

Murtoa College Middle School Subject Booklet



2021

Middle School 9/10 Curriculum

This booklet aims to assist you in the choice of subjects for Years 9 and 10. We also encourage you to talk to the current subject teachers and your Year Level Coordinators as you complete the selection process.

When selecting your subjects it is important to select the widest possible range of subjects across all learning areas. This will result in keeping all options open for future studies and help develop areas of interest you may not have previously considered.

CORE SUBJECTS – English, Maths and Science

All students must study the core subjects: English, Maths and Science. English and Maths run for 5 periods per week for a full year and Science runs for 4 periods each week.

ENGLISH - CORE

In accordance with the Victorian Curriculum all Year 9 and 10 students concentrate on the areas of Language, Literature and Literacy. Students evaluate a range of text types, language conventions and written responses. They also participate in public speaking and other oral presentations.

Year 9 and 10 are a critical pathway to English studies in Years 11 and 12.

MATHS - CORE

In Year 9 and 10 Mathematics all students will cover topics across the three content strands; Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Mathematics studies in the Middle School years serve as a pathway to the range of Mathematics subjects offered at Year 11 and 12.

SCIENCE - CORE

In Year 9 and 10 Science all students will cover topics across the appropriate content strands; biological sciences, chemical sciences, Earth and space sciences, and physical sciences. Science studies in the Middle School years serve as a pathway to the range of Science subjects offered at Year 11 and 12.



ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (All Learning Areas)

All Year 9 & 10 students will be involved in the selection process.

- All elective subjects run for four periods per week for one semester.
- Students must select at least one elective subject from each of the following Learning Areas each year.
 - The Arts
 - Physical Education
 - Humanities
 - Technology
- At least one Health elective must be selected over the course of two years.
- **No more than two elective subjects from the one learning area can be undertaken in a single semester.**
- Students can select electives from the *Languages, VCE Pathway, Community Pathway* or *Core Pathway* areas once they have selected their minimum requirements from the required learning areas.
- Year 10 students have the opportunity to complete a VCE subject if choices permit however, students must discuss this option with the subject teacher. All VCE subjects are run for the entire year, and will replace a middle school elective each semester.
- Year 10 students also have the opportunity to complete a VET pathway if choices permit. There will be a limited number of placements available for students considering VET. If you are considering a VET subject, you will need to read through a copy of the VET handbook and discuss this possibility with the school.
- There are costs associated with Outdoor Ed., Advance, Technology and a number of other subjects.



ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

THE ARTS

Art
Australian Film Studies
Ceramics & Sculpture
Dance, Choreography and Performance
Exit Stage Left!
Murtoa College News
Photography
School Magazine
Visual Communication & Design

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Just SPORT (6 months or 12 months)
Personal Fitness
Sports For Life
Sports Management
Talented Sports – Volleyball

HEALTH

Being Safe & Healthy
Introduction to Health and Human Development

HUMANITIES

Australians At War
Biomes, Beaches and Bombay
Business Management
Grampians
Introduction to Legal Studies
“Let Them Eat Cake” – A Taste of France
Moods, Music & Movies - “The Swinging Sixties”
The Peasants Are Revolting!
Politics, Parliament & Power
Romanovs, Rasputin and Revolution
Shark Tank: Starting Your Own Business
World Views & Religions

TECHNOLOGY

Digital Portfolio: Databases
Digital Portfolio: Web Development
Family Meals
Foods Around The World
Technology
Textiles
Woodwork

LANGUAGES

German
Victorian School of Languages (Distance Education)

COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

Advance (Year 9 only)
Generation eXchange
Get A Job: Work Experience
Social Media

VCE PATHWAYS

Get Psyched
Master Mind: Psychology
Outdoor Education
Paddock to Plate: Sustainable Ag. & Hort.

CORE PATHWAYS (English, Science, Maths)

Barefoot Basics: Financial Literacy
Book Club
Forensic Science
Manga, Comics & Graphic Literature
May The Force!
Shocking Stuff

VCE SUBJECTS 2021 (Year 10 students only)

For details of the VCE subjects available to Year 10 students please refer to the 2020 VCE Handbook.

VCE Agricultural & Horticultural Studies Unit 1 & 2	VCE Australian and Global Politics Unit 1 & 2
VCE Biology Unit 1 & 2	VCE Business Management Unit 1 & 2
VCE Psychology Unit 1 & 2	VCE Chemistry Unit 1 & 2
VCE Computing Unit 1 & 2	VCE Food and Technology Unit 1 & 2
VCE Physical Education Unit 1 & 2	VCE History Unit 1 & 2
VCE Studio Arts Unit 1 & 2	VCE Outdoor & Enviro. Studies Unit 1 & 2
VCE Health and Human Development Unit 1 & 2	VCE Visual Communication Unit 1 & 2

'THE ARTS' ELECTIVES

Art

You don't have to be good at art but just have fun finding out what media you like using.

Explore a variety of 2D & 3D art forms such as Drawing, Printmaking, Painting, Digital Photography, Ceramics, Sculpture and Installations/Public Art. Select materials, techniques and equipment that will restore your mojo, while specializing in an idea/concept of your own interest to create your own individual style. Students learn Japanese bookbinding to make a visual diary and complete a research assignment on a modern/contemporary artist. This unit is excellent preparation for VCE Studio Arts 1-4.

Australian Film Studies

The Castle, Red Dog, Gallipoli: Australia has produced many iconic films. This elective is designed to offer students the opportunity to explore Australian film studies as both audience and artist. Students will learn by responding to a range of film texts and making student-directed short films, to express their own ideas about Australian culture and identity.

Students will develop skills in analysing the meanings, beliefs and values of film texts within different historical, cultural, and social contexts of Australia, including films by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. By the end of this elective, students will have developed an appreciation for the work of artists within the Australian film industry. Moreover, students will be able to recognise the significance of Media histories, theories and practices in the production of the films they know and love in contemporary Australia today.

- **Story Principles:**
 - structure, intent, characters, settings, points of view and genre conventions.
- **Technical and Symbolic Elements:**
 - composition, space, time, movement, sound, colour and lighting.
- **Filmmaking Techniques and Processes:**
 - Pre-production: scriptwriting, storyboarding, planning & researching,
 - Production: recording & directing
 - Post-production: editing

Ceramics & Sculpture

Students undertake various hand building techniques such as pinch, coil, slab and moulding, as well as joining, to allow the construction of a folio of creative forms. An introduction to wheel throwing, under glazes and firing is also learnt.

Dance, Choreography and Performance

Dance is expressive movement with purpose and form. Dance encourages students to use physical movement and expression to help reach their creative potential. In this subject, students will improve and extend their dance skills, whilst learning how to create their own original choreography under the guidance of an experienced choreographer and dance teacher. They will also extend their technical skills in contemporary dance, using specialised dance training, including strength/weight training. They will learn and perform set choreography in a variety of dance styles and have the chance to perform in a variety of public settings. The assessment for Dance, Choreography and Performance will be based on practical activities and a written journal.

Exit stage left

It's time for a school production! No audition necessary.

Drama is one of the most important and exciting ways of telling stories about people and their lives. In the classroom we can learn more about others and ourselves by inventing and acting out different roles and situations. We can also act out different experiences, both funny and serious, making and performing an infinite variety of stories and ending them in any way we want.

This semester study is designed to introduce students to theatre and theatre production, preparing them with skills needed for VCE Drama, VCE Theatre Studies, or outside of school theatrical endeavors. In this class, students will select a production to adapt and perform. They will learn the 'ins' and 'outs' of putting on a show through acting, set designing, costuming, lighting, marketing and more. Students will have the opportunity to experience front and back of house roles, along with the opportunity to choreograph, direct and performing on stage.

Murtoa College News

The media is a huge part of our world and it is hard to imagine a world without it. From the films and television shows we watch, to the news and videos we consume on our phones or the internet; it is what allows us to communicate ideas and information. What makes Media engaging is the story it tells, the characters we care about, impressive visuals or sound textures.

This elective is designed to introduce Media to students and develop their skills in writing about and creating Media texts. The main focus of this subject is on journalism, news reporting and information sharing through investigating various news reporting strategies. This will include the use of graphics, and editing footage to create professional news reports, and sharing responsibility on the school's newsletter and Facebook page. Students will examine how the Media can influence people through news, advertisements and the internet and use these strategies to create an engaging news platform throughout the school. We also plan to organise an excursion to a major news reporting station to see what happens behind the scenes.

Areas of study:

- Introduction to Media
- Representation (Stereotypes)
- News reporting techniques/strategies
- Using video editing software to create news programs/graphics/audio
- Responsible use of social media
- Writing news stories

Photography

YEAR 9/10 BEGINNERS PHOTOGRAPHY

This is an introductory unit in analogue Photography and is intended to provide students with the practical skills to confidently use a 35mm SLR manual camera and work within each stage of the production of a Black & White photograph. Students will be guided through correct camera usage & care, aperture, shutter speed, film speed, exposure of the film and lighting, film processing, the enlarger, printing and presentation. A practical folio, workbook and research project will form the basis of the course requirement.

YEAR 9/10 ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY

The Advanced Photography unit follows the introductory unit and allows students to consolidate and further develop their analogue skills, as well as apply their digital skills. Images may be used in the school magazine and Wimmera photographic competitions. Students manipulate the image through a variety of techniques, express creative ideas and begin to develop an individual style. Students are required to produce a folio of prints, maintain a workbook and complete a research assignment.

This unit is excellent preparation for students considering the production of a photographic folio in VCE Studio Art or a career in Photography. It is expected that students contemplating the Advanced unit, will have achieved a satisfactory standard in the Beginners unit.

School Magazine

In this elective students will be working as part of the team who will produce the annual school magazine. They will be taking on the roles of reporter, photographer, editor and desktop publisher. The class will also visit the publishers at their location of business to learn more of the final publishing process. The work developed may also be used in the newsletter, Facebook page and other promotional materials for the school.

Visual Communication & Design

Students learn Adobe software- Photoshop & Illustrator to design logos, typography and rendering for the presentation of communication tasks. Branding, design and some packaging techniques are covered. Students learn the 3D modelling software- SketchUp allowing students to draw a floor plan and elevations for a house and construct a 3D architectural and design engineered industrial type models.

Students will work to a brief in a real client situation for their final folio.

This unit is an excellent preparation for Visual Communication and Design VCE Unit 1-4.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

	High Intensity Physical Activity	Low Intensity Physical Activity
Just SPORT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (6 and 12 month option) 	*	
Talented Sports – Volleyball	*	
Sports Management		*
Sports for Life		*
Personal Fitness	*	*

Just SPORT

As the name implies, this subject will be just SPORT. Active participation and the development of an appreciation for a wide variety of sports (mainstream and foreign) will be the focus of this subject. Students can take part in this subject for just one semester, or can participate for the entire year!

Personal Fitness

Want to work on your own health and wellbeing? This unit focuses on ways to be active and enhance physical and mental wellbeing. Activities and learning foci include: aerobics, walking, dance, geocaching, aerobics, yoga, tai chi, meditation, weight workouts, HIIT, boxing, circuit training, skin care, components of fitness, training principles, anatomy, mental health, diet and some emphasis on the personal and social capabilities of the Victorian Curriculum. Students will be required to keep a journal of notes and reflections of the activities and ideas.

Sports For Life

The Sports for life elective is an elective designed to identify sports that can be played through all life stages. They highlight sports that people can play in all stages of their life, and teaches the rules, skills and techniques involved. The Sports for Life elective has a direct focus on low intense activity and includes the following sports:

Lawn Bowls, Archery, Croquet, Darts, Bowling, Golf, Bocce, Tenpin, Carpet Bowls, Bowls, Underwater Hockey, Water Aerobics.

Sports Management

Students taking this course will be primarily organising games and sport opportunities for others such as organising house sporting carnivals. Through this, they will develop understanding and skills in:

- All aspects of sports administration to allow them to deliver sporting events in a safe, responsible and efficient manner
- Deliver sporting events/opportunities to their peers and reflect upon their learning in these tasks as sports administrators
- Coaching and officiating at community level sport

Students will receive upon completion of this unit, Community Coaching General Principles certificate and the Community Officiating General Principles certificate from the Australian Sports Commission.

Talented Sports – Volleyball

This unit provides students with a fantastic opportunity to be part of an advanced PE unit focusing on Volleyball. Students will be exposed to a specialised training program to develop their fundamental skills, knowledge and performance in all aspects of Volleyball. Students will also have the opportunity to represent Murtoa College at local, State and National level competitions.

Content covered will include:

- Fundamental Motor Skill performance
- Skill analysis
- Refereeing & Accreditation
- Coaching and Peer Feedback
- Sports First Aid - Injury & management
- Sports psychology, game day preparation and managing anxiety, concentration and arousal levels.



HEALTH ELECTIVES

Being Safe and Healthy

During this elective students will look at measures to ensure their safety including safe partying, sexual decision-making and healthy nutrition. It will look in more detail the impact of sugar, and diet related disease. Students will also look at models of nutrition, and illnesses associated with poor nutritional habits (National Health Priority Areas). Students will learn about alcohol and understand the consequences alcohol has on the body.

Area of Focus

- Perceptions of Health and wellbeing. Including dimensions of Health
- Focusses on safe partying, including drug and alcohol misuse
- Safe sex practices, and sexual decision making
- Contraception and sexually transmitted infections
- Focuses on raising awareness of mental health issues, and providing information around misconceptions
- Sugar, nutrition, and nutrition related illness
- Models of health and nutrition
- National Health Priority Areas
- Basic first aid

Introduction to Health and Human Development

During this subject students will get a feel for the content covered in Year 11 and 12 Health and Human Development.

Content will address Vic Curriculum, however be based on content covered in a VCE setting.

Areas of Focus

- Minor aspects of Health and Human Development at a VCE level
- Types of health, and human development
- Prenatal and postnatal development
- An introduction to the determinants of health
- Nutrition and nutrients required for development
- Models of Health Promotion



HUMANITIES

Australians At War

Australians have a long and distinguished history in military conflicts. This unit will examine the history behind the influential conflicts where Australians have fought in war. Students will examine the causes of, significant locations/events and the effects of these military conflicts. Students will also reflect on the role these wars have played in shaping our Australian identity.

Military conflicts explored:

- **Colonial Wars 1878-1902:**
 - Frontier War between the Indigenous and British
 - The Boer War
- **The World Wars**
 - World War 1(1914-18) &
 - World War 2 (1939-45)
- **Australians in Modern Warfare**
 - The Vietnam War &
 - The Iraq & Afghanistan wars.

Biomes, Beaches and Bombay

Students study and examine the following three areas of study:

Biomes – Explore the distribution and characteristics of biomes as regions with distinctive climates, soils and vegetation.

Beaches – Dive into an exploration of environmental change and management.

Bombay – Learn about geographies of human wellbeing and interconnecting causes of spatial variations between countries in selected indicators of human wellbeing.

Business Management

This subject is aimed to prepare students who may be interested in VCE Business Management.

Learning Outcomes

1. Business foundations including the types, characteristics and stakeholders in business, business objectives and the business environment.
2. Marketing and advertising in a business, including the 7 P's and the product life cycle. The role of public relations in a business and managing a public relations crisis.
3. Management styles and skills and the relationship between them. Corporate culture and how different management styles impact the corporate culture of a business.
4. Planning and designing your own business.

Grampians

Ever wondered about the Grampians and how it came to be? This subject is for those students seeking to study a Humanities course with a key local context. Students undertaking this course will examine in depth the Grampians, its history, formation, the people who shaped it and how it came to be as we know it today. This unit will involve a number of practical field trips with the possibility of an overnight camp.

Students will examine:

- The geography and formation of land
 - Factors and features which shaped the development of the Grampians
- Indigenous uses, knowledge, understanding and beliefs in the Grampians
- European settlement of Australia and the Grampians
- The impact of European settlement on
 - The environment & indigenous population
- Characteristics and development of the current environment in the Grampians
- Use of, changes and impacts brought on the Grampians by humans
- The importance of the Grampians today:
 - Economic, Tourism, Recreation and Biodiversity benefits

Introduction to Legal Studies

This subject will allow students to get a feel for Legal Studies: Unit 4: The people and the law.

The study of Australia's laws and legal system involves an understanding of institutions that make and reform our laws, and the relationship between the Australian people, the Australian Constitution and law-making bodies. Students explore how the Australian Constitution establishes the law-making powers of the Commonwealth and state parliaments, and protects the Australian people through structures that act as a check on parliament in law-making. Students develop an understanding of the significance of the High Court in protecting and interpreting the Australian Constitution. They investigate parliament and the courts, and the relationship between the two in law-making, and consider the roles of the individual, the media and law reform bodies in influencing law reform. Throughout this unit, students apply legal reasoning and information to actual scenarios.

'Let Them Eat Cake' - A Taste of France

This subject will allow students to get a feel for History: Unit 3: Revolutions.

The key knowledge for this area of study covers the time of the French Revolution from 1774 to October 1789.

In 1774 King Louis XVI ascended the throne of France and in October 1789 he, his wife Marie Antoinette and their children were dragged back to Paris by a mob.

Students evaluate historical interpretations about the causes of 'The French Revolution' and explain the role of events, ideas, individuals and popular movements.

This elective leads into History (VCE)

Movies, Music and Moods – “The Swinging Sixties”

The 1960s saw a revolution in social norms about clothing, music, drugs, dress, sexuality, formalities and schooling. Some have denounced the decade as one of irresponsible excess, flamboyance and the decay of social order. The decade was also labelled the ‘Swinging Sixties; because of the fall or relaxation of social taboos especially relating to racism and sexism. The decade also saw a number of movements such as the Counterculture or Hippy Movement, Anti-War or Peace Movement, Civil Rights Movement, Youth Movement and the Feminist Movement. Students will examine Movies and Music as examples of Popular Culture produced during this time period and how they reflected what was going on in society at the time.

The Peasants Are Revolting!

Students examine the origin, development, significance and long-term impact The Agrarian Revolution - which was a significant contributing factor to the colonization of Australia. Students investigate the technological innovations that led to the Industrial Revolution and other conditions that influenced the industrialization of Britain - the Agrarian Revolution.

Additional areas of study include the population movements and changing settlement patterns during this period as the result of Industrialization as well as the experiences of men, women and children during their changing way of life.

This elective leads into History (VCE).

Politics, Parliament and Power

Learn about Australian democracy, the voting system, different sides of politics and the impact of politics on society. We will be debating ideas, running an election, and solving the issues that we face today.

Romanovs, Rasputin & Revolution

This subject will allow students to get a feel for History: Unit 4: Revolutions.

The key knowledge for this area of study covers the following timeframe:

The Russian Revolution from 1896 to October 1917.

In 1896 Tsar Nicholas II ascended the throne of Russia and on October the 25th, when The Bolsheviks gained control. Students evaluate historical interpretations about the causes of ‘The Russian Revolution’ and explain the role of events, ideas, individuals and popular movements.

This elective leads onto History (VCE).

Shark Tank: Starting Your Own Small Business

Interested in making a pitch to start your own business. Have you any entrepreneurial ideas you would like to explore? Do you enjoy the cut and thrust of business? Are you interested in the share market? If you have answered yes to any of these questions then think about enrolling in Shark Tank.

Highlights of the course include trading in the ASX stock Exchange game, competing against class mates and other schools to maximise returns from investments. Students will present their ideas to a judging panel at the end of semester.

Foods around the World

This elective develops student's knowledge and cooking skills of traditional foods from around the world. Students develop an understanding of how foods have evolved in different regions, and the various preparation and cooking techniques.

Classes consist of weekly productions and encourage students to work with less familiar foods and more complex preparation and cooking processes.

Topics include:

- Indigenous Foods.
- Influences on Australian Cuisine
- Foods from other countries
- Food Trends.

This elective will lead into VCE Food Studies and VET Hospitality

Technology

This course is designed to extend on students pre-existing knowledge of basic hand tools and extend them with the use of some quite advanced engineering practices. Students will have the opportunity to make the most of the resources available at school, designing and building using elements from Woodwork, Metalwork and Welding. Student's pathway options at the conclusion of this course include various pre-apprenticeship training and VET pathways such as Engineering and Automotive. While there will be no direct pathway into senior subjects at Murtoa College, the skills obtained will be very beneficial when studying VCE Product Design & Technology or VCE Systems Engineering.

Possible areas of study:

- Working with a variety of ferrous and non-ferrous materials,
- Sheet metal fabrication,
- Developing skills with new hand tools,
- Silver soldering,
- Use of advanced equipment; such as centre lathes, drilling and cutting machines, folding and spot-welding equipment and flame heating equipment,
- Pressing and forming components,

Textiles

This elective assist students to refining their hand and sewing machine skills and use these skills to make various items. Students learn to be creative and reused materials to make useable products or garment with minimal waste and expense.

Students complete a minimum of three practical items requiring different skills and using different equipment. Along with the machine sewing, students are encouraged to experiment with other skills such as fabric painting and dyeing, tapestry, knitting and the use of a commercial pattern. Production tasks may include soft toys, cushions, items of clothing or repair items or other creative ideas. Students are required to keep a design folio recording the stages of their design process.

This elective will lead into VCE Product Design and Technology Unit 1 & 2.

Woodwork

This course is not specifically designed for beginners or advanced middle school students, and will build on students' prior experiences with technology and Woodwork.

One unit might involve students investigating and designing ways to make significant structural changes and modifications to an existing product. These changes must improve the product to best cater for the needs of the end user without affecting the primary function of the product. Students will of course be given a chance to get their hands dirty, get on the tools, get on the machines and get building.

Areas of study:

- Investigating and designing of structural shapes,
- Trial and testing of joinery methods,
- Scale model designing,
- Study of Australian Standards for building,
- Developing and improving of existing designs,
- Investigating sustainability,
- Skill building into the refinement of a timber product,



LANGUAGES

German (Delivered at school)

Students continue their study of both the German language as well as the cultural influence of Germany in Australia and globally. There is a major focus on verbal communication skills so that students gain confidence in speaking in German. They do this by studying a variety of topics, which include shopping, travel and business language. Students also have opportunities to contribute to their own interests in this subject, i.e. music, films and food etc.

This subjects leads into VCE German as well as opportunities for visiting Germany or German-speaking countries.

Victorian School of Languages (Delivered by distance education)

The Victorian School of Languages offers a range of language choices that can be studied through distance education methods. Students who choose this option will be able to consider the language they wish to study as well as the semester they complete their studies. Students have the choice to select the following languages:

- Chinese – Mandarin
- French
- German
- Greek
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Latin
- Spanish

The Victorian School of Languages is a government school committed to the provision of language programs for students in Years 1 to 12 who do not have access to the study of those languages in their mainstream schools. The school's languages program is delivered through both face-to-face teaching in centres across the state and through distance education mode.

The majority of languages can be studied from primary level through to VCE.

Completing a subject by distance is a large undertaking, and is not recommended for all students. Before selecting this option it is worth discussing the possibility with your coordinator, as well as seeking further information at the VSL website: <https://www.vsl.vic.edu.au/>

COMMUNITY PATHWAYS

Advance – (Year 9 Students Only)

The 'Advance' Program is a community service-based project. It takes students out of the classroom and offers them a range of opportunities that promote youth leadership, teamwork, confidence, community service, self-esteem, skills and responsibility.

Students will complete:

- Accredited First Aid Course
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Bronze level)

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award gives young people – whether able bodies or with special needs – an opportunity to challenge themselves, experience adventure, acquire new skills and make friends.

This elective covers four key sections

- Service
- Skills
- Expedition
- Physical Recreation

Generation eXchange

Students in this unit work in partnership with Dunmunkle Lodge. Students plan and organise activities with residences of the lodge & exchanging ideas. They develop skills & understanding across the generations. Students interact weekly with residences of the lodge either in conversation or hands on activities.

Generation eXchange focuses on interactive activities such as: excursions, games including board & computer games/skills, cooking, theme days, pet day and charity events.

This unit is an excellent introduction for students with an interest in Health and Community service and possible employment opportunities in the casual work force at Dunmunkle lodge.

Get A Job! (Work Experience)

How do you apply for a job? What jobs are there available? What are the different types of employment? What jobs am I suited to? How are jobs advertised and what should my application look like? How do I write a resume and a cover letter? What is it like to have a job interview? What am I entitled to for wages?

All of these questions will be answered **and we will organise a week in the job of your choice in work experience, Semester 2, 2020.**

(Students must be 15 before they can undertake work experience.)

Social Media

Technology has changed how we communicate. Social media is a major factor in this change. Many people use it as a way to stay connected with their friends and family but increasingly people are using social media as a way to spread and consume information. This subject looks at how social media is being used and how it impacts our society and us as individuals. It also informs us on our rights and what to do if something goes wrong.

Areas covered:

- How social media influences and shapes us – socially, politically and economically
- Your data – What happens to it?
- Your rights and responsibilities (Laws)
- Keeping Safe
- Your Social Media footprint – Now and in the Future

VCE PATHWAYS

Get Psyched

Are you interested in better understanding human nature and the role of psychologists in helping people recover and thrive? You have the opportunity to explore mental disorders such as OCD, schizophrenia, addiction, bipolar and more through Abnormal Psychology. On the flip side, explore mental wellbeing through Positive Psychology and discover the science of happiness and human flourishing!

This subject is a pathway to VCE Psychology Unit 1

Master Mind: Psychology

Does listening to music while studying actually help you remember more? Can meditation really reduce your stress levels? How much does sleep deprivation impair your physical and mental performance? Test your theories about human thoughts, feelings and behaviours and see for yourself what the science says! You will be involved in practical activities and experiments in class and learn about the findings of famous (sometimes shocking!) psychological studies.

This subject is a pathway to VCE Psychology Unit 1

Outdoor Education

This elective provides an opportunity for students to explore the many ways in which the outdoors can be explored in the scope of Outdoor Education. It provides a fantastic introduction to the VCE subject 'Outdoor and Environmental Studies' if the student wishes to continue with this subject.

Students will be expected to participate in both practical and classroom based activities. In Middle School Outdoor Education students will participate in sequenced activities that include:

- 3 Day Bushwalk (either to the Grampians, Little Desert, Kooyoora State Forest)
- A 3 day flat-water canoe – including sand boarding and surfing
- Outdoor Rock Climbing
- Excursions to local parks during class time (canoeing, orienteering, environment assessment)

Paddock to Plate: Sustainable Ag. & Hort.

Paddock to Plate is designed to develop students' understanding of the operations and practices involved with sustainable agricultural and horticultural systems. Topics covered include soils, vegetable production, animal production, technology and farming systems. Highlights of the course include hatching eggs and rearing poultry, calf rearing and growing your own organic vegetables. This subject is for students who are interested in where their food comes from and enjoy growing plants and animals.

CORE PATHWAYS (English, Maths, Science)

Barefoot Basics: Financial Literacy

“Why didn't they teach me this in school!?”

When it comes to money and personal finances, most grown adults often wish that they had been introduced to the topic at school and taught the basics of how to apply maths to their bank accounts, savings and spendings and other financial matters. In this unit we will learn a thing or two about how to avoid making costly mistakes in our lives, as we cover a number of the following exciting topics:

- Saving, budgeting and spending
- Personal tax
- Superannuation
- Debt management
- Insurance
- Investing and the incredible, magical powers of compound interest and time
- Applying for, taking out and paying off loans
- Interest rates and percentages

Book Club

This subject is for book lovers. It is an opportunity to indulge in classic and contemporary literature and respond to it creatively and analytically. Book Club is a place for avid readers to discuss, enjoy and explore print and film text.

This elective leads onto English and Literature (VCE).

Forensic Science

Learn to use science to solve crime! Students undertaking the Forensic Science elective will learn about the wide variety of scientific skills and concepts that are used by scientists working in the investigation of crime, from the biochemistry of blood typing to the physics of blood spatter and traffic accident reconstruction. Newer fields of research such as forensic psychology will also be covered. Students will be intrigued by a visit to the Victoria Police Museum and a tour through some of Victoria's most heinous crimes and the forensic science used to solve them.

Areas covered:-

- Blood composition, typing and detection using chemical agents
- DNA structure and DNA fingerprinting
- Forensic odontology (i.e. teeth and bite marks)
- Forensic entomology (the study of insects in crime investigation)
- Analysis of various hairs and fibres

This elective leads into Biology 1 & 2 (VCE), Chemistry 1 & 2 (VCE), Psychology 1 & 2 (VCE.)

Manga, Comics & Graphic Literature

Do you like reading comic books? Got a favorite manga series?

Graphic novels have been a popular and developing form of literature, holding a deep and rich history. Just like novels, these stories hold meanings and lessons worth exploring. With engaging narratives, the combination of artwork and words, characters leap off the page and welcome us to explore ideas of philosophy, history and how we interact with our world.

In this subject, students explore different forms of graphic novels from the east and west. They will learn about the story telling purpose from different cultural perspectives. They will compare how graphic novels change across form, time and adaptations. Students will have a chance to use the narrative styles explored to create their own literary works.

May The Force! – Force and Motion

Let us delve further and explore what happens when collisions occur, why objects move and discover where does the energy go? Examine forces and the effect of them on an object. Consider flight, flying machines, and more.

Area covered:

- Motion in two dimensions
- Forces, momentum, collisions and absorption of force
- Conservation of energy
- Flight and aerodynamics

This elective leads into Physics 1 & 2 (VCE),

Shocking Stuff

Electricity! Let us shed some light on this form of energy. Where would we be without it? Where does it come from and what can we do with it? Building circuits and generating it! All will be revealed!

Areas covered:

- Electricity generation
- Measuring electricity
- Constructing circuits
- Electrochemistry
- Electronics

This elective leads into Physics 1 & 2 (VCE) and Chemistry 1 & 2 (VCE).