

Headstart 2026 Snapshots

Design and Technologies - Textiles and Food

Year 8 Textiles

Students will be re-introduced to the sewing machine, learning to thread and use basic stitching techniques.

Year 8 Food Technology

Students will be introduced to Food Technology and be given an overview of the semester. They will investigate the kitchen, looking at the types and functions of equipment contained in each student workbench. They will start learning about safety and hygiene practices in the kitchen. They will complete a practical class - Chocolate Truffles.

Year 9 Café Culture

Students will begin with What is Café Culture and the outline of the course. We will recap safety and hygiene and the students will complete their DO FOOD SAFELY certificate. The practical class will be Mexican Burrito Bowls.

Year 9 Passion for Fashion

Students will begin by investigating the Product Design Process, responding to an end users need. Some skill building tasks, such as reading a design brief and drafting a pattern that meets the needs of the end user will be undertaken. Students can expect to complete a short-written planning task and to complete a product during the Headstart weeks.

Year 10 Food Technology

Students will start investigating safety and hygiene hazards in the kitchen. They will review measuring skills and cook a recipe to demonstrate these skills as well safety and hygiene.

Year 11 Food Studies

Students will be introduced to Unit 1&2 Food Studies. They will then begin to explore hunter-gatherer food systems and how they differ from and are similar to early agricultural food systems, including the types of foods available, the potential advantages for communities, and the challenges in terms of feeding human populations.

Year 11 Product, Design and Technologies

Introduction and unpacking of the VCE study design for Units 1&2. Convergent and divergent thinking will be explored, and students will be working towards finding design solutions following the Double Diamond approach. Students will begin to explore

designing for a need that has been given; they will work in groups and individually to research and plan their garments for the 2026 Fashion Parade.

Year 12 Food Studies

Students will be introduced to Units 3&4 Food Studies. They will investigate principles of research in the development of the Australian Dietary Guidelines and Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and understand the nutritional rationale of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.

Year 12 Product Design and Technologies

Introduction and unpacking of the VCE study design for Units 3 & 4. The School Assessed Task (SAT) will be unpacked. Emphasis will be on understanding the factors that influence product design and how students will use these factors to begin to explore their ideas and options for their SAT work.

Visual Arts

Year 8 Art

Students will look closely at developing drawing skills. It is a practice built on observation – learning to see shapes, line, texture and colour within Life Drawing forms and Still Life. Strategies will be introduced to help guide students to complete a folio of Explorative drawings using a variety of mediums.

Year 9 Visual Communication Design

Students will build on their awareness of how designers communicate ideas with a specific purpose, to a targeted audience, using different visual communication design practices.

Year 10 Art

The focus for Year 10 2D & 3D Art for Headstart is to introduce the Curriculum and Art room expectations and safety. Students will explore a variety of drawing mediums and a variety of drawing styles. It is a practice built on observation – learning to see shapes, line, texture and colour. This will be practiced while drawing Still Life and Life Drawings.

In the second week the focus is to introduce a Contemporary artist: Robert Lee Davis and understand the Creative Practice of Art (Research, Explore, Experiment, Develop, Evaluate and Reflect). With the combination of the artist style and drawing mediums introduced in Week 1 students will complete a final artwork.

Art Creative Practice:

Year 11

Students will be introduced to Unit 1 Art Creative Practice - Interpreting artworks and exploring the Creative Practice. They will focus on the making of art and examine how artists communicate ideas and meaning in artworks.

Year 12

Students will be introduced to Unit 3: Investigation, Ideas, Artworks and Creative Practice. They will start to use Inquiry and Project-Based learning as starting points to develop a Body of Work.

Unit 1 Visual Communication Design

Through the application of human-centered research methods the students will explore concepts of good design by evaluating a range of products then applying that knowledge to solving design problems and developing a design brief.

Unit 3 Visual Communication Design

In this area of study, students learn about factors that impact design decisions, as well as the impact of design on people and our planet. They consider these influences when designing three-dimensional objects for specific purposes, contexts and users.

Media:

Year 11 Media

Students will be introduced to VCE Media with an outline of Units 1&2. They will then learn and revise key media terminology, as well as begin their study of how different groups are represented in a variety of media products.

Year 12 Media

Students will receive an overview of Media Units 3&4. They will also be introduced to the film studied in Unit 3 and begin the development process for their media production task, including conducting technical experiments.

Digital Technologies

Year 8 Digital Technology

Students will explore what AI is, how it works, what are some of the benefits of AI and what are some of the ethical considerations. Students will work on small activities designed to teach ethical and judicious use of AI.

Year 9 Emerging Technology

Year 9 ETE students will be introduced to the semester elective, get organised for the following year and begin to work with the LEGO Spike Prime software and hardware as an introduction to robotics.

Unit 1 Applied Computing

Unit 1 Applied Computing students will be introduced to an outline of the course and the four outcomes. We will begin to explore the first topic of data analysis where students interpret teacher-provided solution requirements and designs, analyse data and develop data visualisations to present findings.

Unit 4 Data Analytics

Unit 3 Data Analytics students will be introduced to an outline of the course and the four outcomes. We will begin to explore the first topic of data analysis where students interpret teacher-provided solution requirements and designs, extract data from large repositories, manipulate and cleanse data, conduct statistical analysis and develop data visualisations to display findings.

English

Year 8

Film study – *The Truman Show*. Students will learn about elements of film study and watch the film in class. There will be a focus on context, setting and key characters, as well as various film techniques.

Year 9

Film study – *Billy Elliot*. Students will learn about elements of film study and watch the film in class. There will be a focus on the specific setting of the UK miners' strike of the 1980s.

Year 10

Film study – *The Dressmaker*. Students will learn about elements of film study and watch the film in class. There will be a focus on the text, context and subtext, as well as an investigation into life in 1950s small-town Australia.

Year 10 ELA

Students will explore the basics of how language works, using metalanguage to describe sounds, words and meaning. They will engage with real-life examples of language use to build curiosity and prepare for the analytical focus of the Year 10 elective.

Year 10 LIT

Close Analysis - *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Students will undertake detailed study of figurative language, structural patterns, mood and dramatic devices used in the text. Students learn to interpret meaning and evaluate the impact of literary and theatrical techniques. *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare. Students analyse the effect of Shakespeare's literary and theatrical techniques and investigate the explicit and implicit ideas, views and values embedded in the play, considering how these are communicated to contemporary audiences

Year 11 ENG

Text response – *Macbeth*. Students will learn about elements of drama study and watch excerpts of performance in class. The task of personal response will be introduced and students guided as to the ways in which they can form a connection with the vocabulary, text structures, language features and ideas of *Macbeth*.

Year 11 LIT

Text response – *Frankenstein*. Students will learn about the context Gothic of literature – its features and tropes and begin their study of *Frankenstein*. Part of their learning is a review of key differences between English and Literature study.

Year 11 ELA

Students will be introduced to the core concepts and metalanguage needed to understand language as a meaning-making system in VCE English Language. They will practise analysing real texts, building the foundational skills and confidence required for Unit 1.

Year 12 ENG

Film study – *Sunset Boulevard*. Students will learn about elements of film study and watch the film in class. There will be a focus on the text in its context, as well as the concerns, values and ideas contained in the film.

Year 12 LIT

Poetry study – *At the Altar of Touch* and Short stories – *Stories of Your Life*. Students will deepen their understanding of close reading as the key underpinning skill of Literature study, practising this in the context of Gao's poetry, and in introduction to Chiang's short stories.

Year 12 LANG

Students will deepen their understanding of metalanguage and in particular its part in analysing texts. An introduction to each of the Areas of Study and timeline of tasks and assessments will be provided to allow students to prepare adequately for Unit 3.

Health and Physical Education

Physical Education (Years 7 - 10)

During Headstart, students will take part in a range of fun minor games designed to help them get to know each other, build confidence and develop teamwork. These sessions will also introduce the fundamental movement and sport-specific skills they'll be using in early-term units next year. The focus is on positive participation, cooperation and setting students up for an enjoyable and successful start to their PE program.

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh

Students will engage in activities that familiarise them with the requirements of the course and develop essential outdoor skills. They will practice basic tent craft, including pitching, packing and maintaining tents, to build confidence and preparedness for future expedition challenges.

Year 9 Fit For Life

Students will take part in activities that examine why people participate in physical activity, exploring the benefits. They will reflect on personal motivations and experiences, considering how enjoyment, challenge and social connections influence participation and engagement in different types of movement.

Year 10 Human Movement

Students will explore the structure and function of the skeletal system through hands-on activities. They will learn how bones support movement, protect organs and work with muscles to produce physical activity.

Physical Education Unit 1 & 2

Students investigate how the musculoskeletal system works to produce movement. Through a mix of practical activities and theory, they explore how muscles and bones interact, examine common musculoskeletal injuries, and evaluate the ethical use of permitted and prohibited substances or methods to enhance performance.

Physical Education Unit 3 & 4

Students explore how the body produces energy during physical activity. Through practical experiments and data collection, they analyse the interplay of the three energy systems, examine what causes fatigue, and evaluate effective recovery strategies.

Year 8 Health

Students will be completing SunSmart activities that help them understand the importance of UV protection and safe behaviours in the sun. Through interactive tasks, they'll learn practical strategies to stay safe outdoors and make informed choices about sun exposure.

Year 9 Health

Students will be exploring the different dimensions of health through a series of engaging activities that highlight how physical, social, mental and emotional wellbeing

are interconnected. These tasks encourage students to reflect on their own health and develop strategies to maintain balance across all areas of their lives.

Year 10 Health

Students will be working through activities that deepen their understanding of the National Physical Activity Guidelines and how they apply to everyday life. They will also reflect on their own behaviours and activity levels, exploring practical ways to meet the recommendations for lifelong health and wellbeing.

Year 10 Health Priority

Students will engage in activities that help them explore the key dimensions of health and wellbeing. They will reflect on factors that influence personal and community health and develop strategies to enhance their own wellbeing and make informed health choices.

Health and Human Development Unit 1 & 2

Students will be focusing on the concepts of health and wellbeing and the factors that influence them. Through targeted activities and discussions, they'll build a strong foundation for understanding how individual and population health is measured, promoted, and supported.

Health and Human Development Unit 3 & 4

Through the study of VCE Health and Human Development, students investigate health and wellbeing, and human development in national and global contexts. During Headstart students will explore health and wellbeing and illness as global, dynamic and subjective concepts. Benefits of optimal health and wellbeing and its importance as an individual and collective resource is examined. Students will review the indicators of health status and use data to evaluate the health status of Australians.

Year 11 Certificate III in Sport, Aquatics and Recreation

Students will engage in activities that help them understand current trends, standards and practices in the sport, aquatics and recreation industry. They will develop the skills to maintain and update their industry knowledge, ensuring they can work safely, effectively and professionally in a variety of sport and recreation settings.

Year 12 Certificate III in Sport, Aquatics and Recreation

Students will focus on activities that build their understanding of workplace health and safety requirements in the sport and recreation industry. They will learn to identify risks, implement safe work practices, and ensure the wellbeing of themselves and others in a variety of recreational and sporting environments.

Humanities

Politics Unit 1&2

Students will begin to unpack what is ‘politics’, the rise of authoritarianism, the role of democracy in Australia and how groups and individuals shape society.

Politics Unit 3&4

Students will begin Unit 3 by examining *global cooperation and conflict* by focusing on Lebanon’s financial crisis to understand the importance and relevance of global economic security. They will explore how global issues transcend national boundaries, investigate diverse factors that cause conflict; including social, political, economic, environmental, ideological, cultural and technological dimensions. Students will analyse the effectiveness of international responses to these challenges, international law and global institutions to facilitate cooperation between state and non-state actors.

Languages

Year 8

Learning about Italian / French Christmas traditions and describing what we do at Christmas in Italian / French. Introduction to the Year 8 French course, expectations, and learning resources, revision of greetings, classroom language, and basic conversation. Explore Italian / French culture and traditions and goal setting for language learning in 2026

Year 9

Focus on Italian conversation skills, personal world, Revision of key grammar and vocabulary from Year 8. Holiday task booklet to maintain skills over summer

Year 10

Presentation of course structure, expectations, and key resources. Speaking and writing tasks about family, school life, and free time

Grammar revision from Year 9 (verbs, adjectives, opinions)

Cultural activities and discussion of Italian /French lifestyle

Holiday practice booklet and suggested online tools

Year 11

Introduction to the VCE Italian/Fench Unit 1–2 structure and assessments

Review of general conversation topics

Grammar consolidation and oral practice

Distribution of a holiday revision booklet

Suggestions for apps, podcasts, and videos in Italian

Year 12

Overview of Unit 3&4 structure and SAC expectations

Focus on oral presentation preparation and personal topics

Introduction to research task themes

Listening and speaking practice for independent study

Distribution of a holiday revision booklet

Suggestions for apps and podcasts

Maths

Year 8 Maths

Students will revise key number skills including times tables, negative integers, rounding and square and cube numbers. They will work through a Headstart booklet containing practice tasks and problem-solving activities. Students will be encouraged to continue practising their times tables, squares and square roots regularly during the holidays to support their transition into Year 8 in 2026.

Year 9 Maths

Students will consolidate essential numeracy skills, including multiplication tables, operations with negative integers, rounding techniques, and understanding of square and cube numbers. They will complete a Headstart workbook comprising practice exercises and problem-solving activities. To facilitate a smooth transition into Year 9, students are encouraged to regularly review and practise all aspects of the material covered in the Headstart program throughout the holiday period.

Year 10 Maths

Students will be learning about surds and indices. Students will be given a booklet to work through during Headstart and will be required to complete it prior to starting in 2026.

Year 10 Mathematics (General Maths Pathway)

Students will be learning about the topics of indices and significant figures. Headstart will also be used to review CAS calculator skills. Students will be given a booklet to work through during Headstart and will be required to complete it prior to starting in 2026.

General Maths Unit 1/2

Students will be covering the topic of linear relations and modelling. A booklet will be provided in addition to online resources on Google Classroom.

Maths Methods Units 1&2

Students will be consolidating skills for the topics of linear relations, simultaneous equations and quadratics. They will also explore families of graphs. Students will be provided a booklet and online resources on Google Classroom.

Specialist Maths Units 1&2

Students will be consolidating skills in number systems and sets. Students will be provided notes for each lesson and all resources will be on Google Classroom.

Foundation Maths Unit 3&4

Students will be working through the following topics: Working with number, order of operations, fractions, decimals and percentages, rounding and significant figures. Students will be given a booklet and resources on Google Classroom.

General Maths Units 3&4

General Maths consists of four major topics. Data Analysis, Recursion & Financial Modelling, Matrices and Networks. Students will commence work on Recursion & Financial Modelling. A booklet will be provided along with access to the relevant chapter from the textbook on Onenote. Students will be advised on work that is to be completed by the start of the 2026 year.

Maths Methods Unit 3&4

Students will be revising some Units 1&2 content in preparation for Units 3&4. Topics include: quadratic equations, literal equations and simultaneous equations. Students will be given a booklet and have access to resources on OneNote.

Performing Arts - Music

Year 8

Students will dive into the world of Christmas pop music, analysing and comparing styles before creating and performing small-group arrangements.

Year 9

The songwriting journey begins with journals focused on crafting engaging titles and themes designed to hook an audience and an introduction into the use of supportive music technology.

Year 10

Learners will undertake a *Mini Passion Project*, investigating a chosen musical style, technique, or artist and presenting their findings through a short solo or group performance.

VCE Music

Senior students will start shaping their artistic goals with musical vision boards and detailed performance planning for 2026.

Science

Year 8

Students will develop their practical skills by using microscopes.

Year 9

Students will learn about electricity generation and develop inquiry skills through solar panel and wind turbine practicals

Year 10

Science of Survival – students will learn about human evolution

Year 10 Life Beyond Earth

Students will engage in the engineering design process and complete a number of design challenges

Year 10 Medical Science

Students learn about changes to approaches to medicine over time. They critique the scientific basis of cryogenics. Students are introduced to Psychology as a scientific discipline, careers in different fields of Psychology and ethical guidelines in research.

Year 11 Biology

Students will be working on practical skills by investigating osmosis in gummy bears and evaluating the design and results of the practical.

Year 12 Biology

Students will be working on practical skills by investigating how temperature affects enzyme activity and evaluating the design and results of the practical.

Year 11 Physics

Physics students will investigate the difference between temperature and heat. They will heat various metals and also water under different conditions, gathering data about the effect of heat on temperature. Finally, they will carry out calculations of specific heat capacity to explain their observations.

Year 12 Physics

Students will spend Headstart investigating the motion of any object, that is thrown or hit; once it leaves your hand, a bat or a golf club. Students will calculate the horizontal and vertical components of this projectile motion and then be challenged to test their calculations to catch a ball bearing fired in the air!

Year 11 Chemistry

Students will extend their knowledge by learning about how electrons behave in atoms: the modern Schrodinger quantum mechanical model. Next, they will look more closely at the elements and see how they are arranged on the periodic table. They will investigate why some elements are being described as critical and endangered.

Year 12 Chemistry

Through practical investigation, students will consider different ways in which the energy content of a fuel is represented and be introduced to calculations involving energy changes. They will also evaluate the environmental impact of using different types of fuels.

Year 11 Psychology

Students learn about the interactive influences of hereditary and environmental factors on a person's psychological development. Students are introduced to key science skills through some simple practical investigations and consider ethical guidelines in research.

Year 12 Psychology

Students will start learning about the brain and nervous system and consolidate key science skills through practical investigations.