2015

YEAR 7

SUBJECT HANDBOOK
Dear Students and Parents

Grade 7 is an important transition year in the life of every student. Grade 7 students encounter change in how their subjects and learning are delivered. One important change is that students move from having one or two teachers for their main subjects, to having a number of different teachers. Another aspect of Grade 7, which many students enjoy, is the range of new Arts and Technology subjects studied during the year.

To assist students as they move into secondary education, St Aloysius Catholic College has implemented Middle Schooling principles. A Middle School curriculum is delivered in a manner that engages today’s students, including the integration of modern technology in learning. However, the literacy and numeracy needs of Grade 7/8 students are still central and are explicitly taught. Middle Schooling at St Aloysius is about balancing appropriate structure with opportunities for students to grow in their independence and maturity as learners.

Middle Schooling also provides for the different pastoral needs of early teenagers. A central pillar of Middle Schooling at St Aloysius is the role of Home Room teachers. In most cases Middle School staff teach their Home Room for a number of subjects. This enables teachers to develop a sound understanding of the pastoral and learning needs of the students in their care. Home Room teachers take on the special responsibility of ensuring their students transition smoothly into Grade 7. The Home Room teacher is the first point of contact for parents and effective communication between the College and home is highly valued at St Aloysius Catholic College.

Parents are encouraged to attend the Grade 7/8 Parent Information Evening at the start of Term One next year. This evening outlines all the procedures and organisational matters for the year. It is also an opportunity for parents to meet the Grade 7 teaching team.

Simon Eade
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Teaching and Learning at St Aloysius Catholic College

Catholic and Christian values are central to learning and teaching at St Aloysius Catholic College. Within these values, we aim to foster self-esteem, self-confidence and respect for the gifts and needs of the individual and an awareness of the unique contribution each can make to the College community.

We aim to provide a high quality, balanced education in which all students can fulfill their spiritual and academic potential.

Learning and teaching programs throughout our College are based on the Australian Curriculum, which has been designed to provide students with sound capabilities in literacy, numeracy, critical and creative thinking, information and communication technology, personal and social development and ethical and intercultural understanding.

As per Australian Curriculum guidelines, students in Grade 7 undertake study in the following key learning areas:

- Humanities: English/History/Geography/Civics and Citizenship
- Mathematics
- Science
- PE/Health and Wellbeing
- Pathways
- LOTE - French

St Aloysius Catholic College students also participate in a Religious Education program based on the Archdiocesan Good News for Living Framework.

Apart of the compulsory core subjects listed above, students in Grade 7 also experience each of the following Technology and Arts subjects. Elective subjects are each studied for two terms (one semester):

Technology
- Woodwork
Under Australian Curriculum requirements, all students are required to study subjects in both the Arts and Technology until the end of Grade 8.

The College has made a considered decision in providing students with the opportunity to experience the full suite of Arts and Technology subjects. As students choose three of the above Arts and Technology subjects as a full year for Grade 8, it is vital they develop a comprehensive understanding of the subjects that suit their strengths and interests.

The Australian Curriculum

St Aloysius is currently in the process of implementing the Australian Curriculum in all subjects. The key learning areas listed above have now adopted the full Australian curriculum content descriptors and assessment standards. Teachers of the Arts will be implementing the Australian Curriculum in 2015 and Technology subjects are due for full implementation of both content and assessment standards by 2016. The Australian Curriculum website is an excellent source of further information about course content and standards. www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

Pathways Planning

Pathways Planning is a core subject for Grade 7 students.

Pathways Planning “... leads students through a decision making process inviting them to consider a range of possibilities, the suitability of these choices to their abilities, beliefs and aspirations, and the likelihood that they are opting for a pathway that, in the long term, is going to be both rewarding and sustainable.” Department of Education, Tasmania (2006) My Plan for My Future
Pathways Planning is a process whereby students have the opportunity to gather information, develop skills, think about and plan for their own future study or work pathways. The rationale for asking students to develop Pathways Plans is that research has shown that students who are given the opportunity and support to engage in a pathway planning process are better able to make informed decisions about their future options and choices.

In Tasmania, the Guaranteeing Futures legislation (2005) requires all Year 10 students to complete a Pathways Plan including a Statement of Intent indicating their post Year 10 destination. This intended destination is recorded and lodged with the Tasmanian Qualifications Authority.

At St Aloysius Catholic College the personalised planning process begins in Year 7, with a focus on the importance of self awareness in decision making, developing goal setting skills and beginning to think about their future aspirations.

*Extension and Learning Support*

Supporting students requiring extra learning opportunities or extension beyond the set curriculum is an important aspect of the learning program at St Aloysius Catholic College. In 2015, the College is aiming to provide extra teachers and teacher assistant support in Grades 7 for students who require adjustments to their learning programs to suit their individual needs.

*PASTORAL CARE*

Each day St Aloysius Catholic College, Huntingfield Campus begins with a Pastoral Care/Home Room time. This is a vital aspect of our day where administration, classroom activities and student welfare issues are addressed. Teachers in the Grade 7/8 Learning Centre aim to build a strong mentoring relationship with their home room students and are a first point of contact for parents should there be any concerns regarding a student’s progress at school.