

Dear Year 8 Families,

I write today to overview the upcoming Year 8 into 9 Subject Selection Program that will support your child in making the best decisions for the 2026 academic year and beyond.

Subject selection is not just about picking what seems interesting or what friends are doing - it is about making informed decisions based on individual strengths, interests, and goals. It's also an opportunity for students to begin thinking about the areas they may wish to explore more deeply as they move towards VCE.

To help guide students and families through this process, we will be offering a number of supports. The details of these are outlined in the table below:

Year 8 into 9 Subject Selection Program,				
Date	Time	Event	Venue	Purpose
June 17	4:00pm	2026 Year 9 & 10 Subject Handbook released on the College website	College website	The Year 9 & 10 Curriculum Handbook 2026 outlines the structure of Year 9 and also the subjects available for students to choose from. It is a very important Subject Selection resource.
June 18	Period 3	Subject Selection Assembly	Moreno Auditorium	To outline the subject selection process, distribute booklets and ensure students are clear about how to make the best choices possible.
June 19	9:00am	Subject Taster Sessions selection portal opens	online	The Subject Taster Sessions are a new initiative for 2025 and provide our Year 8 students with the opportunity to find out more information and try out elective subjects they may not have had the chance to, before having to make selections. Across the day they will have 6 different Tasters, one each period. It is hoped that this day will support students in making more informed choices about their Year 9 electives.
June 24	4:00pm	Subject Taster Sessions selection portal closes	online	
June 30	All Day	Subject Taster Sessions	In classrooms	
July 3	Period 3 or 4	Subject Selection Expo Day	La Merci Building	Each Learning Area will set up a display of students work and materials used in each of the subjects offered. Teachers of each subject and students currently undertaking them will be on hand to answer any questions students might have.
July 19/20	Over the weekend	Subject Selection Weekend	At home	This is the final weekend prior to the completed Subject Selection Booklets, including the signed selection form, being submitted before Subject Selection Counselling. Families are encouraged to sit down and go through the booklet, discussing the selections your child wishes to make before ensuring everything is complete, including your signatures.
July 21	Homeroom	Subject Selection Booklets due	Homeroom	On Monday morning during Homeroom all students must submit their fully completed Subject Selection Booklet, including their signed Subject Selection Form.
July 28	Appointment will be emailed	Subject Selection Individual Counselling (online)	At Home	July 28 will be an Online Learning Day for Year 8 students. Students will follow the normal school day online, completing work left by their teachers. They will receive a Subject Selection Individual Counselling Appointment via email and must log on and follow the link at that time to be counselled and officially submit

				their 2026 Subject Selections. Parents are very welcome to join the counselling online. *See below for more details of this day.
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***Online Learning Day in Support of Subject Selection Individual Counselling**

June 28, 2025 will be an Online Learning Day for our Year 8 students. This will support our Year 8 students being provided with an individual opportunity to be counselled about their Subject Selections by a College Leader.

During the 15 minute appointment the leader will discuss the student's selections, including their future pathway, check their selections against their achievements so far and review teacher recommendations, then submit the selections onto the online portal.

If the counselling results in changes to subject selections becoming necessary, our Careers Counsellors will be on hand to assist. Parents will be emailed about any changes prior to these being submitted on the portal, so that you can be involved in follow-up discussions with your child.

The normal school day will be followed during the Online Learning Day. Families will be emailed the time, name of the counsellor and the link for the online Teams Meeting, prior to the day. Parents are encouraged to join the meeting if possible. If you are not able to be with your child in person simply use the same link to join from work or other location. If you do not receive a link and time by July 22 please email Sandra Camilleri at scamilleri@mackillop.vic.edu.au to ensure you receive it on time.

We strongly encourage families to begin these conversations at home as soon as possible. Ask your child what they enjoy, what challenges them, and what they see themselves doing in the future. Your involvement and guidance are essential in helping them make thoughtful and confident decisions and in setting them up well to continue to make wise choices about their subjects and pathway in the future.

Please pop the relevant dates from the table into your family calendars to ensure no important steps are missed. The 'Parent Guide to Subject Selection' found at the link below may assist you in preparing well. <https://studyworkgrow.com/high-school-subject-selection-a-guide-for-parents/>