



2023

Year 7 & 8

**SUBJECT  
HANDBOOK**

**Integrity  
Respect  
Excellence**

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# YEAR 7 & 8 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The curriculum at Vermont Secondary College in Years 7 and 8 is rich, varied and challenging. The curriculum is based on the Victorian Curriculum and the understanding that the early years of secondary education should provide a solid intellectual grounding in all subject areas. Accordingly, students will engage in the following curriculum program:

## Year 7 Subjects

### Year Long

- English
- Health & Physical Education
- Language - French or German
- Mathematics
- Science

### Semester Length Subjects

- Commerce
- Digital Technologies
- Geography
- History
- Materials Technology
- Music
- Visual Art

## Year 8 Subjects

### Year Long

- English
- Health & Physical Education
- Language - French or German
- Mathematics
- Science

### Semester Length Subjects

- Digital Technologies
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Food Studies
- Visual Communication Design

# YEAR 7

## ENGLISH

### DESCRIPTION:

Year 7 English seeks to foster an enjoyment of the subject, to stimulate interest and develop competence in all aspects of the English language. Learning in English builds on concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier years, and students will work to continuously extend their knowledge and develop their capabilities to the next level. Within the Victorian Curriculum, English is organised into language modes and strands. The three interrelated language modes are Reading and Viewing, Speaking and Listening, and Writing.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Writing Tasks
- Oral Presentation Tasks
- Reading and Viewing Tasks

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## MATHEMATICS

### DESCRIPTION:

Students develop useful mathematical skills applicable to numeracy across the curriculum, solve practical real-life problems, build up specialist knowledge that provides for further study in the discipline and strengthen their confidence in their personal knowledge of mathematics.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Topic tests
- Assignments
- Semester test

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## SCIENCE

### DESCRIPTION:

Students are introduced to the strands of Biology by exploring classification of living things, Chemistry via separation techniques, Physics through exploring the effect of forces on an object and Earth Sciences focusing on the Earth's renewable and non-renewable resources. Students learn and apply the Scientific Inquiry Skills by identifying and posing questions, work collaboratively to undertake investigations and draw conclusions.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Scientific Reports
- Research Tasks
- Tests

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## COMMERCE

### DESCRIPTION:

Students will identify ways that they can be active and informed citizens who are able to contribute and take action when necessary in society. A broad overview of civics and citizenship is provided, including the following topics:

- Australia's system of government and how citizens elect their representatives
- How laws are made and the principles underpinning our legal system
- Citizenship, diversity & identity
- Consumer & financial literacy and preparation of a budget
- Work and financial goals
- Economics, cost-benefit analysis and consumerism

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Issue Analysis
- Research Project
- Class Tests

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Nil

## GEOGRAPHY

### DESCRIPTION:

Year 7 Geography students learn the basics in geographical skills, such as mapping and interpreting data. Students will first study place and liveability, then investigate their local area. Students will do local fieldwork at Bellbird Dell and write a report on their findings. The second unit is water in the world, with a focus on water as a resource in Australia. Students will have the opportunity to compare water in Australia to Africa, examining water scarcity in these regions.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Geographical Skills Test
- Place and Liveability Coursework
- Bellbird Dell Fieldwork
- Water Coursework
- African Rainfall Task
- African Water Scarcity

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## HISTORY

### DESCRIPTION:

Students are introduced to the Ancient world, sequencing and analysing significant events in pre-colonised Australia, Ancient Egypt and Ancient China. Students explore historical concepts and patterns of change relating to the formation of civilisations and reflect on their importance in modern times. They are exposed to a variety of sources and interpret historian perspectives to evaluate history.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Source analysis
- Analytical writing
- Historical inquiry

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## VISUAL ARTS

### DESCRIPTION:

Students work in a variety of art forms, exploring how artists use a range of materials to express different ideas in art making. Exposure to drawing and printing techniques are complemented with sculptural experiences in fibre and clay. The use of the digital technologies will complement the art program at this level. Students look at the art of others and use Creative and Critical Thinking Skills to broaden their knowledge and understanding of art.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Collaborative Village
- From Observation to Print
- Soft Sculpture
- Portraiture as Identity
- Art Analysis Journal

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Nil

## MUSIC

### DESCRIPTION:

Students actively participate in experiencing the enjoyment of music-making by developing basic performance skills, as well as fostering an understanding and appreciation of the elements of music. Much of the subject understanding is achieved through an integration of practical and theoretical activities. Students also recognise the expressive and musical characteristics of a wide range of music through listening and creative work.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Theory
- Composition
- Research Tasks
- Appreciation

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### DESCRIPTION:

Students are exposed to and learn a variety of skills, rules and movement patterns for major games and sports. They participate in a Fundamental Motor Skills to improve athleticism and personal fitness, conduct peer and self-assessments, and engage in SEPEP unit. Students evaluate and analyse the benefits of relationships and wellbeing, respecting diversity, emotional responses, health information and personal and social skills. Students learn about human development during youth. Students identify and analyse factors that contribute to respectful relationships.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Movement and strategy
- Self-reflection
- Research task
- Test
- Goal Setting Task

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Nil

## FRENCH

### DESCRIPTION:

Students explore a range of vocabulary and grammar on the following topics:

- Self-description (name, age, birthday, personal details etc.)
- School (subjects, school items and the French School System)
- Family and Pets.
- Food and French gastronomy

They participate in spoken exchanges and learn about French cultural aspects such as French landmarks, food and schooling.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Listening Comprehension
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing
- Speaking

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## GERMAN

### DESCRIPTION:

Students explore a range of vocabulary and grammar on the following topics:

- Self-description (name, age, birthday, personal details etc.)
- School (subjects, school items and the German School System)
- Family and Pets.
- Clothing

They participate in spoken exchanges and learn about German cultural aspects such as German States, festivals, food and schooling.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Listening Comprehension
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing
- Speaking

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

### DESCRIPTION:

In Digital Technologies, students build ICT skills and appreciation.

### Exploring the following:

- How computer network's function
- How data can be represented and presented in digital systems
- Appropriate codes of conduct when communicating online
- Coding, programming and robotics
- How to design data collection and present data in infographics

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Digital Workplace ICT Skills - online quiz/test
- Booklets and Activities
- Digital Literacy - Practical activities and quiz/test
- Coding and Programming - Practical activities. booklet and online quiz/test
- Computer Networks - Practical activities, booklet and online quiz/test

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Nil

## MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

### DESCRIPTION:

Students work with a range of resistant materials - wood, metal and plastic. They are introduced to the design process and different tools, techniques and processes. Students use Creative and Critical Thinking Skills to generate ideas and evaluate their work. They use the skills learnt to create a self-directed problem-solving project at the end of the unit.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Wooden Toy
- Plastic Poppy
- Metal Arthropod
- LED Light Sculpture
- Materials Investigation

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Nil

# YEAR 8

## ENGLISH

### DESCRIPTION:

Students are engaged in reading, viewing, listening to, writing, creating, comparing, researching and talking about a range of text types. Students will explore the meaning of texts and how meaning is conveyed. They will develop critical understanding about the ways writers and speakers control language to influence their listeners, readers and viewers.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Assessment
- Writing Tasks
- Speaking Tasks
- Reading and Responding Tasks

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## MATHEMATICS

### DESCRIPTION:

Students develop useful mathematical skills applicable to numeracy across the curriculum, solve practical real-life problems, build up specialist knowledge that provides for further study in the discipline, and strengthen their confidence in their personal knowledge of mathematics.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Topic Tests
- Assignments
- Semester Test

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## SCIENCE

### DESCRIPTION:

Students explore the strands of Biology through the cell theory and relate this concept to mammalian systems, Chemistry looks at the particle model, Physics focuses on energy conversions and Earth Sciences study the rock cycle. Students develop their Scientific Inquiry Skills by undertaking directed and self-designed investigations.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Scientific Reports
- Research Tasks
- Tests

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### DESCRIPTION:

Students are exposed to and learn a variety of skills, rules and movement patterns for major games and sports. They participate in a Fundamental Motor Skills to improve athleticism and personal fitness, conduct peer and self-assessments, and engage in SEPEP unit. Students evaluate and analyse the benefits of relationships and wellbeing, respecting diversity, emotional responses, health information and personal and social skills. Students learn about human development during youth. Students identify and analyse factors that contribute to respectful relationships.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Movement and strategy
- Self-reflection
- Brochure
- Test
- Group presentation

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Nil

## GEOGRAPHY

### DESCRIPTION:

Through the study of Landforms and Landscapes students will develop an understanding of the concept of environment and explore the significance of landscapes to people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. In Changing Nations, students investigate the changing human geography of countries, as revealed by shifts in population distribution. Students will study mapping and graphing skills and explore the process of urbanisation, drawing on a study of a country in the Asian region.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Landscapes and Landforms Booklet
- Uluru Case Study
- Changes in the Ranges Fieldwork
- China Case Study
- Test

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## HISTORY

### DESCRIPTION:

Students study the Medieval period and early exploration between 500 and 1500 CE. Areas of study: The Norman Conquest and the impact of religion, comparing pandemic responses (Black Death and Covid), and the Spanish Conquest of the Americas. Students also complete a Historical Investigation on:

- The Ottoman Empire (1299-1683CE)
- The spread of Islam (570-c. 750CE)
- Angkor and the Khmer Empire (c. 802 -1431CE)
- Japan Under the Shoguns (c. 794-1867CE)
- Polynesian expansion across the Pacific (c. 700 – 1756CE)

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Analytical writing
- Source Analysis
- Historical Investigation
- Comparing pandemic responses

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## DRAMA

### DESCRIPTION:

Students develop dramatic skills and techniques such as the use of voice, gesture and movement, use of performance space, script-writing and script interpretation, as well as being a receptive audience member. Content material covers character and story development, use of conventions and production areas as well as responding to stimulus materials (text and images) to create performances.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Writing Tasks
- Performance Analysis Task
- Performance/Practical Tasks
- Major Ensemble Performance

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

### DESCRIPTION:

Students look at Visual Communication Design, focusing on Communication Design. Exposure to technical drawing conventions, rendering and typography are complemented with 3D design tasks. The use of the digital technologies will complement the design program at this level. Students look at the design of others and use Creative, Critical and Reflective Thinking Skills to broaden their knowledge and understanding of design from different contexts.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Observational Drawing and Rendering Folio
- Creative Font
- Minecraft Madness
- Symbol Design
- Packaging

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Nil

## FRENCH

### DESCRIPTION:

Students explore a range of vocabulary and grammar on the following topics:

- Shops, places in town and prepositions
- House (rooms and furniture)
- Holidays, leisure activities and free time.
- Daily Routine and how to tell the time.

They participate in spoken exchanges and learn about French cultural aspects such as French Villages, Housing in France, Holiday Camps and popular activities in France.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Listening Comprehension
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing
- Speaking

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## GERMAN

### DESCRIPTION:

Students explore a range of vocabulary and grammar on the following topics:

- Daily Routine and how to tell the time.
- Food and German gastronomy.
- Weather (including months and seasons)
- Housing (Rooms, furniture, and types of houses in German-speaking countries).

They participate in spoken exchanges and learn about German cultural aspects such as Food, Housing, Famous German speakers and German cities.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Listening Comprehension
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing
- Speaking

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

### DESCRIPTION:

Students develop their skills through investigation, design, production, and evaluation by utilising a range of digital technologies. Students use a wider range of ICT tools, techniques, and functions to support their thinking processes, to model systems, to solve problems and to create information products for a variety of purposes

The following topics will be covered:

#### Digital systems

- Data and networks

#### Data and information

- Digital Literacy

#### Digital solutions

- Plan / Design to solve a problem(s)

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Coding/Programming Folio's
- Design Programming Unit
- Activities
- Digital Literacy presentation

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Nil

## FOOD STUDIES

### DESCRIPTION:

This course involves an introduction to kitchen management and food processing and production. These skills empower young people to take control of their food choices and therefore their future health and well-being.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Safety and hygiene media presentation
- Muffin designed solution
- Practical activities
- Bush foods designed solution

### COSTS INVOLVED:

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity