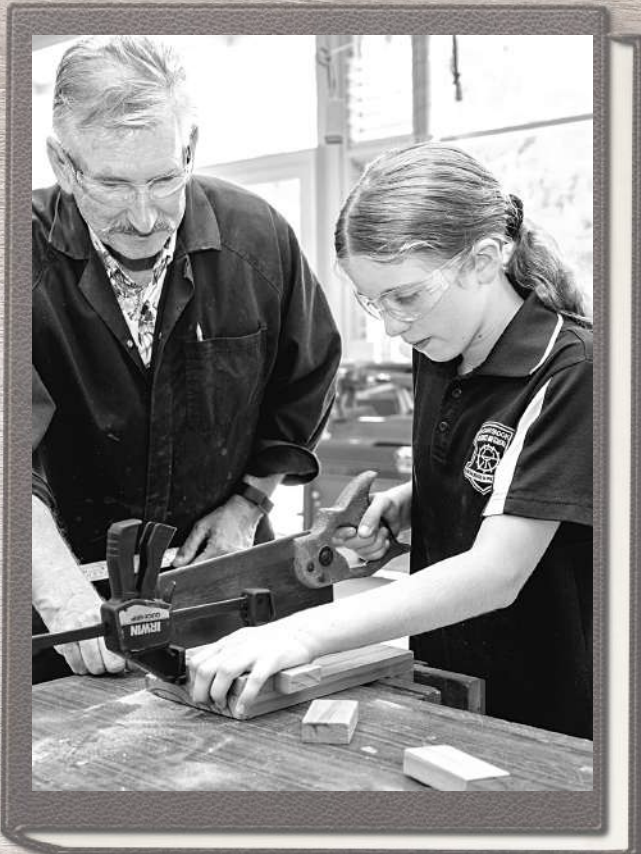


DONNYBROOK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

7



**YEAR 7
COURSE INFORMATION
2024**

YEAR 7 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 7. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) issues time allocation guidelines for all subjects in the Western Australian Curriculum. In a full school year, students complete subjects from the following learning areas:

English

Mathematics

Science - STEM, Digital Technologies

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) - Agriculture, Critical Creative Thinking

Health and Physical Education (HPE) - Health, Physical Education, Physical Recreation and Outdoor Education

The Arts - Visual Art, Digital Media and Performing Art

Technologies - Home Economics, Woodwork, Metalwork

A typical timetable structure in Year 7 consists of four periods of English, Maths, Science and HaSS, two periods of Physical Education (timetabled as one double period) and one period of Health Education. Students also have a Study Skills period which supports their reading, literacy development and research skills and a Mindful Education period to support their Social and Emotional Learning and supplement the AdventureWorks program. In addition to this, students have an opportunity to complete additional subjects known as options, which cover The Arts and Technologies learning areas. We endeavour to provide a balanced curriculum whilst catering for student interests. Students will experience a range of option classes throughout Year 7 and Year 8 to help them choose specialist subjects in Year 9 and Year 10. These options will include three distinct pathways.

Assessments and assignment work are an important part of the curriculum of all subject areas. Year 7 students will receive an assessment schedule at the start of the semester. Parents can 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 students take responsibility for their learning and assignment work. In 2024, students will be provided with a school diary to assist in their study skills and mindful education. 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 the preparation for Senior School studies.

Form

Students attend Form class each morning to provide additional pastoral care. At this time, students get important notes and messages about what is happening on the day or week ahead. They also receive Positive Behaviour Support at this time, as we explicitly teach the expected behaviours of our school.

COMPULSORY 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. Through the study of English, individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate with and build relationships with others and the world around them. Studying English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps learners become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society. English plays an important part in developing the understanding, attitudes and capabilities of those who will take responsibility for Australia's future.

Students in Year 7 focus on consolidating their written and spoken communication skills by 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 construction of 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 critique, evaluate and create content using digital media texts. They will become more proficient at evaluating websites, understanding the complexities of digital media and learning how to critique information found on the internet. They will also discover 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 7 will be given the opportunity to work in groups within 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 will explore and develop their understanding of the content using the proficiency strands: Understanding; Fluency; Problem-Solving; and Reasoning.

SCIENCE

In Year 7, students bring the scientific skills acquired in the Primary school setting to secondary learning environments. In Science, they experience an engaging, relevant and specific curriculum based within practical activities that reinforce theoretical teaching and learning. In Biology, students will explore the diversity of life on Earth and focus on the role of classification and how ecosystems show the flow of energy in the environment. In Chemistry, students learn how mixtures, solutions and pure substances, including elements represented on the periodic table. In Earth and Space, students focus on the solar system and the predicted phenomena that occur on Earth, including tides, sunrises and sunsets. When studying Physics, students will explore the interaction of forces and how these explain changes in motion.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Humanities and Social Science (HaSS) is the study of human behaviour and interaction in social, cultural, environmental, economic and political contexts. All students study the four subjects of: Civics and Citizenship, Economics, Geography and History throughout the year. Through research, analysis and questioning of evidence, students will develop a strong foundation of skills that will ensure success in the future. In Year 7, students will develop an understanding of Australia's Parliamentary and Legal Systems and how these are tied to the British Westminster System, the Division of Powers and Constitution are also explored. Through investigation of History, students will become familiar with the ancient worlds and, in particular, the expansion of the Roman Empire. Their studies of Geography link liveability and the importance of water. Time will also be spent developing students understanding of the fundamental concepts of Economics, including supply and demand and the power of the consumer. Students will demonstrate this understanding in written arguments and through the creation of projects.

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

Today's employers recognise that future employees must be capable of responding to the challenges of the 21st Century, using creative, innovative and adaptable thinking. These skills are developed through the use of critical and creative thinking strategies that seek solutions to complex problems purposefully. The school have dedicated one period a week to helping our students develop these skills in a safe and collaborative learning space. The goal is to develop learners who are motivated to see a problem through to an innovative and logical solution. This is a skill that will create a resilient learner.

Students develop critical and creative thinking capabilities as they learn to generate and evaluate knowledge, clarify concepts and ideas, seek possibilities, consider alternatives and solve problems. Critical and creative thinking involves students thinking broadly and deeply using skills, behaviours and dispositions such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination and innovation in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school.

Productive, purposeful and intentional thinking is at the centre of effective learning. By applying a sequence of solutions-focused skills, students develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of the processes used whenever they encounter problems, unfamiliar information and new ideas. In addition, the progressive development of knowledge about thinking and the practice of using thinking strategies can increase students' motivation for, and management of, their own learning. They become more confident and autonomous problem-solvers and thinkers.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At Donnybrook District High School, the Health and Physical Education Learning Area aims to provide students with learning experiences that lead to a lifelong, healthy and productive life. Students are given opportunities to develop skills and abilities through the many contexts that this learning area offers. The school's programs are designed to engage students with a developmental focus on teamwork, cooperative learning, leadership attributes and building important relationship skills for the future.

All students participate in Health and Physical Education. The programs allow students to develop essential knowledge, attitudes, values, and skills required for a healthy life. Students are engaged in physically active and theoretical health lessons that allow them to enhance their well-being. Learning to communicate and cooperate with other students in practical situations will be monitored and developed throughout the year. Our Positive Behaviour Support philosophy is explicitly taught and modelled in these subjects.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education and sport play an important part in the development of students health and well being at Donnybrook District High School. Many life skills, such as teamwork, cooperation with others and the ability to strive for success, are valuable lessons that students learn from sports involvement.

These courses allow students to experience various sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Netball, Football, Badminton, Cricket and Basketball, whilst developing core skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, hitting and dribbling. Students are also introduced to offensive and defensive sporting strategies and will set fitness goals to maximise their participation levels.

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. For this reason, the school will be resourcing a new program for Year 7 & 8 students in 2024. Information about this program is available overleaf.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Students are engaged in lessons where they will develop important life skills concerning their health, which are also designed to 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 regard to the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EDUCATION

ADVENTUREWORKS AND MINDFUL EDUCATION

At Donnybrook District High School we aim to develop student's self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness and relationship skills through the integration of Mindful Education lessons. The aim of the program is to develop the skills of empathy, self-reflection and understanding of the impact each person's behaviour has on their reputation, their school and their community.

AdventureWorks camps and incursion days are designed to support students on their journey to adulthood. The AdventureWorks organisation focuses on transitioning our young people into adulthood by working with them to develop positive self-image and understanding.

The Mindful education program is explicitly taught to each year group. Working with two teachers, students foster a safe and supportive space for young people to have real conversations about what they are feeling and experiences as a teenager.

Our programs are focused on developing the competencies of our young people requiring them to be socially and emotionally aware of themselves and others. The AdventureWorks Team and the school collaborate to integrate the connection between both programs to ensure our students are getting the most out of these opportunities.



OPTION SUBJECTS

The students will experience teaching and learning across a range of option classes. In Year 7, students will rotate through four classes each week to expose them to an array of opportunities in the Arts, STEM and Technologies. Over the course of a semester, students will learn the knowledge and skills they will need to operate machinery, cook delicious food, create art through clay and drawing amongst many other skills. After the first semester, the students will swop options and experience a new range of subjects. The theory behind this strategy is to expose all students to a range of choices, some of which may pique their interest and spark a passion for that career path later in life.

Students selected into the Specialised Sports Program will not get to experience all options as they undertake additional periods of Sport.

THE ARTS

VISUAL ARTS

Lead by an excellent staff member, The Arts are set for an expansion across all strands in 2024. 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.

DIGITAL MEDIA

Digital Media is an essential component of the digital world students experience. Learning how images are created and how they speak to their audiences is essential knowledge for our students. This knowledge allows them to critique and evaluate the level of persuasion they experience.

PERFORMING ARTS

The performing arts give students the opportunity to express their creativity and individuality in a safe and fun way. This subject gives students the opportunity to develop confidence and team-work within a creative environment.

STEM

We will offer students a specialised STEM option in Years 7 and 8, providing a semester of academic extension through a combined focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This aspect of the course educates students through problem-solving in the real world. The teaching is based not through textbooks, but through STEM that occurs in everyday life. Students will delve into Computer Programming (Coding), Robotics and an array of Engineering Challenges, including Solar STEM.

TECHNOLOGIES

The Western Australian Curriculum Technologies learning area comprises Design and Technologies and 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 7, 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 given opportunities to design and produce products, services and environments.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Year 7 students will consolidate and develop new skills in various digital technologies, allowing them to select the most appropriate application for the required task. Using software and online applications, students will also learn search strategies for using the Internet and look at various issues, such as Cyber Safety and Ergonomics, that have occurred due to technological change.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES: WOODWORKING

This is an introductory 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 student's knowledge and skill 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 and digital Design & Technical Drawing.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES: TEXTILES AND FOOD

Students will develop the skill of food production by completing a semester of practical and theoretical work involving various food topics. Students will be introduced to international cuisine, food packaging and labelling, adolescent food choices, catering, and food sharing. The emphasis in this course is placed on both working as an individual and working within small groups to produce a range of foods. In their second semester, students are given opportunities to design and produce products using different materials and equipment. Using their design skills, students produce a fabric item, using a sewing machine, manipulating and modifying the design to reflect their creativity.

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 that can be combined to design and produce sustainable solutions.



IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The Year 7 timetable will be constructed to provide as many opportunities for students as possible, however constraints such as available staff, class numbers and rooming may mean that adjustments to subjects may need to occur.



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