In Year 8 students belong to the same group for Mathematics, English and Science. This provides opportunities for students to develop cross-curricular links between subjects.

Students develop skills and technological literacies using laptop computers across the learning areas and as part of studying Agriculture students will visit our Wilderness Campus – Kyre on Kangaroo Island.

Students all study the following:

- Agriculture
- Art & Design
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- English or ESL
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education & Health
- Science

And choose from:
- French
- Japanese
- Cross Curriculum Studies

Students may select **Dance** as extra subject.

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### Agriculture

**Learning Area:** Science  
**Course Category:** Core  
**Course Length:** One semester

**Assessment:** Formative and summative criterion based assessment including projects, homework, tests, practicals, computer work and field work.

**Course Description:** A stimulating environmental course that focuses on sustainable systems and selected practices in Agriculture. This course includes animal care and management, vegetable production, environmental studies and sustainable practices in agriculture.

**Course Topics:**
- Agricultural Resources in Australia
- Farm Environment, Regions of Australia
- Farm Animals
- Vegetable Plots
- Kyre Field Trip – sustainable systems
- Farm and Natural Ecosystem Studies
- Orchard, Vine, Agronomic Crops

The Scotch Farm provides a pleasant environment in which students will actively work with farm animals and agricultural crops. A week long camp to Kyre on Kangaroo Island includes environmental activities, with a scientific and sustainability focus.

### Art & Design

**Learning Area:** Visual & Applied Art  
**Course Category:** Core  
**Course Length:** One semester

**Assessment:** Formative and summative criterion based assessment. A written report on skills development and participation.

**Course Description:**
This course offers opportunities to investigate a wide range of Visual Art media and techniques. Students are expected to develop good planning and organisation skills through structured studio activities, which emphasise individual expression. Learning activities will encourage creativity and may include drawing, painting, graphics, mixed media, digital media, printmaking and sculpture.

Students will document their projects through the use of a visual folio and learn to process and evaluate information about the arts across time, place and culture. Specific arts terminology is introduced and used in discussions, demonstrations and written work.

Students will be introduced to 6 periods of Modern Art. (Vincent van Gogh Expressionism, Picasso, Surrealism, Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art) Each unit will require students to explore techniques, media and themes used by key artists representing their culture and society. Student have an opportunity to turn their research into practice when they create a folio of experimental pieces based on a masterpiece from this selection of units.
**Cross Curriculum Studies**

**Course Category:** Elective  
**Course Length:** One year

**Subject Prerequisites:** To be chosen only after consultation with the Special Programs Coordinator, Head of House, parents and the student.

**Assessment:**  
There is no formal assessment. Students do, however, receive an attitude rating based on effort and use of class time and support.

**Course description:**  
The aims of the course are to assist students to develop literacy, numeracy, study and organisational skills.  
within the context of their academic curriculum.

Specific skills that may be supported include: skimming and scanning, research techniques, assignment planning, writing structures (genres), proofreading, referencing, reading comprehension, test preparation and ICT skills.

Students also receive support with work from across the curriculum.

**Dance**

**Learning Area:** Performing Arts  
**Course Category:** Elective  
**Course Length:** One year

**Subject Prerequisites:** Previous experience and prior tuition in dance is desirable. Selection is by audition and interview.

**Course Requirements:** Each student is to take part in at least three practical classes and one theory class per week.

**Assessment:**  
Formative and summative assessment including the completion of a written journal.

**Course Description:**  
Students study dance technique in practical classes. These practical classes are vertically grouped according to ability.

All students also keep a written workbook which includes, dance history and repertoire studies, basic anatomy and safe dance practices. The dance timetable occurs during set times throughout the week which means that the students will miss other subjects. It is advisable to make an appointment with the Director of Teaching and Learning to discuss arrangements.

**Drama**

**Learning Area:** Performing Arts  
**Course Category:** Elective  
**Course Length:** One year

**Subject Prerequisites:** Previous experience and prior tuition in dance is desirable. Selection is by audition and interview.

**Course Requirements:** Each student is to take part in at least three practical classes and one theory class per week.

**Assessment:**  
Formative and summative assessment including the completion of a written journal.

**Course Description:**  
Students use a 4-stage process of Investigate, Devise, Produce and Evaluate to design and construct projects. Students have access to a wide range of materials such as wood, polymers (plastics) and metals.

**Design & Technology**

**Learning Area:** Visual & Applied Art  
**Course Category:** Core  
**Course Length:** One semester

**Assessment:** Formative and summative criterion based assessment. Folio based, using the Design Cycle.

**Course Description:**  
All students are involved in a rotational program through which they have an opportunity to be involved in the following:-

- Investigating, planning, creating a product/ solution, evaluating, personal engagement and independence.

- Students use a 4-stage process of Investigate, Devise, Produce and Evaluate to design and construct projects. Students have access to a wide range of materials such as wood, polymers (plastics) and metals.

**English**

**Learning Area:** English  
**Course Category:** Core  
**Course Length:** One year

**Assessment:** Formative and summative criterion-based assessment, including written assignments and oral presentations.

**Course Description:**  
Students engage with a variety of texts for enjoyment. They listen to, read, view, interpret, evaluate and perform a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts. Students develop their understanding of how texts, including media texts, are influenced by context, purpose and audience.

Students create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive types of texts, for example narratives, procedures, performances, reports and discussions, and create literary analyses and transformations of texts.

By the end of Year 8 students listen to, read and view a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts interpreting key information, concepts and issues, and evaluating the effectiveness of language choices used to influence readers, viewers and listeners. They summarise and synthesise the main ideas and viewpoints in texts and evaluate the supporting evidence. They create sustained and coherent written, spoken and multimodal texts in a variety of forms to explore significant ideas, report events, express opinions, and respond to others’ views. They interact confidently with others in a variety of contexts and deliver presentations to report researched information, share opinions, debate issues, present imaginative interpretations, and evaluate differing perspectives.

**English as a Second Language**

**Learning Area:** English  
**Course Category:** Core  
**Course Length:** One semester

**Assessment:** Formative and summative criterion-based assessment, including written assignments and oral presentations.

**Course Description:**  
Each student will analyse, during practical tasks, their experiences through the creative cycle: investigation, planning, creating and making, and presenting. Reflection and evaluation are key components of practical tasks.

Students will be involved in a range of activities including the opportunity to review live performances.

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**Students are challenged in ways that consolidate basic skills, introduce new ideas and work things through to conclusion**
Living Sustainably.

You and the Weather

Current Global Issues

Current Australian Issues

Local Area Studies

Electronic Atlas and Data

Maps and Mapping

Topics studied will be:
- Maps and Mapping
- Electronic Atlas and Data
- Manipulation
- Local Area Studies
- Current Australian Issues
- Current Global Issues
- You and the Weather
- Living Sustainably.

Course Description:
Students are welcome to Year 8 French as both beginners and experienced learners. Students are exposed to the French speaking world through written work, entertaining cartoon dialogues, language based games, songs and multimedia.

ICT is a continued focus, where students can present assignment work, complete oral and aural assignments and study new vocabulary using computer programs.

Students’ awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity will be encouraged through integrated cultural studies.

Geography

Learning Area: Society & Environment

Course Category: Core

Course Length: One semester

Assessment: Criterion based assessment including written assignments, research tasks, model and chart making, map making, drawing diagrams, reading comprehension and formal tests.

Course Description:
This course seeks to lay the foundation for geographic studies. It will extend the student’s ability to recognise, interpret and compare natural and cultural patterns found on the earth’s surface.

Topics studied will be:
- Maps and Mapping
- Electronic Atlas and Data
- Manipulation
- Local Area Studies
- Current Australian Issues
- Current Global Issues
- You and the Weather
- Living Sustainably.

Mathematics

Learning Area: Mathematics

Course Category: Core

Course Length: One semester

Assessment: Formative and summative assessment including topic tests, assignments, investigations and projects.

Course Description:
The Mathematics curriculum provides students with essential mathematical skills and knowledge. It aims to ensure that students are confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations encountered.

It develops the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their daily life, and provides the fundamentals required of mathematical specialists and professionals.

Scotch is committed to being a leader in teaching and learning
General Capabilities:
There are seven general capabilities:
Literacy, Numeracy, ICT capability,
Critical and creative thinking, Personal
and social capability, Ethical behaviour
and Intercultural understanding.

Content Strands:
The content strands are:
Number and Algebra, Measurement and

Content Descriptions:
Number and Algebra: Number and
place value, real numbers, money
and financial mathematics, patterns
and algebra, linear and non-linear
relationships.
Measurement and Geometry: Using
units of measurement, geometric
reasoning.
Statistics and Probability: Chance, data
representation and interpretation.

Music

Learning Area: Performing Arts
Course Category: Core
Course Length: One semester

Assessment: Formative and summative
criterion based assessment.

Course Description:
The course aims to extend the various
musical experiences and abilities of the
students through active participation in
an instrumental band program.

Instruments available include: clarinet,
trumpet, trombone, percussion.

All students learn fundamental
instrument skills, pitch discrimination as
well as develop their music literacy and
ensemble skills. Students participate in
small group instrumental lessons and a
larger class band ensemble. Additional
areas of study include: rock band, music
technology, percussion composition and
singing.

Physical Education & Health

Learning Area: Health & Physical
Education
Course Category: Core
Course Length: One year

Assessment: There is ongoing
assessment of the student’s involvement
in the course based on summative
criteria.

Course Description:
Health Education:
The course aims to help students
examine issues critical to personal
health. Topics studied include:
• Drugs and Alcohol
• Sexuality and Contraception
• Self Esteem / Body Image and
  Media Effects
• Physical Health - Fitness testing
  including gathering statistics.
• Risk Taking Behaviours including
  binge drinking
• Religious Education

Physical Education:
The main aims are to find fun and
enjoyment in physical activity and to
develop
• a positive and healthy attitude
towards participation in physical
activity
• basic skills and knowledge to
  participate in a wide variety of
  sporting activities
• interpersonal skills through a wide
  range of group situations
• basic movement skills through
  body awareness and co-ordination
  activities (e.g. Gymnastics)
• an understanding of physical fitness
  and its relationship to health and
  physical performance.

In addition to the core activities of
Swimming, Athletics, Gymnastics and
Cross Country, we offer Mini Volleyball,
Australian Rules, European Handball,
Soccrrosse, Games Making, Table Tennis
and Softball.

Science

Learning Area: Science
Course Category: Core
Course Length: One year

Assessment: Assessment of
participation, written work, practical
activities, literature research,
manipulation of information, creativity,
communication and homework.

Course Description:
The Australian Curriculum Science
contains the following strands: Science
Understanding (Biological sciences,
Chemical sciences, Earth and space
sciences, Physical sciences)

Science as a Human Endeavour (Nature
and development of science, Use and
influence of science)

Science Investigation Skills
(Questioning and predicting, Planning
and Conducting, Processing and
analysing data and information,
Evaluating, Communicating)

Science as a Human Endeavour and
Science Inquiry Skills are addressed
across the Science Understanding
topics.

Science Understanding
Biological sciences:
Cells; Organ systems

Chemical sciences:
States of matter; Particle view of
elements, compounds and mixtures;
Chemical change

Earth and Space sciences:
Sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic
rocks

Physical sciences:
Energy