2016

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 sessions at the start of Term One next year. This meeting 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
Teaching and Learning Leader
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Principal
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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
- LOTE – French

Literacy is a major focus for Grade 7 in 2016. As part of their English course, students have regular literacy sessions each week that focus on reading, writing, spelling, speaking and listening skills.

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

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

- Woodwork
- Food Studies
- ICT

The Arts

- Drama
- Art
- Music

Under Australian Curriculum requirements, all students are required to study subjects in the Arts, Technology and LOTE 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. Students are required to choose three of the above Arts and Technology subjects next year as full year courses for Grade 8. Therefore, it is vital they develop a comprehensive understanding of the subjects that suit their strengths and interests.

The Australian Curriculum

The key learning areas listed above implemented the full Australian curriculum content descriptors and assessment standards during the 2014 teaching year. Teachers of the Arts and Technology will have fully implemented the Australian Curriculum by the end of 2016. The Australian Curriculum website is an excellent source of further information about course content and standards.  

www.australiancurriculum.edu.au

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 2016, 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.