they will develop important life skills concerning their health which will also prepare them for their later adolescent years. Topics include growth and relationship issues, building resiliency, coping with pressure and influence, fitness and exercise (including fitness testing), drug education and other community lifestyle issues.

Emphasis is placed on assertive decision making with students taking ownership of their lifestyle decisions in regards to the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

## **THE ARTS**

### ***Visual Art***

Students will develop their knowledge of the Elements and Principles of Art to produce a variety of 2D and 3D artworks, ranging from drawing, painting, printmaking and clay. Students will be required to demonstrate design work and draft ideas in a Visual Diary and learn more about discussing and responding to the arts.

## **TECHNOLOGIES**

The Western Australian Curriculum: Technologies learning area comprises two subjects:

- Design and Technologies
- Digital Technologies.

Learning in Design and Technologies builds on concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier years, and teachers will revisit, strengthen and extend these as needed.

In Year 8, students have opportunities to learn about technologies in society at least once in the following technologies contexts: Engineering principles and systems; Food and fibre production; Food specialisations; and Materials and technologies specialisations. Students are provided with opportunities to design and produce products, services and environments.

## ***Digital Technologies***

Year 8 students will spend a semester consolidating and develop new skills in a variety of digital technologies giving them the ability to select the most appropriate application for the required task. As well as using software and online applications, students will also learn search strategies for using the Internet and look at a variety of issues such as Cyber Safety and Ergonomics that have occurred as a result of technological change.

Digital Technologies will also include a STEM component which will provide a semester of academic extension through a combined focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This aspect of the course educates through problem- solving in the real world, not through textbooks, and subjects will cross into one another and importantly into everyday life. Students will delve into Computer Programming (Coding), Robotics and an array of Engineering Challenges.

## ***Design and Technologies: Woodworking and Metalwork***

This is an introduction course to working in an industrial environment. The students start with understanding safe working practices; there is an emphasis on developing hand skills, knowledge of tools, machinery and safe operating practices. As the students' knowledge and skills develop, they are introduced to working from a design brief to develop their problem solving abilities and become resilient, independent learners. The Design and Technology Centre offers learning in Woodwork, Metalwork, Design and Technical Drawing.

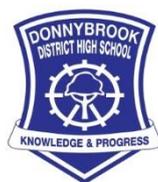
## ***Design and Technologies: Textiles and Food***

Students will develop their food production skills by completing a semester of practical and theoretical work involving a variety of food topics. Students will be introduced to international cuisine, food packaging and labelling, adolescent food choices and catering and sharing of food. Emphasis in this course is placed on both working as an individual and working within small groups to produce a range of foods.

Year 8 students will investigate a variety of techniques to create textile designs. The semester unit will incorporate art and design, craft, computer and sewing machine skills.

## ***Design and Technologies: Agriculture***

Students will learn about the Agricultural industry. Food and fibre production will be a focus and students will consider the ways, characteristics and properties of technologies can be combined to design and produce sustainable solutions.



## Donnybrook District High School

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