



**VERMONT
SECONDARY
COLLEGE**

Integrity, Respect,
Excellence

2025

Year 7 & 8

**SUBJECT
HANDBOOK**

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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 Arts

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

Year Long Subjects

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES	ENGLISH
<p>DESCRIPTION: In Digital Technologies, students build ICT skills and appreciation of how to design, create, manage and evaluate innovative digital solutions to meet particular needs. Students will explore an understanding of online safety, privacy and protocols.</p> <p>Exploring the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How computer networks 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 <p>ASSESSMENT TASKS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How computer networks function• Online activities• Digital Literacy - Practical and online activities and quiz/test• Coding and Programming - Practical and online activities. Online quiz/test• Computer Networks - Practical and online activities and. online quiz/test <p>COSTS INVOLVED: Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.</p>	<p>DESCRIPTION: Year 7 Health and Physical Education is a coeducational program incorporating a wide range of activities designed to develop movement, coordination, and control as well as interpersonal skills, enabling students to function effectively as a part of a group or team and to promote knowledge and understanding of the importance of physical activity and optimal health and wellbeing. Physical Education activities focus on movement skills including dance, gymnastics and athletics, invasion, net/wall, striking games and sports. Year 7 Health unit covers a variety of topics including Relationships, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Nutrition, Sexuality, Drugs and Alcohol and Personal Safety. Across Health and Physical Education, students develop personal and social capabilities including managing respectful relationships, resilience, empathy for others, emotional literacy and teamworking skills.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT TASKS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Movement skills• Strategic application and teamwork• Goal setting task• Masterchef assignment• Test <p>COSTS INVOLVED: Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions, charged prior to the activity.</p>

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.

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HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION:

Year 7 Health and Physical Education is a coeducational program incorporating a wide range of activities designed to develop movement, coordination, and control as well as interpersonal skills, enabling students to function effectively as a part of a group or team and to promote knowledge and understanding of the importance of physical activity and optimal health and wellbeing. Physical Education activities focus on movement skills including dance, gymnastics and athletics, invasion, net/wall, striking games and sports. Year 7 Health unit covers a variety of topics including Relationships, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Nutrition, Sexuality, Drugs and Alcohol and Personal Safety. Across Health and Physical Education, students develop personal and social capabilities including managing respectful relationships, resilience, empathy for others, emotional literacy and teamworking skills.

ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Movement skills
- Strategic application and teamwork
- Goal setting task
- Masterchef assignment
- Test

COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions, 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.

Semester Length Subjects

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:

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

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.

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 design 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
- Metal Arthropod
- LED Light Sculpture
- Materials Investigation

COSTS INVOLVED:

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered. Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

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.

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. Students explore different ways of producing art and how to look at art with different lenses. Students look at the art of others and use design 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:

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered. Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

YEAR 8

Year Long Subjects

ENGLISH	HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
<p>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.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT TASKS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment• Writing Tasks• Speaking Tasks• Reading and Responding Tasks <p>COSTS INVOLVED: Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.</p>	<p>DESCRIPTION: Year 8 Health and Physical Education is a coeducational program incorporating a wide range of activities designed to develop movement, coordination, and control as well as interpersonal skills, enabling students to function effectively as a part of a group or team and to promote knowledge and understanding of the importance of physical activity and optimal health and wellbeing. Physical Education activities focus on movement skills including athletics, invasion, net/wall, striking games and sports. Year 8 Health unit covers a variety of topics including the Benefits of Physical Activity, Relationships, Mental Health and Wellbeing, Nutrition, Sexuality, Drugs and Alcohol and Safety. Across Health and Physical Education, students develop Personal and Social capabilities including managing respectful relationships, resilience, empathy for others, emotional literacy and teamworking skills.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT TASKS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Movement skills• Strategic application and teamwork• Benefits of physical activity brochure• Personal safety group presentation• Test <p>COSTS INVOLVED: Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions, charged prior to the activity.</p>

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.

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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.

Semester Length Subjects

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:

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.

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
- Blackburn Lake Fieldwork
- China Case Study
- Test

COSTS INVOLVED:

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

FOOD STUDIES

DESCRIPTION:

This course involves an introduction to a fun filled cooking experience, beginning with basic skills of kitchen processes, and building upon their knowledge to gain confidence in the kitchen. These skills empower young people to take control of their food choices and therefore their future health and well-being and prepare them for the beginning of their food journey at VSC.

ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Safety and hygiene analysis
- Muffin design brief
- Practical activities
- Bush foods design brief

COSTS INVOLVED:

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

CURRICULUM LINK:

Victorian Curriculum Design and Technologies: Food specialisations Pathway to VCE Food Studies Units 1-4

HISTORY

DESCRIPTION:

Students study the Medieval period and early exploration between 500 and 1500 CE. Areas of study: the Vikings, the Norman Conquest, the Crusades and the impact of the Black Death on feudal Europe. Students also complete a Historical Investigation on one of the following:

- The Ottoman Empire (1299-1683CE)
- 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

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 Message Design. Exposure to developmental and document drawings 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 design thinking skills to broaden their knowledge and understanding of design for different contexts.

ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Drawing Folio
- Creative Font
- Minecraft Madness
- Logo Lunacy
- Perfect Packaging

COSTS INVOLVED:

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered.

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