

2026

# YEAR 7 & 8 SUBJECT HANDBOOK



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## Year 7 and 8 Curriculum Introduction

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Years 7 and 8, the Middle Years of education, is a time of expansion and development of a range of skills that students require as they move up through secondary school. During this time, they will be exposed to the full extent of Learning Areas to enable them to determine where their natural talents lie and find support in their learning.

The Middle Years is also a period of rapid adjustment to secondary school structures and organisation, and we seek to assist your child to become a more independent learner through this process. MacKillop College is committed to exposing students to a complement of thinking processes to enable them to acquire strategies upon which they can call when presented with new ideas, knowledge or content. We believe that the Middle Years lays the foundation for mature approaches to understanding. Our vision is that students come to see that learning is for life, not just for school.

Socially, too, the Middle Years presents challenges and possibilities that need to be managed and overcome, and our Thrive Program focuses on Social Emotional Learning (SEL), careers and pathways, team building, negotiation and assertion of individual choice within an organised environment. These are important skills that they will need in all avenues of their lives and as our aim is to develop well-rounded individuals who can function effectively in the wider world.

The intention of this handbook is to provide information that will help guide you through the Middle Years and assist you in accessing the full services available to you and your child at MacKillop College. We remain available to you should you, or your child, require any further information or support from us. We stand ready as partners in the secondary educational journey that begins now.

# Our Vision Statement

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*Celebrating all life*

*Challenging all people*

*Dreaming the new day*

# Our Mission Statement

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MacKillop is a Catholic college in the Josephite tradition.

Inspired by the spirit of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop, we strive to:

- encourage individuals to reach their full potential as life-long learners by providing an innovative, challenging and collaborative learning and teaching environment in a rapidly evolving society
- enhance positive relationships in a supportive community by promoting justice and a sustainable future
- support wellbeing by affirming the intrinsic dignity of each individual, embracing diversity and empowering active citizenship
- foster leadership by empowering and developing all members of the school community
- witness to the presence of God amongst us by celebrating our Catholic heritage as a faith community

In this, we seek to be disciples of Jesus, our model for authentic humanity.

# Our Educational Principles

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## Teaching and Learning

- A positive teaching and learning environment is dynamic and adaptive
- Lifelong learners challenge themselves
- Effective teaching is responsive to a rapidly evolving society

## School Community

- A sustainable future is the responsibility of all community members
- Diversity, equity and justice form the basis of a supportive community
- Genuine partnerships between students, families, staff and the wider community promote a positive school environment

## Student Wellbeing

- Each student is a global citizen called to respond to the challenges of their time
- Affirming the intrinsic dignity of each person is fundamental to student wellbeing
- An environment that models Catholic values enhances student wellbeing

## Leadership and Management

- Leadership takes many forms; all are called to leadership
- Leadership encourages, nurtures and supports
- Effective management enables all members to engage fully in their leadership roles

## Education in Faith

- All that we do gives witness to the presence of God
- All are invited to respond to God's call to bring hope to our world
- Our Catholic heritage is celebrated in the tradition of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop

# Statement of Democratic Principles

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MacKillop College is committed to the principles of a liberal democracy:

- We believe in an accountable, democratically elected government
- We respect and observe the rule of law and believe that no person is above the law
- We believe in equal rights for all before the law, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender or other attributes
- We believe not only in the freedom of religion, but also the need to practice tolerance and understanding of others' beliefs
- We believe in the value of freedom of speech and freedom of association, but also acknowledge that we have the responsibility not to abuse this freedom
- We believe in the values of openness and tolerance, and value and respect all members of the College community regardless of background.

# Year 7 and 8 Curriculum Outline

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All students in Year 7 and 8 study subjects from the following Learning Areas:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities
- Languages
- The Arts
  - Drama
  - Music
  - Art
- Technologies
  - Design and Technologies
  - Digital Technologies

The curriculum is designed so that students experience learning in all Learning Areas. Our timetable is based on a two-week cycle (10 days) and is structured into three 100-minute lessons per day.

The Arts Learning Area is divided into the Creative Arts and Performing Arts. In Year 7, students study Creative Arts and Performing Arts – Music, whereas in Year 8, students study Creative Arts and a second semester of Performing Arts – Drama.

In the Languages Learning Area, students entering Year 7 select a language from French, Italian and Japanese. This language is studied for the entire year. At Year 8 and 9, students continue with the language studied in Year 7. For some students that enter the College language as a subject isn't accessible, so the College places them in a designated Literacy class.

In both Year 7 and 8, students are required to attend an Outdoor Education program that is scheduled throughout the year. The Outdoor Education program is compulsory.

Throughout the year, part of the curriculum requires students to attend student-led whole school assemblies which can occur at any part of the ten-day cycle (refer to the College Calendar).

As part of the College's commitment to student wellbeing, our Thrive program is facilitated by homeroom teachers in the mornings. The Thrive program focuses on wellbeing, study habits, Catholic Identity, careers and future pathways.

The tables on the following page list the period allocation in each Learning Area.

## Year 7 Learning Units

Learning Area	Subject	Period Allocation
Religious Education	Religious Education	6
English	English	9
Mathematics	Mathematics	9
Science	Science	6
Health & Physical Education	Health & Physical Education	6
Humanities	Humanities	6
Languages	Students study one of the following languages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French</li> <li>Italian</li> <li>Japanese</li> </ul>	6
The Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing Arts - Music (1 semester)</li> <li>Creative Arts - Art (1 semester)</li> </ul>	6
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Technologies (1 Semester)</li> <li>Design and Technologies (1 Semester)</li> </ul>	6
Total number of 50-minute periods		60

## Year 8 Learning Units

Learning Area	Subject	Period Allocation
Religious Education	Religious Education	6
English	English	9
Mathematics	Mathematics	9
Science	Science	6
Health & Physical Education	Health & Physical Education	6
Humanities	Humanities	6
Languages	Students study the same language as in Year 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French</li> <li>Italian</li> <li>Japanese</li> </ul>	6
The Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing Arts - Drama (1 semester)</li> <li>Creative Arts - Art (1 semester)</li> </ul>	6
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Technologies (1 Semester)</li> <li>Design and Technologies (1 Semester)</li> </ul>	6
Total number of 50-minute periods		60

## Pastoral Care

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At MacKillop College we believe that pastoral care should be centered on the students and those factors in their environment that help or hinder their physical, social, intellectual and emotional growth. Furthermore, we believe that we should be concerned with how the learning environment can be adapted to cater for individual differences in order for all students to achieve success and reach their full potential. We aim to create a flexible environment that meets the needs of students of different abilities, needs, backgrounds and cultures.

The MacKillop College community is unique in culture and character; therefore, our pastoral care system is also unique. We take our inspiration from the life of St. Mary MacKillop and the work of the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Our care for each other is an expression of our Vision and Mission Statements and the ethos of the College. We are all witnesses to the gospel values of respect, justice and love for our neighbour. Our pastoral care reflects our history, socio-economic circumstances, and cultural diversity.

We place great emphasis on the incorporation of our values and philosophies within our pastoral care network. We provide effective structures to communicate with our community about the welfare of our students and their families. Pastoral care arises from relationships formed between the College administration, staff, students, families, counsellors, chaplain(s), welfare agencies and any member of our community who strive to make a positive difference in the lives of our young people.

MacKillop College realises the value in expressing a real care for each other. All members of our community, whether they are students, staff or families, should feel comfortable in the knowledge that an appropriate level of support will always be available. We endeavour to cater for a wide range of needs and interests in curriculum and co-curricular areas. We view pastoral care as an essential aspect of good learning and teaching. Most importantly, our vision of pastoral care reflects the gospel values as expressed by the life of Jesus.

Weekly Thrive periods give Homeroom Teachers the opportunity to focus on important Pastoral topics and ensure all students have the opportunity to consider how their actions and the choices they make can influence their future. Each year Level has a Thrive program specifically developed to address the important themes relevant to each age group.

## Assessment

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Assessment is integral to learning and teaching. It assists the teacher in adjusting educational programs for a student. Assessment records give an indication of a student's progress.

Teachers, within each of the Learning Areas, design the course of study for the subject, specify the learning outcomes and determine the type and number of learning tasks, which form part of determining student progress and achievement. Driving questions inform this course of action and provide a direction for students potential learning.

Learning tasks such as assignments, essays, projects, reports, tests, exams, presentations etc. are given on a regular basis. The subject teacher corrects tasks and then provides feedback in relation to the student's performance on a particular learning task with recommendations for improvement. Learning tasks may be assessed in a variety of ways, i.e. Satisfactory (S) or Not Satisfactory (N); a numerical score (for example: 36/50); a graded percentage; a graded descriptor (for example Very High, High, Medium, Low, Not Satisfactory); a rubric; a criteria sheet etc.

## Reporting

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Reporting enables the teacher to communicate with families regarding a student's academic and personal development, behaviour and diverse needs. Reporting at the College takes two main forms. The first is in the form of ongoing and continuous reporting to students and families about assessment tasks completed throughout each semester. The second is our end-of-semester reports.

SEQTA provides the College's means to communicate both types of reports:

1. continuous reporting of assessment tasks and
2. summative reporting, which provides a formal report.

Both methods are available for students and families, respectively, in SEQTA Learn and SEQTA Engage.

Other forms of reporting involve families receiving information via:

- notes written in a student's diary
- phone calls, email or direct messages and
- student Progress Interviews conducted during Term 1 and Term 3.

## End of Semester Report

These reports are available on the Parent Portal (*SEQTA Engage*) at the end of Semester 1 (at the end of Term 2) and Semester 2 (end of Term 4). They present the student's progress over a Semester. The reports address the standards expected of your child at that point in time. They focus on areas of achievement against these standards. They also provide the student's attitudes regarding learning habits demonstrated in the classroom.

## Student Progress Interviews

Both families and teachers can arrange interviews to discuss any matters relating to their child as the need arises. Formal Student Progress Interviews are conducted during Term 1 and Term 3. The dates for these interviews are published on the College's calendar of events, which is also available on the College website.



# Homework and Home Study Guide

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Homework and Home Study are essential if students are to complete their studies to the best of their ability. It aims to increase student understanding and retention of knowledge by encouraging ongoing, independent learning.

## Homework

Homework tends to be task oriented; teacher directed and has set completion dates that students must meet. The types of homework set by teachers may be:

- a) practical exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills.
- b) preparatory home study – providing opportunities for students to gain background information so they are better prepared for future lessons.
- c) extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively.

## Home Study

Home Study tends to be student centred, self-initiated and should be ongoing in nature. Home study can take the following forms:

- re-reading class notes
- practising vocabulary
- revision of work completed earlier
- wider reading
- re-organising folders and notes
- re-reading texts and novels
- summarising notes and further reading
- completing practice exams.

The amount of study will vary from year level to year level. It can be anticipated that the workload for study will gradually increase from the junior years (Years 7 and 8) to the senior years (Year 11 and 12). From year level to year level, there should be a gradual increase. Students should complete their home study in a quiet, well-lit and well-ventilated space. All students should use their College diaries to record home study.

# Timeline guide for success HOMEWORK AND HOME STUDY

ASSIGNED WORK IN SUPPORT OF LEARNING

SELF-DIRECTED PRACTICES TO RE-INFORCE LEARNING

**10**  
—  
MINUTES PER  
50 MINUTE  
CLASS

**Year 7 - 8**

**30**  
—  
MINUTES PER  
100 MINUTE  
CLASS

**Year 9 - 10**

**45**  
—  
MINUTES PER  
100 MINUTE  
CLASS

**VCE**

Record your  
homework at the end  
of each lesson

Develop a homework  
and study timetable

Ask for assistance

Create a productive  
study space

Monitor consistent  
completion of  
work/study

Review feedback

Review content  
frequently

Disconnect from  
devices

STUDENTS TEACHERS FAMILIES



# Learning Diversity

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The Learning Diversity program is couched within the framework of the College Vision and Mission Statements. It provides the structural means for enabling students with a range of abilities to achieve the MacKillop College Educational Goals.

## Individualised Learning

The individualised learning program ensures students have access to all curriculum, facilities and activities that are part of College life. This is facilitated by the development of Individual Learning Plans which are reviewed each semester through Program Support Group meetings. Adjustments in/to curriculum (including differentiation) and/or support for classroom learning by the respective teachers, along with timetabled assistance from Learning Support Officers is provided where necessary.

## English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D)

EAL/D students (those whose first language is not English and who learn English as the dominant language of the host culture) are offered additional assistance in further developing proficiency in their use of the English language. This assistance can take the form of an EAL/D Individual Learning Plan if the student requires additional support.

## Julian Tenison Woods Program (JTWP)

The Julian Tenison Woods Program is a school-wide talent development program that aims to meet the various intellectual and pastoral needs of students with high abilities in one or more learning areas. Individual student needs are met through curriculum telescoping and possible acceleration within subject areas, co-curricular extension and enrichment activities. These students are also encouraged to participate in appropriate external programs.

# Outdoor Education

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MacKillop College offers its students extensive and challenging Outdoor Education Experiences for all Year 7 to 9 students. Through experiential learning, students are able to explore self, others, community, and the environment through practical and theoretical components.

Our Outdoor Education programs offer facilitates experiences that enable students to develop in:

- Awareness of self, others, and environment emphasising minimal impact
- Practical and recreational skills
- Skills in leadership including time management, decision making and working in a team environment
- Independence and problem-solving
- Practising a growth mindset and resilience

Outdoor Education experiences are essential for all students to attend creating an inclusive environment and allowing individuals the opportunity to grow and learn. The College provides essential equipment and food for the duration of the experience catering for all students with diverse learning needs and dietary requirements. Prior to the experience students are provided with a presentation with all relevant information, this will also be available for families via Operoo. If you have any queries or concerns regarding the program, please do not hesitate in contacting the Outdoor Education Leaders or Year Level Leaders at the College.

## Year 7

Starting secondary school is both an exciting and challenging time for year 7 students. To support a smooth transition, the Outdoor Education Department offers a two-day coastal camping experience designed to foster connection, confidence, and community. Students participate in a range of engaging activities such as surfing, initiative games and night activities that promotes outdoor learning and personal development. By spending time in nature alongside peers and staff, students build stronger relationships develop a sense of belonging and grow in confidence as they begin their secondary school journey.

## Year 8

During Year 8 the Outdoor Education Department offers a three-day outdoor camping experience in a new environment expanding on previously learnt outdoor skills and knowledge. Students will be introduced to skills in bushcraft which include preparing and cooking meals, setting up camp and maintaining cleanliness. Students aim to complete a bike ride component that varies in difficulty catering for all riders and their abilities.

The main experience is focused on a bushwalk through a temperate rainforest where students develop navigational skills using a map and compass. Through this bushwalk, students will build a deeper connection with self, others and nature by observing with all their senses taking in the details of things around them.

Students also participate in a conservation activity for the removal of all non-native plant species and have an impact on the local community and its environment. This involvement helps to build on human nature relationships after exploring a variety of natural environments and the impacts humans have.

# The Arts (Year 7) – Art

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## Introduction

Students are introduced to a variety of art works and explore how artists use materials, techniques, and processes to realise their intentions. Students explore and manipulate the art elements and principles to then plan and make their own art works in response to the exploration of techniques, and processes used by artists. Students demonstrate the use of materials, techniques, processes and visual conventions to express ideas and convey meaning through drawing, and painting and Printmaking. Students are introduced to Art Appreciation and the cultural contexts from where the art works were produced.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Painting Unit
2. Drawing Unit
3. Printmaking
4. Art Analysis

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- How do the elements and principles of art enable us to improve our own visual representation of the world?
- How are the elements and principles of art represented in existing artworks?
- Why are observational skills important to an artist?
- How can we represent the art elements in our own artworks using a variety of media?
- What are some different ways of creating art works (art forms) other than painting and drawing?
- What are some famous art works, who has developed them and where would you find them?
- How do portraits and self-portraits differ and why do artists produce them?
- What is Impressionism and Post Impressionism? And who is responsible for these art movements?
- How does one analyse artwork?
- How can you identify creativity and how is it developed?
- How can I use the influence of other artists to experiment with my drawing / painting?

# The Arts (Year 8) – Art

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## Introduction

Students are introduced to a variety of two art works. Students explore and manipulate art elements and principles and use skills e.g. drawing and painting, including techniques/processes for particular art forms. Students are introduced to Art Appreciation and the cultural contexts from where the art works were produced.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Drawing
2. Painting
3. Printmaking
4. Sculpture
5. Art Analysis

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- What are the elements of art?
- What are some of the major art movements?
- What caused these art movements to be developed and how have these been expressed by Artists over time?
- What is the nature of Cubism?
- Who were some of the great Australian artists and what style of artwork did they create?
- How can we represent basic art elements in our own artworks using a variety of media?

# The Arts (Year 7) – Music

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## Introduction

Students develop a broad and integrated understanding of Music. They explore a variety of areas within the curriculum providing a broad range of musical experiences. Students focus on orchestral music, program music, performance using a number of genres and the theoretical components used in music.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Music language
2. Orchestration and solo performance

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- What's the relationship between music and emotions?
- How can we use musical performance to inspire our community?

# The Arts (Year 8) – Drama

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## Introduction

This subject aims to develop a broad and integrated understanding of Drama. It seeks to encompass and develop a variety of styles within the curriculum including theory, performance, history and general aspects of drama understanding and culture. This unit aims to develop and broaden the students' confidence, understanding, and awareness of theatre in past and present society as well as through a variety of genres and forms.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Mime
2. Soundscapes
3. Puppetry
4. Monologues

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- How do we translate emotions through movement?
- Why is sound effective in telling a story?
- How can we use inanimate objects to explore meaningful and relevant issues to a targeted audience?
- How can a monologue enhance a character and portray their emotions?



# Design and Technologies (Year 7 & 8)

Textiles, Food Studies, Sculpture, Product Design (Materials) and STEAM are subjects of the Design and Technologies Learning Area. Students will be allocated two of the technology subjects over a two-year period (Years 7 and 8). Students follow the design process to create designed solutions through the stages of Investigating, Generating, Producing, Evaluating and Planning and Managing. Products created will be using materials specific to the subject.

## Introduction

### Textiles:

Students develop an understanding of the tools and techniques used in the production of textile items. They learn hand stitching for practical and creative applications, and they acquire confidence to safely use a sewing machine. They investigate the environmental impact of the fashion industry, and the sustainable habits we can practice to reduce our fashion footprint.

### Food Studies:

Students learn basic cooking processes, fundamental knowledge of nutrition and terminology used in recipes, kitchen hygiene and the correct and safe use of utensils and appliances. They learn how to complete and the importance of a sensory evaluation. They address the importance of healthy eating and learn about the key food groups – fruits and vegetables. Students learn about the Design Process and use it to produce a suitable recipe and practical dish.

### Sculpture:

Students experience working with a range of different materials to produce their own three-dimensional sculptures. They will learn the fundamental skills required to design, build and decorate their own personal pieces. Students will engage in the design process, where they are able to use inspiration in order to design, test and refine their own concepts, through experimentation. They will also investigate the historical and cultural significance of three-dimensional art and design by looking at significant works from around the world and from different periods of time, including its role today.

### Product Design (Materials):

Students manipulate materials such as wood and/or metal into small creative functional items using design elements and principles. Students are introduced to the basic hand tools, drawing techniques and safety considerations. Students develop a basic understanding of sustainable practices carried out in the industry and choose ethical materials when developing design solutions.

### STEAM:

Students follow the design process to design and produce a solution to solve an individual, local or global problem using the latest technologies such as 3D CAD design, 3D printing, vinyl, laser cutting and etching.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in all subjects:

1. Safety
2. Introduction to the main materials, tools and processes
3. The Design Process

The following are subject specific units:

Textiles	Food Studies	Sculpture	Product Design (Materials)	STEAM
Creative Textile Solutions	Healthy Eating including breakfast	Cultural Approaches to Sculpture	Ethical and sustainable approaches to functional design solutions	Creativity Through the Latest Technologies
The Journey of Textile Fibres	Key Foods groups – Fruits and Vegetables	Conceptualisation to Produce Sculptural Pieces	Production of typical and modern design solutions	Our Sustainable Future

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

### Textiles

- What is the journey of the clothing that we wear today?
- What impact does the fashion industry have on our environment, and how can we become more conscious consumers?
- What tools can be used to produce textile items, and how do we use them safely?
- How can I develop a creative and sustainable textile product?

## Food Studies

- How can I work safely and hygienically in the kitchen to prevent accidents, identify equipment and use sensory language to create successful products?
- How can the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and knowledge of food production be used to influence healthy food choices?
- How can we design and develop foods to suit different people, cultures and occasions?

## Product Design (Materials)

- How can we use our project management skills to manage production processes safely?
- How can we apply sustainable practices when developing design solutions?
- How can we follow the design process correctly to develop typical and/or modern design ideas?

## Sculpture

- How do designers choose tools, techniques and mediums to express their ideas through the design process considering safety and sustainability?
- How does culture impact the production of sculptural pieces?

## STEAM

- How can I apply the design process using the latest technologies and a real-world problem to create a unique and functional creative solution?
- How can we as MacKillop students apply the design process to invent a product that will promote sustainability and have a positive change on our future?

# Digital Technologies (Year 7 & 8)

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## Introduction

Digital Technologies aims to:

- empower students to skillfully and confidently utilise digital information systems
- enable students to understand and explore the personal, local and global impacts of utilising different information systems
- provide students with practical opportunities to be innovative developers of digital content
- give students an understanding of how digital systems communicate via network technology and the Internet

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

### Year 7

1. Introduction to the MacKillop Digital Workspace
2. Cybersafety and Web publishing
3. Data Visualisations & Infographics (in collaboration with Mathematics)

### Year 8

1. Artificial Intelligence
2. Hardware and Software (Project based learning)
3. Algorithms and Programming

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- How can we become safe members of an online community?
- How can data and information be used to inform change?
- How does technology effect our community, the world and us?
- What are the key components in digital systems?
- How do we provide instructions for our computer to perform tasks?

# English (Year 7)

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## Introduction

In Year 7, students are exposed to a variety of writing styles, each with a different purpose, form, and audience. They spend time planning, drafting, and editing their work, considering the decisions that need to be made before a piece is published. As part of this study, students learn how to read and respond to texts, exploring the themes, ideas, and characters that are central to each work. Throughout the year, students complete three key units: *Can You Persuade Me?*, *Responding to Texts*, and *Neologism and Creative Writing*. In *Can You Persuade Me?* students learn the art of persuasive writing by developing arguments, using rhetorical techniques, and considering the needs of different audiences. In *Responding to Texts*, students analyse a range of literary works – novels, and poetry – while building skills in interpretation, inference, and written expression. Finally, in *Neologism and Creative Writing*, students explore the creative potential of language by inventing new words and using them in original stories that showcase imaginative characters, settings, and plots.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

- Can You Persuade Me?
- Responding to Texts
- Neologisms and Creative Writing

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

### Can You Persuade Me?

- How can writing be used to inform, persuade or convey ideas and meaning?
- How do writers choose language, structure, and tone to effectively communicate their purpose?

### Responding to Texts

- How do events shape the individuals we become?
- How do people demonstrate resilience and transformation in the face of adversity?
- How do authors create meaning in their texts?
- How do authors use literary devices to explore the themes and ideas of their texts?

### Neologisms and Creative Writing

- How and why are words created, modified, or abandoned over time?
- How can we, through the use narrative conventions, create meaning in our own writing?

# English (Year 8)

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## Introduction

In Year 8, students continue to develop their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills through a variety of print and non-print texts. They explore how language can express ideas, shape meaning, and influence audiences across different contexts. The key units covered are *Gothic Fiction*, *Literature on the History Shelf*, *Media Matters*, and *Analytical Study of a Film Text*. Students examine the features of gothic literature, explore historical themes in fiction, analyse persuasive techniques in media, and study how film techniques convey meaning to viewers. Across the year, they engage in both analytical and creative tasks, planning and editing their work for clarity and impact. They also reflect on how audience and purpose influence their choices as communicators. The course incorporates a range of multimodal and digital texts to support learning and foster critical thinking.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

- Gothic Fiction
- Literature on the History Shelf
- Media Matters
- Analytical Study of a Film Text

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

### Gothic Fiction

- What are the conventions and stylistic features of Gothic fiction?
- How do authors create suspense and atmosphere in their writing?
- In what ways can the literature of others inspire our own creative writing?

### Media Matters

- How does the media persuade an audience?
- What information is reliable and how do we know?
- How can we inform and persuade audiences to explore our ideas and current issues?

### Literature on the History Shelf

- How and what can historical fiction teach us?
- Can there be truth in fiction?

### Analytical Study of a Film Text

- How are film techniques and devices used to build the world of the text?
- How can historical context and social values shape the way that films are made and interpreted?
- How can an individual's own experiences and values affect how they interpret and engage with a text?

# Health and Physical Education (Year 7)

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## Introduction

Physical activity is a significant aspect of young people's lives in their physical, social and emotional development. The Physical Education program facilitates participation in a variety of physical activities, provides opportunities for recreation, fitness, social interaction and competition. The experience also provides challenge, personal growth, enjoyment and the development of movement competence through promoting lifelong participation in physical activity. Theory lessons stress the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices.

## Unit Overview

The following units may be studied in this subject:

1. Transition and relationships
2. Growth and development
3. Fitness and fitness testing
4. Safety – Bike, Sun and Water
6. Physical Pursuits – Athletics, Bike Education, Minor Games, Soccer, Gymnastics, Striking/Fielding and Netball

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the tasks that students are asked to complete.

### Transition and relationships

- What is transition?
- What resources are available to assist in transition?
- Why do individuals manage transition differently?

### Growth and development

- What is happening to me?
- How can I improve my body image and self-esteem?
- Is what I am experiencing normal?

### Benefits of exercise

- Why do we need to exercise?
- What happens to our body when we exercise?
- What are the different fitness components?

### Safety – Bike, Sun and Water

- How do I manage my online profile and identity?
- How do I apply strategies for safe practice in bike, sun and water environments?

### Fitness

- What is fitness?
- How does exercise affect the body?
- How can I improve my fitness?

### Practical

Of the 8 physical activities on offer, after learning them in the context of a Physical Education class, which activity do you prefer now? Has this decision changed, if so, why?

Which activity:

- Requires the most skill?
- Has the most rules governing it?
- Involves more tactics?
- Is more physically demanding?
- Involves the most teamwork?

# Health and Physical Education (Year 8)

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## Introduction

Students understand the importance of personal and community actions that influence young people's lives through their physical, social, and emotional development. Students experience physical activity that provides challenge, personal growth, enjoyment and the development of movement competence through the promotion of lifelong participation in physical activity.

## Unit Overview

The following units may be studied in this subject:

1. Harm minimisation – Alcohol, vaping and drugs
2. Respectful relationships
3. Body systems
4. Fitness
5. Physical Pursuits – Cricket, Volleyball, Themed minor games, Basketball, Invasion Games, Dance, Ball Sports and Bike Education

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the tasks that students are asked to complete.

### Risk taking and harm minimisation

- What are vapes, alcohol and drugs?
- What are the long and short-term effects of drug alcohol and vaping use?
- What physical and social impact does alcohol have on people?
- What are the support services available to people?

### Fitness

- What is fitness?
- How does exercise effect the body?
- How can I improve my fitness?

### Body systems

- How does the musculoskeletal system provide movement?
- What are the major bones and muscles of the body?
- What are the major functions of the musculoskeletal system?

### Practical

Of the 8 physical activities on offer, after learning them in the context of a Physical Education class, which activity do you prefer now? Has this decision changed, if so, why?

Which activity:

- Requires the most skill?
- Has the most rules governing it?
- Involves more tactics?
- Is more physically demanding?
- Involves the most teamwork?

# Humanities (Year 7) – Economics & Business, Geography & History

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## Introduction

This integrated subject is an introduction to Economics & Business, Geography and History. The first semester course explores Prehistory and Ancient Civilisations from an historical perspective as well as exploring how cultural identity is established. The second semester's focus is the interconnections between people, places and environments and examines the allocation and use of the World's resources in both the physical and economic environments. Students also examine the world of Economics and Business by investigating various entrepreneurs and concepts such as supply and demand. Skills and concepts are enhanced via the use of Learning Technologies and collaborative work.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

- Hidden Histories
- Horrible Histories
- Donuts to Dollars
- Water Detectives

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- Why is it important to learn about the past?
- How might knowing more about Indigenous history change the way we see our country?
- Why do the stories of ancient civilisations still matter today?
- What influences people's choices when buying products?
- How does water affect communities around the world?



# Humanities (Year 8) – Civics & Citizenship, Geography and History

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## Introduction

This integrated subject builds upon the introduction to Economics & Business, Geography and History commenced in Year 7. The first semester course explores the Medieval period and Mongolian Empire. The second semester explores issues of living sustainably in large modern cities. Students will also examine how features of law and government impact upon our rights and roles in modern Australia. Skills and concepts are enhanced via the use of Learning Technologies and collaborative work.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

**History:** a study of the historical period from 650 AD to 1750 AD including: Medieval Europe (c.590 – c.1500) and the Mongol Expansion (c.1206 – c.1368).

**Civics & Citizenship:** An examination of the basic rights all people enjoy in our society and a study of how laws in Australia protect the rights of its citizens and how we can have a voice.

**Geography:** Examining the impacts of urbanisation and the challenges of planning for and maintaining Australia's urban future and strategies used to enhance the liveability of places, especially for young people.

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- How did societies change from the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern age?
- What key beliefs and values emerged and how did they influence societies?
- What were the causes and effects of contact between societies in this period?
- Which significant people, groups and ideas from this period have influenced the world today?
- What principles of justice help to protect the individual's rights to justice in Australia's system of law?
- How are laws made and applied in Australia?
- How do the interconnections between places, people and environments affect the lives of people?
- How do environmental and human processes affect the characteristics of places and environments?

# Languages (Year 7) – French

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## Introduction

The Year 7 French course has been developed using an interactive approach to language learning. Throughout this study, students learn to communicate in French and exchange information about themselves. They learn about the Francophone world. Students develop and enhance their reading, writing, comprehension, speaking and listening skills through a range of learning experiences, including role plays, tests, games, written work, oral presentations and use of learning technologies.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Talking about yourself
2. Describing your family
3. Animals
4. Body parts

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- Why learn another language?
- How does language shape culture and culture shape language?
- How does the knowledge of a language enable you to communicate more effectively?
- What language skills do I need to be immersed in another culture?

# Languages (Year 8) – French

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## Introduction

The Year 8 French course has been developed using an interactive approach to language learning. Students continue to develop and enhance their reading, writing, comprehension, speaking and listening skills through a range of learning experiences, including role plays, tests, games, written work, oral presentations and use of learning technologies. Students will continue to increase their knowledge of French speaking countries.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Holidays and festivals
2. Fashion
3. French Holidays
4. Hobbies

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- Why learn another language?
- How does language shape culture and culture shape language?
- How does the knowledge of a language enable you to communicate more effectively?
- What language skills do I need to be immersed in another culture?

# Languages (Year 7) – Italian

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## Introduction

The Year 7 Italian course uses an interactive approach to language learning. The aim of the program is to develop the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, visual cues, and signs in a second language.

Not only does the course focus on these areas but it endeavours to educate the students about the culture of the country at hand. The course exposes the learner to modes of thought outside the native language and in turn allows the student to better appreciate their own culture.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. This is me!
2. More about me
3. My Family
4. Animals

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- Why learn another language?
- How does language shape culture and culture shape language?
- How does the knowledge of a language enable you to communicate more effectively?
- What language skills do I need to be immersed in another culture?

# Languages (Year 8) – Italian

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## Introduction

The Year 8 Italian Course uses an interactive approach to language learning. The aim of the program is to equip students with the language skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing, visual cues and signs), language and cultural awareness that will enable them to carry out a simple conversation within the norms of that culture. The program builds on the language already acquired, through topics that look at celebrations, food and their personal world.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Pastimes
2. Languages and Nationalities
3. Travel
4. Food

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- Why learn another language?
- How does language shape culture and culture shape language?
- How does the knowledge of a language enable you to communicate more effectively?
- What language skills do I need to be immersed in another culture?

# Languages (Year 7) – Japanese

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## Introduction

The Year 7 Japanese course is developed over the entire year and uses an interactive approach to the Japanese language which incorporates written, oral and aural work with a cultural framework. Throughout this study students reinforce and develop language acquisition based on a variety of familiar and interesting topics.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Introduction to Japan and the Japanese Language
2. Family and Pets
3. Foods (likes and dislikes)

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- Why learn another language?
- How does language shape culture and culture shape language?
- How does the knowledge of a language enable you to communicate more effectively?
- What language skills do I need to be immersed in another culture?

# Languages (Year 8) – Japanese

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## Introduction

The Year 8 course is developed over the entire year and uses an interactive approach to the Japanese language which incorporates written, oral and aural work within a cultural framework. Throughout this study students reinforce and acquire language based on a variety of familiar and interesting topics.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Dates and Annual Events
2. Hobbies and Sports
3. Leisure Activities
4. Travelling in Japan

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- Why learn another language?
- How does language shape culture and culture shape language?
- How does the knowledge of a language enable you to communicate more effectively?
- What language skills do I need to be immersed in another culture?

# Mathematics (Year 7)

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## Introduction

Mathematics in Year 7 provides a unique opportunity as a bridge between a student's concrete numerical learning in primary school and the more abstract mathematics covered in middle and senior years. This course aims to consolidate prior learning as well as extend students in their problem solving, reasoning, and abstract thinking skills. These capabilities will enable students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations by using mathematics to make informed decisions and solve problems efficiently.

Students will further develop their arithmetic skills throughout this course. They will explore properties of numbers, including developing an understanding of negative, square and cube numbers. This exploration extends past whole numbers and into fractions, decimals and percentages as students investigate how to represent and manipulate numbers that are not whole. This knowledge will then be applied to the exploration of probabilities in simple experiments. Students will also learn about common data collection techniques and use these to collect, analyse and display data in a range of ways. They also investigate common measurement and geometric properties of shapes, such as perimeter, area and angles, and use these to solve a wide range of problems. Students look at ways to write everyday situations as algebraic expressions that can be manipulated, calculated, and equated to find solutions to a range of different problems.

**Please Note:** All students are expected to have a scientific calculator.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Whole number
2. Data
3. Coordinate Geometry
4. Probability
5. Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
6. Measurement and Geometry.

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the learning activities and assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- What is the relationship between a square number and a square root?
- How can I describe numbers that are less than zero?
- In what ways can I represent numbers that are not whole? How are these different forms related to each other?
- Do statistics always tell the truth?
- In what ways can we collect, understand and use data?
- How do we classify and describe shapes and objects?
- What is a formula? What are the advantages of a formula?
- How can formulas and graphs be used to model everyday situations?
- How can a value be represented if it is unknown, or if it changes?
- How can recognising patterns help solve problems and make predictions?
- How can we accurately predict the probability of events occurring or not occurring?



# Mathematics (Year 8)

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## Introduction

In Year 8, students will develop their ability to choose and carry out mathematical procedures accurately and efficiently and recall knowledge and concepts readily. Students will build up their skills in problem solving by interpreting information, creating models, and investigating and exploring the uses of mathematics in unfamiliar situations. They will also build their capacity to apply mathematical concepts and skills through proofs, evaluations, analyses and generalisations.

Students will investigate positive and negative numbers (integers) and how the arithmetic rules of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division apply to them. Students will also investigate the representation of repeated multiplication of a number as an index (or power) and using rules to simplify them. Their study of fractions, decimals and percentages is extended to include financial applications such as percentage discounts and mark-ups. The study of algebra is also extended from Year 7 to include the construction and solving of equations to find the value of an unknown or changing number. Students will use the properties of shapes to explore problems involving congruence (shapes that are identical) or similarity between shapes. Students will extend their knowledge of measurement by calculating the volume of common shapes and completing conversions between common units of measurement. Data collection and displays are explored further by investigating the effects of outliers on a data set and completing further calculations of summary statistics. Students will also consolidate and extend their understanding of probability by exploring complimentary events and using diagrams to represent probability scenarios.

**Please Note:** All students are expected to have a scientific calculator.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Directed Number
2. Percentages and Financial Arithmetic
3. Probability
4. Geometry
5. Indices
6. Algebra and Equations
7. Linear Relations and Graphs
8. Measurement
9. Statistics.

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the learning activities and assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- How do the basic operations apply to numbers less than zero?
- Why and how do we use percentages? How are they related to decimal numbers and fractions?
- What is an index? When used, how do they effect the growth of numbers?
- What are the Index laws and how do the index laws relate to each other?
- How are formulas used in measurement?
- How are linear measures, area and volume related?
- How can algebra help me solve problems?
- How do the graphs of mathematical models and data help us to solve problems and better understand the world in which we live?

# Religious Education (Year 7)

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## Introduction

In Term 1 students will explore the theme of belonging and the ways in which we form connections within communities, with a particular focus on belonging to the MacKillop College community. They will explore the process of initiation and will examine the rituals and practices of various faith traditions.

In Term 2 students will explore what morality is and how it guides our choices. They will examine the teachings of the Church and scripture to understand their role in helping us make ethical choices.

In Term 3 students will learn about God and explore some important theological and philosophical questions. Students will explore how God has communicated with people throughout history and how God continues to communicate with us today.

In Term 4 students will explore whether we can believe in both science and religion. Students will explore what religious scriptures say about God as the Creator and what the Church teaches us about creation, comparing this with what science tells us about creation.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. How do I belong?
2. How do I make good decisions?
3. Who is God?
4. Can you believe in Science and Religion?

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

### How do I belong?

- How are we part of a community?
- What does it mean to belong to MacKillop?
- How and why are we initiated?
- What are the Sacraments of initiation of the Catholics faith?
- What are other rites of initiation in other faith traditions?

### How do I make good decisions?

- What is morality?
- What influences effect moral decision-making?
- What role does the teachings of the Church and scripture play in this process?
- How is our conscience formed?
- What processes can we follow when deciding?

### Who is God?

- How is God represented in the Catholic Church?
- How is God understood by different religions and belief systems?
- Who is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit?
- How has God communicated with us through history and today?

### Can you believe in Science and Religion?

- How was the world made?
- Where is God in creation?
- How do different stories from around the world explain creation?
- What does science teach us about creation?

# Religious Education (Year 8)

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## Introduction

In Term 1 students will explore the life and identity of Jesus. They will explore the customs, traditions, and societal norms that shaped the environment in which Jesus lived.

In Term 2 students will explore the nature and purpose of prayer and its various forms. Students will learn how prayer can be a personal and meaningful experience in our lives in times of both joy and sorrow.

In Term 3 students will explore how we should respond to poverty and support those in need. They will examine the teachings of Jesus regarding the poor and learn about his message of compassion and solidarity.

In Term 4 students will consider examine what the church teaches around forgiveness. Students will contrast what Australian societal norms reflect and learn about what Jesus and the Church teach on the subject.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Who was Jesus?
2. Why Bother Praying?
3. What Should We Do About Increasing Inequality?
4. How Does Society Benefit from Forgiveness?

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

### Who was Jesus?

- What did Jesus look like?
- Was Jesus a criminal?
- What was lifelike during the time of Jesus?
- How did someone repent for their wrongdoings during the time of Jesus?

### Why Bother praying?

- What is the purpose of prayer?
- How do people pray?
- Why do we offer to pray for other people?
- Who actually hears our prayers?

### What Should We Do About Increasing Inequality?

- How is there inequality in Australian society?
- What did Jesus teach regarding the poor?
- What does Catholic Social Teaching guide us to do?
- What ways can we help those experiencing hardships?

### How Does Society Benefit from Forgiveness?

- What does Australian society tell us about forgiveness?
- What did Jesus teach about forgiveness?
- What does the Church teach about forgiveness?
- What do other religions teach about forgiveness?

# Science (Year 7)

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## Introduction

Science provides students with a wide variety of engaging and stimulating challenges for learning, understanding and life experiences. Students are immersed in practical activities which give them an opportunity to practice their inquiry skills, processes and procedures to discover information and collect data for themselves. The inclusion of technology into class activities aims to also enhance student's scientific knowledge and understanding.

In Year 7, students explain how the relative positions of the Earth, sun and moon affect phenomena on Earth. Students will predict the effect of environmental changes on feeding relationships and classify and organise diverse organisms based on observable differences and characteristics. They develop an understanding and knowledge of matter and separating techniques. Students represent and predict the effects of unbalanced forces, including friction and Earth's gravity, on motion. They will also investigate the uses of simple machines and how this helps society improve the world around us.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Introduction to Science
2. Forces & Simple Machines
3. Astronomy Agents
4. Wildlife Warriors
5. Chemistry Toolbox

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- How do scientists gather, communicate, and interpret data?
- What impact do forces, and simple machines be used to make work easier in our everyday life?
- How have different cultural and scientific systems changed our understanding of our solar system?
- How do relationships between organisms and their environment influence each other and drive changes over time?
- How can different separation techniques be used to separate mixtures of matter?

# Science (Year 8)

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## Introduction

Year 8 Science builds up on the concepts, content and knowledge delivered in the previous year. It continues to provide students with a wide variety of engaging and stimulating challenges for learning, understanding and life experiences. Students are immersed in practical activities which give them an opportunity to practice their inquiry skills, processes and procedures to discover information and collect data for themselves. The inclusion of technology into class activities aims to also enhance student's scientific knowledge and understanding.

In Year 8, students compare energy transfers and transformations in the context of the home. They analyse the relationship between form and function at cell, organ, and body system levels. They compare physical and chemical changes of substances and use observations to write simple equations. Students will examine processes of rock formation to compare how geological time has changed and the impacts humans have had. They will explain how evidence has led to an improved understanding of a scientific idea.

## Unit Overview

The following units will be studied in this subject:

1. Atomic Adventures
2. Energy All Around Us
3. From Cell to System
4. Rock Stars

## Driving Questions

The following Driving Questions will be considered by students during the units. They will link directly to the assessment tasks that students are asked to complete.

- How does matter undergo change and how is this represented in our everyday life?
- How can we harness the energy around us to benefit society?
- How do cells and body systems work together to maintain life?
- How can an understanding of Earth's geological past and its resources help predict future changes?