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 students choose from:

- French
- Japanese
- Cross Curriculum Studies

Students may select Dance as an extra subject.

### 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.

**Content:**  
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 production in Australia  
- Farm environment and farming regions of Australia  
- Farm animal types and breeds  
- Vegetable plots and nutrition  
- Kyre field trip – environmental and sustainable studies  
- Orchard, vine and agronomic crop Studies

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 diverse 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 including written report.

**Content:**  
Using the Australian Curriculum this course offers students 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.
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.

Topics:
• Painting
• 3 dimensional art
• Digital art
• Design

Cross Curriculum Studies

Course Category: Elective
Course Length: One year

Subject Prerequisites: To be chosen only after consultation with the Special Programs Coordinator.

Assessment:
There is no formal assessment. However students do receive an effort rating based use of class time and support.

Content:
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.

Content:
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.

Design & Technology

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


Content:
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.

Drama

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

Assessment: Formative and summative criterion based assessment. Skill development and participation are evaluated.

Content:
This course is designed to build an awareness of a variety of drama and theatre skills. It requires the students to work individually as well as co-operatively in small groups.

The focus for Year 8 Drama is to explore practical and theoretical skills through units on Stage Spaces, Levels, Dimensions, Freeze Frames, Melodrama and Working with a Text. The development of confidence on stage and knowledge of particular dramatic styles are the key components.

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.
English

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

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

Content:  
As part of the Australian curriculum 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.

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.

Content:  
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.

As part of the Australian Curriculum the following units are offered.

Theme: Landforms and landscapes  
• Shaping our earth – Our landforms and where you live  
• Island environments

Theme: Changing nations  
• Where people live in Australia and the world  
• Rural-urban divide  
• Migration within China

Skills developed  
• Map interpretation  
• Electronic atlas and data manipulation  
• Digital mapping

French

Learning Area: LOTE  
Course Category: Elective  
Course Length: One year

Assessment: Formative and summative criterion based assessment including vocabulary, speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Content:  
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.

Students are challenged in ways that consolidate basic skills, introduce new ideas and work things through to conclusion
History

Learning Area: Society & Environment
Course Category: Core
Course Length: One semester

Assessment: Formative and summative criterion based assessment including written assignments, research work, class presentations, written and oral tests.

Content:
As part of the Australian Curriculum History at this level deals with contrasting cultures from the Middle Ages and early Modern Periods. We look first of all at the Middle Ages in Europe and then contrast this with the Khmer experience in Cambodia as they built Angkor Wat. Picking up the theme of clashing cultures we look at the Crusades in Europe and then follow the expansion of Christianity into the New World as Pizarro and the Spanish defeated the Incas in Peru.

The course aims to stimulate an interest in the past. We also believe, however, that through an understanding of the past History helps us place our contemporary society in its rightful context.

Home Economics

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

Assessment: Formative and summative criterion based assessment including written and practical food assignments.

Content:
Students are introduced to basic nutritional information and utilise the Australian Dietary Guidelines and the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating Plan.

Through the course students investigate, design, plan, create and evaluate the multicultural influence on Australian's eating habits whilst preparing a range of dishes from various cuisine styles.

The course initially introduces the vital role of food in human functioning and the maintenance of good health, as well as meeting emotional, family and social needs in a multicultural society.

Topics covered include:
• Sensory perceptions and food
• Food and me
• Food news
• Multicultural food
• Australian Dietary Guidelines
• Australian Healthy Eating Plan
• Food miles
• Food influences
• Sustainable food practices

Japanese

Learning Area: LOTE
Course Category: Elective
Course Length: One year

Assessment: Formative and summative criterion based assessment including vocabulary, speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Content:
Students are welcome to Year 8 Japanese as both beginners and experienced learners. Students are exposed to the Japanese 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.

From the first lesson students will be introduced to the Japanese script, Hiragana and all written work will be done in Hiragana. About 40 of the kanji ideographs will also be introduced in the course of the year.
Mathematics

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

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

**Content:**  
The Australian 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.

**Content Strands:**  
The content strands are: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.

**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.

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Music

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

**Assessment:** Formative and summative criterion based assessment.

**Content:**  
The course aims to extend the various musical experiences and abilities of the students through active participation in a contemporary band program.

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

Private tuition on an instrument is available during school hours and instruments are available on a hire scheme. Opportunities are provided for students to be involved in training and performance ensembles such as the Concert Choir, Concert Band and Pipe Band.

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Physical Education & Health

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

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

**Content:**  
*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, Softcrosse, Games making, Table Tennis and Softball.

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Scotch is committed to being a leader in teaching and learning.
**Science**

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

**Assessment:**
Formative and summative criterion based assessment on practical design and implementation, research skills, group-work, knowledge and understanding, problem-solving and communication. Assessment is conducted against the Strands of the Australian Curriculum Science:
- Science Understanding
- Science as a Human Endeavour
- Science Inquiry Skills.

**Content:**
The Australian Curriculum Science contains the following strands and sub-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 Inquiry 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 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