2015 Year 8 Curriculum

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 have the opportunity to visit our Wilderness Campus – Kyre on Kangaroo Island.

Core Subjects:
Students all study the following:
- Agriculture
- Art & Design
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- English or ESL
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education & Health
- Science

Elective Subjects:
Students choose from French, Japanese and 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:
- History of Agriculture & Agricultural production in Australia
- Farm environment and farming regions of Australia
- Farm animal types and breeds
- Nutrition and Vegetable plot production
- Orchard, vine and agronomic crop studies
- Fleurieu field trip – environmental and sustainable studies

The Scotch Farm provides a pleasant environment in which students will actively work with farm animals and agricultural crops.
A day trip of the Fleurieu region 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 including written report.

Content:
The 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

This subject aims to:
- develop students knowledge and skills in a variety of Art materials and techniques.
- develop an understanding of the need for safe work practices in the Art room.
- encourage a positive attitude when working as an individual or when collaborating with their peers on an artwork.

Students will be given the opportunity to acquire the following knowledge and skills:
- initiative in seeking out information;
- knowledge and understanding of some aspect(s) of contemporary art practice;
- skills developed through experimentation and practice
- the ability to interpret, and make a personal comment on, works of contemporary art practice;

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 on class time and support.

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
Assessment:
Formative and summative criterion based assessment which is folio based using the Design Cycle.

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 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.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Learning Area: English
Course Category: Core
Course Length: One year. Offered as a one-on-one support class.
Assessment:
Formative and summative criterion based assessment.

Content:
Oral, aural and written English are the basis of this course. There is continuous focus on grammatical accuracy and extension of vocabulary. There are listening and written comprehensions, exercises on letter writing and creative writing.

French

Learning Area: Languages
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 have access to online software to facilitate their vocabulary learning.

Students’ awareness and acceptance of cultural diversity will be encouraged through integrated cultural studies. Students will be exposed to different francophone cultures and traditions through films, music and fables.

The study of traditional French culture will also be an integral part of the program. Students will also be introduced to elements of French and world history through the exploration of historical French characters and events.
**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

**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/ Modern Australian Cuisine  
- Australian Dietary Guidelines  
- Australian Healthy Eating Plan  
- Food miles  
- Food influences  
- Sustainable food practices
Japanese

**Learning Area:** Languages  
**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.

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 rock-band program.  
All students learn contemporary instrument skills (guitar, drum kit, and keyboard), rhythm and pitch discrimination as well as develop their music literacy and ensemble skills.  
Additional areas of study include: Aboriginal music, 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.

Mathematics

**Learning Area:** Mathematics  
**Course Category:** Core  
**Course Length:** One year  
**Assessment:**  
Formative and summative assessments include topic tests, assignments and folio tasks.  

**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.
Physical Education and Health

Learning Area: Physical Education and 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 criterion.

Content:
This course aims to develop the knowledge, understanding, and skills to ensure students:
• access, synthesize and evaluate information to take positive action to protect, enhance and advocate for their own and others' health, wellbeing, safety and physical activity across the life-span
• develop and use personal, interpersonal, behavioural, social and cognitive skills and strategies to promote a sense of personal identity, wellbeing and to build and maintain positive relationships
• acquire, apply and evaluate movement skills, concepts and strategies to respond confidently, competently and creatively in a variety of physical activity contexts and settings
• engage in and enjoy regular movement-based learning experiences, and understand and appreciate their significance to personal, social, cultural, environmental and health practices and outcomes
• analyze how varied and changing personal and contextual factors shape understanding of, and opportunities for, health and physical activity locally, regionally and globally.

Health Education:
The course aims to help students examine issues critical to personal health. Topics studied include:
• Drugs and alcohol
• Puberty, developing sexuality.
• Self esteem / body image and the media
• Physical health - fitness testing including gathering statistics
• Risk taking behaviours - binge drinking
• Religious Education.

Physical Education:
In addition to the core activities of Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country, we offer Gymnastics, Mini Volleyball, European Handball, Korfball/Netball and Games making.