2016 Year 9 Program of Studies

Embracing the Core Values of Brigidine Sponsored Education, we will:

Be faithful to our Catholic Heritage
Welcome all people, especially the most vulnerable
Celebrate all that is good with joy and gratitude
Engender a love of learning, hope and a sense of purpose
Image and practise justice and service.
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INTRODUCTION

With the adoption of the Australian National curriculum and the incorporation of AusVELS standards into key disciplines such as English, Mathematics, Science and the Humanities, a new emphasis has been placed on learning which is sometimes forgotten in the push towards more testing and the relentless pursuit of higher ATAR scores in Year 12. Naturally we at Kilbreda College retain our core studies of Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, the Humanities and Physical Education. However, with the greater rigour brought to bear with the accredited National curriculum, educators across the state have tried to achieve a balance between students learning about certain things and developing the necessary attributes to become a true life-long learner. Increasingly, the interpersonal skills of communication and teamwork are being recognised as integral to a well-rounded education. By embracing these changes and the paradigm shift in the use of technology that is now so deeply embedded in our lives, students are able to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to adapt to the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in their journey through life.

To develop their personal learning skills students are encouraged to think about how they learn best, to set personal learning goals and to build a range of strategies for completing assignments and for evaluating their own work. They also learn about good study habits and organisational skills, as well as how to motivate themselves to achieve their best.

Year 9 is a Time to Continue to Grow

It is at this time of the year that your daughter needs to make some decisions about her Subject Selections for Year 9. As she enters the important ‘Middle Years’ of her secondary schooling, she is in the process of laying down critically important foundations of both knowledge and skills upon which she will draw in her final years of schooling and beyond. It is an unfortunate reality that some students can become disengaged from the learning process at around this time, with significant negative consequences for their academic progress in later years. The critical importance of remaining engaged with her studies, completing homework to the best of her ability and not merely to the minimum required, and striving for the best that one can achieve cannot be underestimated.

In order to facilitate and foster such engagement, your daughter’s teachers acknowledge that many students value the opportunity to explore subjects and experiences outside the gamut of the core subjects. To this end, teachers have invested considerable time and energy to be able to offer an extensive range of elective subjects to students in the Middle school years of Years 9 and 10. While a number of subjects are designated as core, or compulsory, there is also a significant number of options from which she can choose. The core subjects include Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Health and Physical Education. Elective studies include the Languages, subjects from the Creative and Performing Arts, Technology, the Humanities and the Sciences.

The Year 9 Health course is designed to develop the awareness, confidence, knowledge and skills required to make informed decisions to lead healthy and fulfilling lives consistent with Christian values. Students develop an understanding of the right to be safe and explore the concepts of challenge, risk and safety. They identify the harms associated with particular situations and behaviours and how to take action to minimise these harms. Areas of study include: nutrition, body image, risk taking – illegal drugs, women’s health and safety issues, relationships and the creation of life – conception, pregnancy and birth.
PLANNING YOUR COURSE

The Curriculum

The curriculum includes:
- Core studies – taken by all students
- Full year elective studies (Languages or Compass)
- Semester elective studies (all others)

Core studies include Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Physical Education. Every student undertakes studies in these areas. In addition, there will be three elective blocks in the Year 9 timetable next year and so you will be choosing a total of six semesters’ worth of electives. With almost 20 electives to choose from, there is considerable scope for students to pursue their interests and build their skills. It is important to realise that not all of these electives may run next year, as classes can only be offered if there is sufficient student demand. For this reason, there is a reasonably strong chance that you will not be given all six of your preferences, but may need to use one or both of your back-up selections.

The Importance of Language in Your Subject Selections

The study of a Language (other than English) has been recognised for many years as a powerful tool in the development of a young mind. Extensive, high level and peer-reviewed research has shown that the skills required to master a language other than one’s native tongue develops higher order thinking skills such as logic, information processing and memory retention. Australia is one of the few countries across the world that unfortunately exhibits a cultural disinclination to mastering another language. In partial response to this malaise, some years ago VCAA (the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the Government body in charge of the curriculum at Years 11 and 12), changed the way in which Languages are assessed at Year 12. The score achieved by students undertaking all Language subjects are given a 10% ‘bonus’ on their study score for the subject, which contributes to their ATAR score (previously known as the ENTER, or tertiary rank).

The world in which our students are moving is ‘smaller’ than ever. Increasingly, young people are pursuing career opportunities globally, rather than restricting themselves to their local environment as has been the case for virtually all of our time on the planet. The ability to converse in another language is now more important than ever. Furthermore, research shows that people with Language training often have a competitive edge over other applicants in the job market due to the skills they have learnt through language study. Finally, studying a Language can be good fun, as well as being stimulating and challenging.

For these reasons, it is recommended that all students (apart from those involved in the Compass program) should at least consider including a Language in their subject electives. Note that it is not possible to drop Language studies at Year 9 and return to them in Year 10 or later. These subjects are sequential in their learning and skill acquisition and so must be studied throughout a student’s secondary schooling if a successful outcome is to be achieved. Conversely, if a student elects to take a Language next year and finds that she is not suited to it, there is no obligation or requirement for her to continue into Year 10.
How do I know if I am good enough to succeed in Language studies? If you have been achieving at a level of 65% or more in your assessments and, more importantly, you have the desire to do well and to really give of your best, a Language elective should be well within your grasp.

**Making Your Selections (Online)**

As has been the case for several years now, all student selections will now be undertaken online. If making selections from home, simply log onto the school website at [www.kilbreda.vic.edu.au](http://www.kilbreda.vic.edu.au) and open the Parent or Student portal in the usual manner. Click on the student tab and select “Subject Selections”. Comprehensive instructions as to how to make your selections are provided via the link at the top of the page. You will also find here the Subject Information Booklet.

To make your selections, you must select from the EIGHT drop-down boxes. Of the eight selections that your daughter makes, SIX of these will be taken up next year and the other two are effectively reserve selections. She should place her preferences in order (from 1 to 8) and every effort will be made to accommodate her choices. Note that each selection constitutes a semester interval. If you have selected a Language elective or have been invited to join the Compass group, then you must use two of your Preferences as these subjects proceed for the entire year.

The actual semester (first half of the year or second) that each elective will run has not yet been determined. Subjects will be blocked to accommodate student preferences and will only run if there is sufficient interest for the class to be viable. The reality of timetabling a large number of electives across an entire year level means that it is unlikely that your daughter will receive all six of her first preferences. It is important that she embrace the opportunity presented to her next year to try new subjects and to learn new things. Apart from the Languages, no subjects are essential to a particular academic or career pathway in later years. The electives have been designed to provide an insight into the coursework or skill set that is inherent in that elective.
The full year Compass program is designed to provide curriculum support to students in the twin pillars of numeracy and literacy. Entry into the Compass program is by invitation only. Those students who have been invited to join by Mrs Garraway and wish to do so should select this choice for two semesters when making their selections.

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![Image of people in a room]
YEAR 9 ELECTIVE UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

ANIMALS, FOOD AND THE OUTDOORS (PERMACULTURE)

This course looks at sustainable practices for growing food, managing land and using water. We will study exactly how modern societies live and work with animals. This course investigates how we can feed ourselves and others in a way that won't damage our environment.

This is a ‘hands on’ course which involves working outside in the vegetable gardens and other grounds areas. It will include some working with animals and learning to care for them. It is a practical subject involving exercises to be completed at home. There will also be classroom lessons and assignments.

The assessment for this subject will be practical and useful to you for the rest of your life, it will include keeping a record of all the things you observe and do outside and when you are with animals. You will learn about growing fruit trees and vegetables, what is safe to eat and what is not. You will learn how to care for the animals that feed and clothe us. You will learn how to safely use tools and equipment when you are outside and in the work shed.

Animals Food and the Outdoors need practical willing workers to make it a successful and enjoyable course.
ART

You may be interested in this elective if you enjoy Drawing, Painting, Ceramics and working in 3D.

All students will have an opportunity to design and create 2D and 3D artworks. The course is based on an overall theme of ‘personal reflection’. Using their visual diary students will investigate and explore their own ideas that will result in exciting, interesting, beautiful or thought-provoking final pieces.
To enhance the students understanding of art in their society their research will be intertwined with their practical tasks. At the completion of the course the students will have the ability to form their own opinions and express a personal response to art.

Assessment Tasks

- Ceramic Slab Construction (Treasure Chest/Sculpture) 3D
- Expressionistic Painting (Acrylic, large scale) 2D
- Design Based Drawing (Barbara Hanrahan style) 2D

Practical tasks are assessed with reference to the explorations within the visual diary and the final pieces.

Year 9 Art develops the students’ design process skills that are required for most senior folio subjects such as Art, Studio Art, Visual Communication, Textiles and Food Technology.
BIG HISTORY

Big History is a history of the universe, from the Big Bang to the present. It explores such questions as “Who are we?”, “How did we get here?”, “Where is it all going?”, “How did the studies of physics, chemistry, biology, earth sciences, history, economics, language, music, arts and philosophy develop and how do they fit together?”, “Are we, and everything else, really made of stardust?”, “How did civilizations rise and why did they fall?”, “Do we have a purpose and what is it?”.

We could just tell you the answers, but it is more fun to explore together and find out! The adventure starts here: https://www.bighistoryproject.com/portal

COMPASS PROGRAM – full year elective (by invitation only)

Individual students are invited to select Compass based on the recommendation of their Year 8 subject teachers or Year Level Co-ordinator. This subject provides supplementary and complementary instruction to students with exceptional learning styles and needs.

Compass aims to:
- promote self-confidence in learning;
- improve literacy skills;
- aid learning across subjects;
- enhance study skills;
- develop resilience and perseverance in learning;
- help students develop their strengths; and
- enrich writing skills.

Students work on various theme-based tasks (examples - Urban Legends, Celebrity Investigation, Careers) while simultaneously seeking assistance and additional time for study-support and homework completion. It concentrates on developing reading-comprehension and develop fluency in writing and speaking to an audience. The Compass teacher manages a responsive and flexible program that considers students’ needs throughout the year.
CREATIVE TEXTILES

You may be interested in this Elective if you enjoy: being creative, designing, sewing, drawing, craft, exploring different textile embellishing techniques

Or wish to pursue these subjects in the senior years: Product Design & Technology Textiles

Students will be introduced to the world of textile embellishment techniques so that they can continue their creative journey. Students will investigate, design, produce and evaluate creative products. This subject is suitable for creative students who want to express themselves through different textile mediums. They will explore textile processes including machining, over-locking, appliqué, dyeing and other embellishment techniques. Students will produce a friendship cushion and an adorable teddy with accessories.

Assessed tasks will include a Product Design Folio displaying the development of ideas and product designs, as well as a creative item of their choice incorporating a number of textile techniques
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

For more information about this elective please see Area Leader: Ms Donoghue.

You may be interested in this elective if you enjoy: Using technology to create things such as spreadsheets, movies, animations, games, drawings, 3D prints.

Or with to pursue these subjects in Senior Years: VCE IT, Multimedia, Media Studies.

The ability to use digital technologies to transform students’ learning and to enrich their learning environment is becoming more and more important in today’s tech savvy environment. This course is designed to do just that while extending students’ knowledge of key applications. These practical skills may also be of benefit to students in other areas of their studies.

Digital Technologies in Year 9 is organised into three dimensions:

1. **Visual thinking** - helping students to plan and organise themselves using mind mapping, storyboarding, Google Apps for Education and spreadsheet software
2. **Creating** - students design and create products using software such as Adobe Flash, Photoshop, Sony Vegas, Scratch, Tinkercad. They will showcase their semester’s work in an ePortfolio
3. **Communicating** - students collaborate and share their work with others using Web2 tools
DRAMA

This is a practical course and the main focus is on performance. Students work together and through drama games, workshops and improvisation, explore the dramatic elements that make up a performance.

As a whole class students plan, rehearse and perform a selected play script. As well as acting in the play, students contribute to stagecraft areas such as set design, sound, lighting, costumes, make-up and properties. There is a public performance of the play at the end of the semester. In both written and verbal responses students analyse and evaluate their work and the work of others.

Students will be involved in on-going assessment based on involvement, engagement, initiative, completion of small and short tasks, reflection and analysis and stagecraft (including acting) tasks of all sorts. The assessment is more about process than product but will include a public performance of their completed performance task.
FASHION DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

You may be interested in this Elective if you enjoy: being creative, designing, sewing, drawing, fashion styling

Or wish to pursue these subjects in the senior years: VET- Applied Fashion & Design Technology or Product Design & Technology Textiles

Fashion Design and Production students will continue to improve on the skills learned in Year 7. This subject offers the opportunity to develop existing skills and learn new garment construction techniques including: gathering, hemming and over-locking. The garments produced in this subject may include skirts, dresses and pyjamas.

Fashion Design and Production will equip students with the required skills and knowledge to investigate, design, produce and evaluate garments. Students will learn about dressing appropriately for varying body shapes. They will also learn fashion drawing techniques, how to read patterns, measuring for garment construction, quality sewing techniques and pattern alterations. Any student wishing to undertake further studies at VCE level in Textiles is strongly recommended to take this elective.

Assessed tasks will include a Sample Folio showcasing the development of garment construction techniques and selected garments.
FIT FOR LIFE

This course is a practical subject with a theory component. Students will be challenged with advanced fitness training and skill based activities. This course would suit the already physically active student, who would like to extend their fitness and skill base. Theory classes will involve researching fitness training, elite athletes and innovations in sport and training. Students will commit to maximum participation and effort in all practical classes to gain the greatest improvements in fitness and skill level.

Assessment will involve the development of a personal training program, maintenance of a workbook and a research assignment. Practical assessment will be ongoing teacher assessment.
FOOD TECHNOLOGY

A practice-based subject, Food Technology includes exciting and interesting practical lessons using recipes from the new text, Total Food Book 2. Throughout the semester the students make such tasty recipes as Sang Choy Bow, Souvlaki, Cajun Chicken Salad, Corn Fritters, Green Thai Curry, Potato Rosti, and Mini Moroccan Date Puddings.

The practical lessons are designed to build confidence when working in the kitchen and using the equipment. Skills such as cutting, chopping and slicing are built upon from week to week. Students are also taught basic food handling and safe work practices.

Throughout the semester there is a strong emphasis on nutrition and sustainability. Students study the role of nutrients in the diet, as well as examining dietary sources and the role in the diet of vitamins, carbohydrates, fibre, fats and protein.

As well, students complete a design brief which involves research; planning, designing and producing a dish; and evaluating a range of food products.
HEALTH AND BEAUTY SCIENCE

As we learn about our skin and health, we become more ingredient conscious. Understanding what substances make up a product can be helpful especially if you have a known allergy. It also helps you understand what makes a product greasy, irritating, acne-flaring or drying. This unit contains both theory and practical components. In this unit, students will investigate the chemical properties of everyday consumer products such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, lip balm, body scrub and moisturizer by conducting a range of practical activities. Students will then investigate the chemical components of these products and decide whether or not such chemicals are safe ingredients.

Students will make a number of natural cosmetic products. They will consider the impact that some consumer products have on the environment and on their health. This unit will also focus on healthy lifestyles and the effect of cosmetic surgery, alcohol and drugs on the body.

Assessment tasks include a product advertising campaign, undertaking practical and research tasks, and analysing articles addressing current health issues in the media.
LANGUAGES: ITALIAN – full year elective

The ability to use a language other than English and move between cultures is important for full participation in the modern world, especially in the context of increasing globalization and Australia’s cultural diversity.

This course helps students to extend their listening and speaking skills in Italian through a communicative and practical study of the language through unit topics which are relevant to teenage experience. Students will also continue to develop their understanding and appreciation of the people and culture of Italy.

Assessment of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills occurs on a regular basis and students are expected to integrate their knowledge and understanding throughout the year in various written, aural and oral tasks and tests.

Areas of study:
Italian is taught through various topics of interest such as:

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<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tr>
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<td>• Clothing and Fashion</td>
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<td>• Housing in Italy</td>
<td>• Talking on the phone</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Different places around town</td>
<td>• The weather</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Asking for and giving directions</td>
<td>• Talking about past events</td>
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<tr>
<td>• City versus country life</td>
<td>• Talking about films</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Dante Alighieri Poetry Competition</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Cultural component: Carnevale or Il Risorgimento</td>
<td>Cultural component: I Grandi nomi dell'Alta Moda Italiana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any student wishing to study a Language at Year 10 level **must** study that language at Year 9.
LANGUAGES: JAPANESE – full year elective

The ability to use a language other than English and move between cultures is important for full participation in the modern world, especially in the context of increasing globalization and Australia’s cultural diversity.

This course helps students to extend their listening and speaking skills in Japanese through a communicative and practical study of the language through unit topics which are relevant to teenage experience. Students will also continue to develop their understanding and appreciation of the people and culture of Japan.

Assessment of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills occurs on a regular basis and students are expected to integrate their knowledge and understanding throughout the year in various written, aural and oral tasks and tests.

Areas of study: Japanese is taught through various topics of interest such as:

<table>
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<th>Semester 1</th>
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<td>Gift giving</td>
<td>Cultural component: Songs in Japanese</td>
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</table>

Cultural component: Japanese food

Any student wishing to study a Language at Year 10 level must study that language at Year 9.
MANAGING MY MONEY

Managing my money is a semester elective to introduce students to commerce with the focus on developing skills and knowledge in managing their personal finances. This unit aims to provide life skills for students on how to manage their finances and how to make the right choices when spending and saving their money.

Specifically the elective will look at personal finance management and the importance of being an informed consumer. Personal finance management includes spending and saving, budgeting, investing (incorporating competing in the ASX share market game competition), borrowing money and using credit, calculating interest and a basic checklist of things to consider when entering the world of work. Being an informed consumer will cover consumer issues, such as choosing an appropriate mobile phone plan, scams and how to avoid them, advertising and your rights and responsibilities as an Australian consumer.

All the assessment tasks will involve application of knowledge gained in class. Students will have to apply their knowledge to research tasks and prepare a report. Specific assessment tasks will include preparation of a personal budget; creation of an informative brochure on strategies to manage finances effectively; production of a short film on consumer issues (highlighting either shopping rights or scams).

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

This elective will focus on Solo and Group Music performance. It will give students opportunities to perform regularly in front of each other in music workshops and in formal soiree concerts with the possibility of performing in Eisteddfods.

Students will be involved in master classes conducted by professional visiting musicians. Through excursions, students will be given opportunities to see professional musicians perform different styles of music on various instruments. They will also visit performing institutions where they will see and hear advanced music students perform.

Group performances will involve students performing together in band/ensemble situations where they will communicate their musical ideas to each other to achieve a musically unified result. Students will listen to and compare various recordings of songs that they are performing so that they may give educated appraisals about the differences and be better informed when performing their own interpretations.

Please note that this elective is only available by invitation to practising music (instrumental) students at the discretion of the Music Coordinator.
OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The Outdoor Education program is designed to assist students to become aware of the needs of others whilst extending their own skills and abilities. It is designed to empower students in challenging themselves in a variety of settings, to develop a range of Leadership and participation skills, and to provide a suite of skills associated with the outdoors, camping and being self-sufficient and safe. The course is designed to give students a theoretical grounding on which to base their practical skills and knowledge. The topics assessed in this subject include first aid, orienteering, camp craft, environmental studies and fitness.

PAGE, STAGE AND SCREEN

‘Page, Stage and Screen’ is a Literature elective focusing on the analysis, creation and performance of literary texts. Students will study one short novel, a play and film and will identify and closely analyse the features of each text. In addition, students will create their own writing in each form. A chapter from their own novel will be published in an anthology and they will produce a performance of their play script and devise a short film. ‘Page, Stage and Screen’ is a semester subject that will provide a strong foundation for the study of Literature in future years.
THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Have you ever wondered why things look like they do or how things work? Have you ever thought “Why did they make it this way?” or “I could make a better…”? Have you wanted to put your mathematical skills to real use? If so then this subject is for you.

In this course you will investigate and analyse the structure of things in the built and natural environments. You will learn ways that mathematical and scientific concepts can be used to investigate and describe these things and the ways they can interact.

You will be given opportunities to research natural phenomena such as biological patterns, wave motion, crystalline structures, music or earthquakes and describe them using mathematics. You will analyse the design of manufactured objects and research their historical development. You will explore the stages of development of these objects in terms of the mathematical ideas behind the changes as well as designing a “new and improved” version of an object. You will also investigate the built environment, including analysis of how environmental factors can impact on building design.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment tasks will include two major projects that focus on design research and the built environment. Students will also be required to keep a log book of the activities undertaken.
THEMATIC DANCE: ‘THE INSTRUMENT OF EXPRESSION’

Dance is the language of movement. In this dance elective, students explore the potential of the body as an instrument of expression. This subject focuses on choreography, rehearsal and performance of a group-devised dance work and a solo dance work, which is based on an allocated theme. It is designed to foster the current talents and skills of the dancers, as well as provide opportunities for improving choreographic and performance skills through devising and presenting thematic dance work.

It is based on the investigation and communication of ideas, themes and concepts. This subject will provide another creative outlet for the girls to engage in practical application of skills taught in other subjects, and engage in a physical and practical subject. The study of dance provides an opportunity to explore the potential of movement as a medium of creative expression through diverse approaches.

On completion of this unit, the student should be able to choreograph, rehearse and perform a group dance work that communicates an expressive intention based on an allocated theme, through the safe use of technical and physical skills, and describe the dance-making and performance processes used in their works.

The student should also be able to choreograph and perform a solo dance work that communicates an expressive intention based on an allocated theme, through the safe use of technical and physical skills, and analyse the processes used to choreograph, rehearse and perform their dance work.
VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

For more information about this Elective, please see Area Leader: Mrs Radford

You may be interested in this Elective if you enjoy: Drawing, Designing, ICT/Photoshop

Or wish to pursue these subjects in Senior Years: Art, Studio Art, Textiles, Visual Communication

Major Focus – Description

Visual communication and Design (VCD) enables students to develop their visual understanding and practical problem solving skills using graphics techniques. They solve design problems while gaining an understanding of the design process. Specifically, they recognize the ways in which graphic drawings and presentations can be used to communicate ideas and information. This allows them to develop an understanding of the role of a graphic designer and a visual communicator in industry using issues relating to student interests.

Students will explore the use and application of symbols, illustrations, instrumental and architectural drawing, three dimensional model/form, packaging, and the use of Information Communication Technology (Photoshop, Illustrator, etc).

Learning Activities include:

- Freehand drawing and rendering – experimentation with varied media and styles.
- Instrumental drawing – accuracy, correct dimensioning and consistent scale.
- Product design – development of ideas and the design process, through to producing finished products with accompanying explanations.
- Promotional design – researching and discussing methods of advertising and marketing of package design
- Production of Gift wrap design with a matching Gift card – including the use of ICT (Photoshop)
Assessment
- Folio work- Design elements and Principles
- Name Design
- Observational Drawing
- Gift Wrap with matching card Design (Photoshop)
- Packaging Analysis
- Packaging Design

Special Information

Students must have a desire to be able to apply creative solutions to a set of selected criteria and generally enjoy the challenge of thinking in a lateral and expressive manner. Visual communication students at this level are expected to work on ideas, sketches and drawings outside of class time.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE LAW

This teaching unit is for educating young people about legal issues. It has information and activities about:

- The role of people in authority, including police and ticket inspectors
- Young people and parents – rights and responsibilities
- Young people and violence – bullies, violence in the streets/home
- Child abuse
- Discrimination, sexual harassment violence, and vilification
- Getting a job and leaving home
- Young people and criminal offences
- Drug offences
- The Children’s Court

This study provides young people with knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for informed, responsible participation in our Society. The study aims to increase students' knowledge of the justice system, government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

DUE DATE FOR ELECTIVES SUBMISSION

Friday 11 September 2015

Please print a copy of your subject selections once made online, have a parents/carer sign it and then hand the sheet in to your Homeroom teacher.