2015

YEAR 8

SUBJECT HANDBOOK
Dear Students and Parents

Welcome to the subject selection process for 2015. Deciding upon elective subjects for next year is a very important task. It is vital that you spend some time carefully considering your options for next year.

Apart from the compulsory key learning areas of Religious Education, English and Humanities, Maths, Science, HPE and LOTE (French), students entering Grade 8 in 2015 choose THREE elective subjects from the Arts and Technology learning areas. A full explanation of the selection process is outlined in this booklet. As part of this process, students will attend a briefing where Arts and Technology teachers describe their courses for next year.

When deciding on an elective subject, it is important to choose a course that is both challenging and enjoyable. You must reflect on your own abilities and skills, and then select subjects that will maintain your interest for the full year. In some cases, your choices can also develop skills and knowledge required for future careers or study.

If you have difficulty making a final decision on subjects, please do not hesitate to contact myself, or the teachers of elective subjects. We are always available to discuss courses and subject selections in more detail.

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 the 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 8 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.

St Aloysius Catholic College is currently in the process of implementing the Australian Curriculum in all subjects. They 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
ELECTIVES IN 2015

Grade 8 students in 2015 have the opportunity to choose THREE elective subjects, but in keeping with Australian Curriculum requirements, students must undertake study in at least one technology and one arts subject until the end of Grade 8.

Students choose ONE subject from The Arts:
- Drama
- Music
- Art
- Photography/Media

Students choose ONE subject from Technology:
- Woodwork
- Digital Technologies
- Food Studies
- Materials/Design Technology

Students also choose a THIRD subject from either The Arts or Technology group.
These subjects are studied for the entire year.

ELECTIVE SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The Arts

Drama
The Drama curriculum offers students a diverse series of learning opportunities, as well as developing an appreciation of the richness of this art form. Students learn about Drama by participating in a broad range of activities including improvisation, role-play and text interpretation. During lessons, students will be drawing on elements of dramatic play such as spontaneity, imagination, role-play, exploration and free
association of ideas. Students in Grade 8 Drama will look specifically at ritual, character development, melodrama and process drama.

**Music**

In Grade 8 Music, students are offered the opportunity to study contemporary and/or orchestral instruments. Students aim to improve technical proficiency and are expected to perform in a range of ensembles for various purposes and audiences.

Students study music from various world traditions with an emphasis on Australian indigenous and Asian music. Students engage in analysis, composition and arranging. Students learn conventional musical notation and aim to become proficient in the language of music (melody, rhythm, harmony, tone-colour, timbre, form and structure). Students' musical practice is supported by the continuous development of aural skills and theoretical understanding. There is a significant emphasis on information technology as a means of recording and presenting work.

The four main units of work for Grade 8 are: Origins and Icons (early rock), Rules and Random (composition and improvisation), Multi-media (underscore and advertising), New Interpretations (style and arrangement).

**Art**

The Grade 8 Art course provides a hands-on creative time encouraging creativity and independent thinking. There is a focus on building strong skills and learning new techniques with some time for personal creative projects.

The course includes projects using paint and print-making techniques, 3D sculpture making, and allows opportunities to use stenciling, photography, mixed media, collage and a large range of Art room materials.

**Media and Photography**

Grade 8 Media and Photography is a creative course providing students the opportunity to engage with a range of photographic styles and media presentation formats. This subject aims to develop Media and Photography skills that students can use to engage audiences and tell their story. Students will gain an understanding of basic techniques and will use these as a launch pad to explore current Media and Photography technology in new and imaginative ways.
Projects include:

- Using and digital camera
- Basic elements of photography
- Creative camera use
- Post-production applications
- Film and photographic analysis
- Stop-motion.

**Technology**

**Woodwork**

The Grade 8 Woodwork course builds on the skills introduced in Grade 7 and provides opportunities to learn about construction techniques and design principles.

Areas to be covered in this course include:

- Planning and Design
- Properties and characteristics of materials
- Joint construction
- Use of adhesives and fixers
- Abrasives and finishing procedures
- Tools – use, care and maintenance
- Workshop safety.

Students study timber and timber products, along with appropriate working and fastening methods. Students design and create a handmade box, tray and complete a lighting challenge.

**Digital Technologies**

Digital Technologies (DTS) aims to develop in students the ability and confidence to become competent users of a number of forms of technology.

Students need to be aware that each unit of work will contain both theoretical and practical components. Both of these components are essential to the development of computational thinking, design skills and technical ability.
Topics/units which may be covered in this course include:

- Computer programming
- Robotics and Automated Systems
- Systems programming
- Database design
- Computer game design

**Food Studies**

Food Studies is a practical subject which aims to give students the opportunity to select and prepare food for health, pleasure and a career pathway.

Students are provided with the opportunity to:

- Learn about food nutrients
- Learn how to use and look after kitchen equipment and appliances.
- Develop an understanding of the need for safety and hygiene.
- Work independently and co-operatively in groups within a range of learning situations.
- Prepare nutritious and delicious meals
- Learn the uses of eggs through the preparation of fried rice, hamburgers, quiche, little meringues, sponge cake, super subs, hot cross muffins, pasta, spaghetti bolognaise, pasta carbonara, chocolate self saucing pudding and raspberry coconut slice.
- Prepare a recipe from Thailand, Japan and China.
- Prepare food with herbs, spices and flavourings, such as apple pie, lemon shortbread and gingerbread biscuits.

**Materials/Design Technology**

This course offers students the opportunity to experience design and production in a variety of mediums.

The types of units students may be offered include:

- Leatherwork
- Design in Textiles/Fabrics
- Mosaics
- Plastics- 3D printing and manufacture
- Engineering tasks
- Electronics
- Wire work
- Felting

The aim of this subject is for students to develop a variety of practical skills whilst developing and designing their own projects.

**MAKING YOUR SELECTIONS**

A selection sheet will be provided to every student. Once teachers have briefed students on course content and requirements, it is then up to students to seek further counselling on course selections when required.

It is important to follow the directions on the subject selection form and choose THREE first choice subjects.
- ONE subject from The Arts
- ONE Subject from Technology
- ONE subject from either The Arts or Technology

The selection form also asks students to make some extra choices in case they cannot be given their first selections. The College endeavours to give all students their first subject choices, but this may not be possible due to a number of factors. Unfortunately class sizes, availability of teachers and facilities can make it impossible to allocate some students their first three choices. Therefore it is very important that students make wise and informed decisions about their back up subjects.

All subject selections forms are due to the College Office by Friday, 1st August.