



SOUTHERN CROSS
GRAMMAR

Year 8 - 9
Subject Handbook
2019



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Introduction

Middle School is a time for students to experiment and try different subjects before planning their pathways for the senior years and beyond. It is a time to explore areas of passion and interest. With the pathways into the world beyond secondary school like never before, and changing at a very rapid rate, students are encouraged to consider options they may find useful in the future.

Within our offerings and programs there is a strong emphasis on catering for individual student interest and ability. As the students move up through the school, the options increase and students are able to choose pathways tailored to their level and their interests. A broad compulsory program in Years 5-7 leads on to various elective choices in Year 8 and even more diversity in Year 9 prior to students entering the Senior School in Year 10.

The academic programs for Years 8 and 9 are contained in this booklet, together with a description of each core and elective subject. Hopefully this information will be of assistance as the students go through the important process of choosing their electives. The pathways of these subjects into the Senior School are also included at the end of this booklet to assist with future planning.

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Deputy Principal
Teaching & Learning

Janis Coffey
Head of Middle School

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Principal

Staff Contacts

Students should speak with the following teachers to learn more about the different subjects listed in this Handbook.

Subject	Staff Member
Business Studies	Ms Ally Richards
Chinese	Ms Stella Wang
Digital Technologies	Ms Judith Gowdy
Drama	Mr Lincoln Busby
English	Ms Ally Richards
Food Technology	Ms Jade Panozzo
Humanities	Ms Ally Richards
Mathematics	Ms Trish Vu
Music	Mr Robert Graham
Outdoor Education	Mr Liam Ogden
Robotics	Mr Rajnesh Ram
Science	Mr Rajnesh Ram
Visual Arts	Ms Cynthia Drossinis

Year 8 Academic Program

Year 8 students study the six compulsory core subjects listed below and have the opportunity to study two electives per semester.

Subject	Core/ Elective	Full-Year/ Half-Year	Periods (40 mins per cycle)
English	Core	Full	12
Mathematics	Core	Full	12
Science	Core	Full	12
Humanities	Core	Full	10
Health/Physical Education	Core	Full	6
New Generation Learning	Core	Full	8
Elective 1	Elective	Half	10
Elective 2	Elective	Half	10
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERIODS			80

Year 8 Electives

Subject	Core/Elective	Full-Year/Half-Year
Chinese	Elective	Full
Digital Technologies	Elective	Half
Drama	Elective	Half
Entrepreneurs, Start-ups & Global Citizenship	Elective	Half
Fitness	Elective	Half
Food Technology	Elective	Half
Music	Elective	Half
Outdoor Education	Elective	Half
Robotics	Elective	Half
Visual Arts	Elective	Half
Visual Communication Design	Elective	Half
Touch Typing	Elective	Half

Year 8 Subjects

Chinese

Students explore the Chinese language system, which students will draw upon to communicate their own ideas and engage with others.

Students accomplish a higher level of active use of spoken than written language. They also translate simple texts from Chinese to English and vice versa; identifying words and phrases in Chinese that do not readily translate into English, using contextual cues, action and gesture to assist translation.

They will be aware that literal translation between languages is not always possible and that aspects of interpretation and translation are affected by context, culture, and intercultural experience.

Digital Technologies

The course commences with a brief introduction to cybersafe practices. The digital technologies course consists of four major topics including Coding, Networks, Data and Design and Digital production. Students are assigned a folio of coding activities for the Scratch software, including game making. The course also introduces the function of networks and formatting spreadsheets. Digital production concepts such as stop motion are implemented in the course.

Drama

Students focus on rehearsing and performing scripts, performance in front of camera, screen tests, rehearsing and filming scenes and styles, protocols and knowledge of the film and television industry in Australia, camera techniques and filming styles. Apart from exploring various performance styles and their corresponding theatrical conventions students will choose an elective with the intended career explorations of make-up design, audition and select performers, directing, presenting and media and screen expertise.

Year 8 Subjects

English

Students are challenged to extend their thinking about texts by analysing them on a deeper level and to consistently support their ideas with relevant textual evidence. Texts specifically explore themes of interpersonal relationships and ethical dilemmas within real-world and fictional settings and represent a variety of different perspectives.

Students develop their analytical skills further, becoming able to coherently explain how language features, how images and vocabulary can be used to represent different ideas and issues and how these can be used to position the reader.

Students will also focus on the further refinement of their oral communication skills, with the preparation and delivery of formal oral presentations.

Entrepreneurs, Start-ups & Global Citizenship

In this exciting new elective, students will have the opportunity to become engaged, socially involved and active citizens through this subject. Students will understand entrepreneurship and its role and contribution to personal, school, and community life.

As they investigate and become familiar with examples of successful and unsuccessful ventures from a variety of sectors, they will be able to apply their knowledge to developing their own entrepreneurial ventures.

Importantly, students will develop the skills to recognise the qualities of entrepreneurs that contributed to their success, which they can apply to their own ventures.

Students' studies will culminate in the engagement with, and support of community projects throughout the school. This will develop students' abilities to access knowledge and find the support and encouragement needed in developing all phases of venture planning.

Year 8 Subjects

Fitness

Students are introduced to the concept of fitness; exploring its meaning and its contribution to health and wellbeing. Students learn about the many benefits of being physically fit, including healthy growth and development, a reduction in levels of obesity, strong bones and muscles and opportunities to make friends and enhance self-esteem.

Students also explore how children and adolescents can improve their fitness and participate in a range of activities that can improve fitness levels for these age groups.

Food Technology

Building on skills learnt in Year 7, students are introduced to nutrients, the importance of a healthy diet and breakfast regimes for various demographics. Students continue to develop the ability to independently use technical kitchen machinery. They build upon learnt skills to produce quality food products in a safe and hygienic matter that contain complex techniques and ingredients. Examples of recipes include: Beef and Zucchini Burgers, Oriental Chicken Kebabs, Self-Saucing Chocolate Pudding, Breakfast Burritos and Sausage/Vegetarian Rolls.

Health and Physical Education

Physical Education focuses on the elements of moving the body, understanding movement and learning through movement. Fitness is emphasized throughout the semester with students participating in activities designed to challenge and increase personal cardiovascular fitness levels.

Students are also given the opportunity to practice gross motor skills through participation in a number of sports and games such as Athletics, Soccer, Football, Basketball, Netball, Volleyball and Golf. During Health classes, students consolidate their knowledge of the different elements of a healthy life and lifestyle and are introduced to the concepts of seeking help, moving with skill and building successful teams.

Year 8 Subjects

Humanities - Geography

During Semester 1, students undertake a study of Geography by focusing on two units: 'Landforms and landscapes' and 'Changing nations'.

'Landforms and landscapes' focuses on investigating geomorphology through a study of landscapes and their landforms. Students examine the processes that shape individual landforms, the values and meanings placed on landforms and landscapes by diverse cultures, hazards associated with landscapes, and management of land-scapes.

'Changing nations' investigates the changing human geography of countries, as revealed by shifts in population distribution. The unit explores the process of urbanisation and draws on a study of a country of the Asian region to show how urbanisation changes the economies and societies of low-and middle-income countries.

Humanities - History

During Semester 2, students undertake a study of Medieval History focusing on three units: 'Medieval Europe', 'Mongol Invasions' and 'The Spanish Conquest'.

'Medieval Europe' focuses on the different social structures that emerged in Europe after the fall of the Roman Empire. They develop an understanding of the major influences from the time period including the impact of the Black Death.

The legacy of Genghis Khan is investigated during the 'Mongol Invasions' unit. Students examine the reasons for the rise in the power of the Mongols during the Medieval period and consider the negative and positive impact of the Khanate.

The Spanish Conquest of the Americas', cause and effect is a major conceptual component, as students examine the major civilizations of this time period (Mayan, Incan and Aztec) in order to understand the consequences of the Spanish arrival on these cultures.

Year 8 Subjects

Mathematics

The learning program continues to further students' knowledge, skills and understanding in Number, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Probability and Statistics. Students further develop their numerical skills working with positive and negative numbers, fractions, decimals, percentages and ratios.

Students are supported to develop mathematical literacy as they approach a range of problems and are challenged to apply their knowledge to familiar and unfamiliar contexts in problem-solving tasks and investigations.

Extension work is provided within the classroom as well as outside via a number of enrichment programs that are run by Australian Mathematics Trust (Australian Mathematics Competition and Australian Mathematics Challenge).

Music

Students perform music in a range of styles, focusing on technical accuracy, use of expression and maintaining an independent part against contrasting parts. They develop an understanding of how musicians communicate in ensembles and perform to audiences in a variety of settings and learn specific skills associated with these practices.

Students engage with more diverse performances and explore music from a range of cultures, times and locations. They learn about ways that traditional and contemporary styles of music evolve and are sustained and explore the social, cultural and historical influences on music from diverse times, cultures and locations.

Year 8 Subjects

New Generation Learning

New Generation Learning is dedicated to teaching students the transferable skills needed for when they enter the world beyond Southern Cross Grammar.

The course aims to empower students to become self-directed and lifelong learners, fostering successful, healthy, resilient, socially responsible and compassionate global citizens who explore their strengths, talents and passions through a variety of diverse activities. Students participate in intensives which focus on a range of topics, including: character strengths, philosophy, and entrepreneurship.

Outdoor Education

In Outdoor Education students learn about the different types of environments as well as the benefits of being outdoors. There is a focus on human interactions with the environment and the impact that different activities can have.

Students learn about the types of recreational activities that can be undertaken within different National Parks and will gain a greater understanding of their local park 'Organ Pipes National Park'. A key study area is 'Minimal Impact' where students will learn about the different practises used to reduce human impact when visiting or undertaking recreational activities in an environment. Students will travel back in time and explore how technology used in the environment has changed. Students will continue to develop their practical skills such as setting up tents, cooking with Trangias, tying knots and using a compass.

Robotics

This course introduces students to the EV3 robotics hardware and software. The course commences with building and programming simple robots and allowing the students to refine their planning and analytical skills.

Year 8 Subjects

More dynamic projects are added as the course proceeds to ensure that students understand the concepts being taught through a STEM perspective. The assessments in this course are mostly practical based.

Science

Students analyse the relationship between structure and function at cell, organ and body system levels, compare processes of rock formation, and analyse how the sustainable use of resources depends on the way they are formed and cycle through Earth systems. Students also investigate different forms of energy, use examples to illustrate how light forms images, use a wave model to explain the properties of sound and provide evidence for observed chemical changes in terms of colour change, heat change, gas production and precipitate formation. Planning experiments is a key component of the course as is analysing data and developing findings.

Touch Typing

Students develop their computer keyboarding and touch typing skills and techniques with hands-on learning. This elective teaches the alphabetic/numeric keyboard and provides exercises tailored to help students identify the keyboard by touch, develop their data entry skills and improve their touch typing speed and accuracy—essential in the digital world and workplace of today.

Visual Arts

This course enables students to gain practical skills in traditional art methods alongside contemporary art media. The course will focus on the exploration of ideas and experimentation. Students will develop confidence working with a range of art media including pencil, paint, ink and various other materials. Students will use 2D and 3D art techniques; these include drawing, painting, print making and sculpture to complete their own unique works. Students will be introduced to major artworks with an emphasis on those that have played a role in Art History. Assessment will include a folio of practical work, a visual diary, visual analysis, self-evaluations, class notes and class discussions.

Year 8 Subjects

Visual Communication Design

This course aims to develop students' understanding of the purpose of design in the real world. Students undertake practical and appreciation tasks and learn how to effectively apply and analyse the elements and principles of design.

Computer-generated and manual drawing skills are developed, with students creating designs for specific needs and target audiences. Students further develop design skills using a range of media and techniques.

Assessment will include a folio of design tasks using computer-generated and manual drawing techniques, and a written design analysis.

Year 9 Academic Program

In Year 9 there are compulsory core subjects all students must study for the whole year. Then there is the opportunity to choose two electives per semester from those listed on the next page.

Subject	Core/ Elective	Full-Year/Half- Year	Periods (40 mins per cycle)
English	Core	Full	12
Mathematics	Core	Full	12
Science	Core	Full	12
Humanities	Core	Full	10
Health/Physical Education	Core	Full	6
New Generation Learning	Core	Full	8
Elective 1	Elective	Half	10
Elective 2	Elective	Half	10
TOTAL NUMBER OF PERIODS			80

Year 9 Electives

Subject	Core/Elective	Full-Year/Half-Year
Advanced Health and Fitness	Elective	Half
Business Studies	Elective	Half
Chinese	Elective	Full
Digital Technologies	Elective	Half
Drama	Elective	Half
Food Technology	Elective	Half
Forensic Science	Elective	Half
Health and Physical Education	Elective	Half
Music	Elective	Half
Outdoor Education	Elective	Half
Robotics Engineering	Elective	Half
Science Investigation and Inquiry	Elective	Half
Visual Arts	Elective	Half
Visual Comm Design - Graphic Design & Illustration	Elective	Half
Visual Comm Design - Architecture & Product Design	Elective	Half

Year 9 Subjects

Advanced Health and Fitness

Students undertake an intensive fitness unit designed to enhance their understanding of health, fitness and wellbeing. Students run a training session for the class focusing on a specific sport. They learn the requirements and benefits of officiating in sports and develop an individual fitness training program to improve their own personal fitness. Areas of study include fitness components, training principles and training methods.

Business Studies

The Business Studies elective focuses on three units: 'Risky Business', 'Work Futures' and 'The Australian Economy'.

In the 'Risky Business' unit, students track the success of companies on the share market in order to explain the importance of managing financial risk. They then analyse the success of the different strategies that may be used in order to maximise their successes and mitigate their losses.

Students examine the changing face of the work environment in the 'Work Futures' unit. They analyse the reasons why and how the work environment is changing and discuss the implications this has for individuals, businesses and the economy.

Australia's role in the global economy is investigated through the analysis of key economic performance indicators such as GDP. Students describe how resources are allocated and distributed in the Australian economy and the way economic performance is measured.

Chinese

Students will reflect on their understanding of, and responses to, their experiences when communicating across cultures. They will work collaboratively to exchange information and ideas and to share their experiences with other Chinese speakers.

Year 9 Subjects

Students will analyse how messages are conveyed across languages and apply their skills in moving between languages and cultures. Classroom discussions will focus on exploring and extending learners' understanding of contexts and audiences to enhance their personal communication skills.

Digital Technologies

The course commences with a brief introduction to cybersafe practices. There are four major topics including Coding, Networks, Data and Design and Digital production. Students are assigned a challenging folio of coding activities for Scratch platform, after which the Python coding language is introduced.

Students are also introduced to the aspects of fibre optics being utilized in networks, particularly the NBN network. The Data component of the course will introduce students to Access and in the Digital production component the students will be introduced to 3D printing.

Drama

Year 9 Drama introduces the students to expressive skills and a range of performance styles. Students experiment with theatrical conventions from a number of theatre practitioners. Students will use stimuli to create a group devised performance to be performed in front of an audience.

The course also focuses on developing students' self-confidence and teamwork work skills. Self-evaluations will be completed in written form.

English

At the Year 9 level students are exposed to literary texts that both support and extend their development as increasingly independent, critical readers.

Year 9 Subjects

The texts selected contain complex, challenging and unpredictable plot sequences that serve multiple purposes and explore themes of human experience and cultural significance, interpersonal relationships, and ethical and global dilemmas within real-world and fictional settings.

Students also explore various types of media texts in increasing depth, including newspapers, film and digital texts, fiction, nonfiction, poetry, dramatic performances and multimodal texts. They draft, edit and publish persuasive, imaginative, informative and analytical responses and are provided with opportunities to present their formal and informal work in both written and oral formats.

Food Technology

The Year 9 Food Technology course is designed to allow students to experiment with different flavor pairings whilst developing their pallet. Students continue to work in groups and are introduced to the concept of working as an individual where they develop their time management skills in order to research, prepare and cook recipes of their choice.

The curriculum focus is aimed at offering students new and innovative ways to cook a variety of foods, and presenting food within a 21st-century online platform. Within the theory lessons, students developed an understanding of food safety and hygiene, nutrition, energy and nutrients, influences of food choices based on age, religion, social media, peer pressure, social traits of the community, as well as marketing techniques for promoting specific foods and recipes.

Examples of recipes include: Gozleme, San Choy Bau, Chicken & Beef Sliders, Cheesecake and Crème Brulee.

Forensic Science

Students learn how to protect a crime scene and vital evidence, through analysis and hands-on activities including, mock crime scenes and reopening crime scene investigations.

Year 9 Subjects

Key experimental techniques which are developed included are finger printing, casting, blood analysis, ballistics and chemical analysis.

Health and Physical Education

The curriculum for Health and Physical Education is designed and constructed around the elements of moving our body, understanding movement and learning through movement. Students partake in a variety of individual and team units including; Netball, Basketball, Soccer, Golf, Touch Rugby and Fitness. Students develop an understanding of the importance of physical fitness and learn various training methods during theory classes.

Athletics and Cross Country are a key component with the focus being on trying to increase fitness to allow maximum participation without undue fatigue. During theory classes, students explore a range of topics relating to proficiency of movement, promoting healthy communities, sexual relationships, fertility, movement concepts, tactics and game sense strategy.

Humanities - Geography

During Semester 1, students undertake a study of Geography by focusing on two units: 'Biomes and food security' and 'Geographies of interconnection'.

'Biomes and food security' focuses on investigating the role of the biotic environment and its role in food and fibre production, including their alteration and significance as a source of food and fibre, and the environmental challenges and constraints on expanding food production in the future.

'Geographies of interconnections' focuses on investigating how people, through their choices and actions, are connected to places throughout the world in a wide variety of ways, and how these connections help to make and change places and their environments.

Year 9 Subjects

Humanities - History

During Semester 2, students undertake a study of History by focusing on three units: 'The Industrial Revolution', 'Making a Nation' and 'World War One'. In the first study, students examine how and why the Industrial Revolution began in Britain and the major short-term and long-term impacts of this development. 'Making a Nation' examines Australia from colonial times to federation. Students investigate a significant individual who shaped Australia during this period.

An in-depth investigation into 'World War One', challenges students to consider the main reasons for the outbreak of war and some of the impacts and legacies which are seen in our society today. Students gain an insight into the lives of the soldiers and consider multiple perspectives of the Gallipoli campaigns.

Mathematics

The wide range of topics in the course include simple and compound interest integer indices. Students expand algebraic expressions using the distributive law including binomial expressions. They also study Measurement and Geometry. Measurement involving composite shapes, surface area and volume, Pythagoras' Theorem and trigonometry and statistics and probability.

Students learn to construct back-to-back stem-and-leaf plots with and without the use of digital technology. They also identify the mean and median in skewed, symmetric and bi-modal displays. They calculate relative frequencies to estimate probabilities and list outcomes for two-step experiments and assign probabilities for those outcomes and related events.

Music

Students experience music as an art form through listening, composing, performing and evaluating the work of others. They create and respond to music independently and in small groups and identify the characteristics of a range of performance styles and genres.

Year 9 Subjects

Students develop their listening skills as they build on their understanding and application of the elements of music. They learn how musicians communicate with audiences in solo and ensemble contexts and explore a range of performance techniques, compositional devices, forms and styles. They research how musicians influence and challenge ideas and contribute to cultural expression.

New Generation Learning

New Generation Learning at Year 9 is dedicated to teaching students the transferable skills needed for when they enter the world beyond Southern Cross Grammar.

The course aims to empower students to become self-directed and lifelong learners, fostering successful, healthy, resilient, socially responsible and compassionate global citizens who explore their strengths, talents and passions through a variety of diverse activities.

Students participate in intensives which focus on a range of topics, including design thinking, mindfulness, and service learning.

Outdoor Education

In Outdoor Education, students learn about the historical relationships with the outdoor environment. Students will explore and compare the interactions the first colonialists and Aboriginal Australians had with the environment. 'First Aid' is an area of focus where students will learn how to apply first aid to different situations when in the outdoors.

Students examine a number of ways outdoor environments are depicted in different media. The dynamic nature of relationships between humans and their environment are considered, as well as the social, cultural, economic and political factors that influence these relationships. Students will apply practical knowledge and skills in an overnight camp in preparation for future pathways being explored for VCE.

Year 9 Subjects

Robotics Engineering

Students test their analytical skills through a series of robotics and engineering projects. Use of various sensors is incorporated within the programming of the robots. Students are required to use various logics within their coding of the robots. The course offers various robotics projects that are closely related to real life use of robots. This course also introduces the students to some basic concepts in Electrical and Structural Engineering. Several projects that incorporate the use of electrical and electronic laws are implemented in this course. The assessments in this course are mostly practical-based.

Science

Students predict how future applications of science and technology may affect people's lives and analyse biological systems. Students develop questions and hypotheses that can be investigated using a range of inquiry skills. The concept of energy conservation and model energy transfer and transformation within systems is investigated.

Students also use atomic symbols and balanced chemical equations to summarise chemical reactions, including neutralisation and combustion, explain natural radioactivity in terms of atoms and energy change, explain how different factors influence the rate of reactions and use the concepts of voltage and current to explain the operation of electric circuits and use a field model to explain interactions between magnets.

Science Investigation and Inquiry

Students develop their research plan, select appropriate research methods and focus their research on the selected area of investigation. They learn to apply the conventions of academic report writing, including citations and bibliographic referencing of sources. Students continue to develop their skills of critical thinking.

Year 9 Subjects

They apply these in the analysis and evaluation of key arguments and evidence. The student's research plan outlines how the student intends to conduct their research and the influences of background reading and other sources of information.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts curriculum is designed to foster creative, critical and reflective thinking techniques through the exploration of contemporary and traditional art forms.

Students approach each task following the design process; a methodical approach to discovering, researching, generating, refining and presenting artistic concepts that develop key art making skills and techniques. Students are given the opportunity to respond to set tasks in a way that exhibits a personal style.

Tasks include a Mandala fine liner drawing, a watercolour portrait and a Pop-Art celebrity painting.

Visual Communication Design - Architecture and Product Design

Visual Communication Design is a bridge between an idea and its intended audience. This course has a focus on environmental and industrial design, which is architecture, interior, product and furniture design.

During the course students develop new skills in freehand and instrumental drawing methods and also learn rendering techniques. Students will be able to use design elements and principles to present visually impacting designs for specific audiences and purpose. These designs could include floor plans, three-dimensional rendered drawings or a set design for a theatre show. They will develop the ability to discuss the value of design and appreciate how it is used in the world around them. Students will learn how to use digital methods like Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop to refine, arrange and create their own personalised designs.

Assessment includes a folio of design tasks using computer generated and manual drawing techniques, and a written design analysis.

Year 9 Subjects

Visual Communication Design - Graphic Design & Illustration

Visual Communication Design is a bridge between an idea and its intended audience. This course has a focus on communication design, which is graphic design, advertising, logo design and book illustration.

Students undertake tasks that are reflective of real-life design problems and in doing so, come to appreciate the role of designers within our community. Students explore a variety of tasks using the Design Process as a framework for the development of their ideas and technical skills. They learn a range of thinking techniques and strategies used by designers to enrich and expand on the quality of their ideas and ability to solve design problems. They begin to familiarise themselves with industry-standard design software such as Adobe Illustrator and InDesign.

Assessment includes a folio of design tasks using computer-generated and manual drawing techniques, and a written design analysis.

Pathways into the Senior School

