



St Paul's
ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Year 8



2025
Course Guide
Traralgon



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Welcome

Year 8 at St Paul's offers students many new experiences and opportunities both in their choice of subjects and in the co-curricular life of the School. Students should now have an understanding of the expectations of the School and have had opportunities to forge relationships with other students in the year level, a foundation for an enriched educational and social experience. Year 8 provides an opportunity to begin to try new activities and become involved with all that is on offer. Students are encouraged to consider joining one of the many groups or clubs to broaden their experiences and friendships.

Year 8 is part of a stage of learning where students build breadth and depth. They progress beyond the foundations and their literacy and numeracy skills become more developed. An expanded curriculum program provides the basis for in-depth learning.

Students will have much more choice in the subjects they can undertake this year through the Elective Program. The core subjects continue and will introduce students to many new concepts and skills. The Head of Years 7 and 8 and the Year 8 teachers work hard to ensure there are interesting, challenging and enjoyable opportunities for all students. As they start to take ownership of their educational journey, it is important for students to find out what is on offer and undertake some of these challenges.

Year 8 students work through a specifically designed Pastoral Care program with the Head of Year and the Year 8 Mentors, in conjunction with the Chaplain. This program aims to improve student wellbeing, develop leadership skills and further develop a sense of community. Specific topics undertaken in the Pastoral Care program in Year 8 include:

- Transition to Year 8
- Communication (including social media)
- Relationships
- Goal Setting, Future Thinking and Growth Mindset
- Digital Footprint
- Resilience
- Identity

Year 8 Curriculum



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At St Paul's we are committed to developing students so that they may become members of a caring, global community. In our curriculum, we encourage students to seek knowledge beyond the boundaries of their local and national communities and to understand and appreciate the cultural diversity that exists throughout the world.

We also adopt a holistic approach to educating each student and emphasise the development of independent learning skills, as well as international understanding. This is consistent with our aim of utilising the best aspects of Middle Schooling philosophy in the development of our curriculum.

In addition, we are committed to assisting all students to reach their personal best. We believe this goal can be accomplished if they are encouraged to be discerning, inquiring, articulate and creative learners in both curricular and co-curricular programs. The curriculum aims to provide students with opportunities to enhance these enduring qualities, which will serve them well throughout their lives.

Year 8 Subjects

Core Program

- Christian Studies
- English
- Humanities
- Language: Japanese
- Mathematics
- Health and Physical Education
- Science
- Sport
- Computer Science (CS) in Schools (short program)

Electives

- Fun With Food
- International Sports
- Modern Timber Designs
- Robotics
- Performing Arts: Musical Theatre
- Performing Arts: Music Performance and Composition
- Visual Arts: Art in 3D
- Visual Arts: Photos in Motion



Christian Studies

Christian values are woven into everyday teaching and learning throughout the year.

Faith issues are a natural part of classroom activity, not contrived or forced. Teachers uncover the beliefs that are the basis of all subjects and work from these to encourage the development of discernment and imagination.

Course Description

Christian Studies is an introduction to the spiritual dimension of life and aims to provide students with experiences fundamental to their search for meaning, value and purpose in life.

Areas of Study

During this course, students will:

- Explore values and offer a critique of contemporary media.
- Explore the historical aspects of Jesus' life.
- Explore the heart of God's people through the Psalms.
- Investigate Kingdom principles through the stories Jesus told.

Assessment

Students may be assessed according to the standard of their completion of the following activities:

- Document studies.
- Practical exercises.
- Research assignments.



English

Course Description

This unit is designed to be challenging, interesting and satisfying. In particular, the course aims to provide opportunities for each student to progressively develop their writing, listening and speaking skills. Throughout the course, students engage with a rich variety of texts and encounter texts as diverse as advertisements, poetry, mythology and contemporary novels. Students are encouraged to experiment with language and form and to further refine their oral communication skills in a variety of settings and contexts.

The students create texts for different purposes, selecting language to influence audience response. They develop their understanding of grammatical structures, select vocabulary for effect and are taught a range of strategies for planning, structuring and revising their work.

Areas of Study

Reading and Viewing

- To read a range of literary texts and analyse themes, characters, plot and setting.
- To critically analyse texts that are part of everyday culture, such as advertisements.

Writing

- To develop writing skills, particularly in the areas of personal writing, creative writing, descriptive writing and persuasive writing.
- To develop skills in responding analytically and creatively to literary texts.
- To continue to develop spelling, punctuation and grammar skills.
- To develop a rich vocabulary and experiment with language.

Listening and Speaking

- To contribute confidently and positively to small group and class discussions.
- To deliver prepared and impromptu speeches.



Health and Physical Education

Health and Physical Education (HPE) has a unique and significant contribution to make to education. It plays a very important role at St Paul's as it contributes to the holistic development of the individual. Learning through physical activity is a distinguishing feature in the practical component of the course. Health and Physical Education is concerned with more than sports and games. The clear goal is to contribute to the development of a student's physical, intellectual, emotional and social maturity.

Health and Physical Education also aims to cultivate a healthy lifestyle for students and advocates activities that are enjoyable and contribute to healthy living.

Course Description

Health and Physical Education combines an understanding of a healthy lifestyle with the acquisition of physical fitness and skills. Students are given the opportunity to experience a wide range of physical activities to develop and build motor skills, fitness and cooperation. The theory component of the course develops an awareness of behaviours that contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Areas of Study

Theoretical

The course is designed to develop an awareness, knowledge and understanding of behaviours that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Fitness components and training techniques.
- Personal identity.
- Disability and Sport.
- Safe sex practices.
- Awareness of sexually transmitted infections.

Practical

The practical element of the HPE program encourages the development of physical, mental and social skills by introducing students to a wide range of sporting and recreational activities. Students experience a range of individual and team activities to improve their teamwork, fitness, skills and personal development. Activities are structured so that all can achieve some success and help in the development of a positive self-image with a strong emphasis on participation, respectful conduct and fair play. Through such participation, students will be able to appreciate the benefits of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

Students learn to:

- Understand the importance of fitness - how to begin and maintain it.
- Participate in physical activities such as swimming, minor games, field games and court games promoting a healthy lifestyle.
- Participate in a range of individual and team activities to improve teamwork, fitness, skills and personal development.
- Develop a positive self-image with a strong emphasis on participation, respectful conduct and fair play.

Sports include:

- Fitness
- Minor Games
- Cricket
- Archery
- Netball



Humanities

Course Description

The Humanities curriculum provides a study of history, geography, governance and economics. The course examines the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern period (c.650 – c.1750 CE). This was when major civilisations around the world came into contact with each other. Social, economic, religious and political beliefs were often challenged and significantly changed. Students explore Medieval Europe and the roles and relationships of this era. Humanities in Year 8 is also about the significance, interconnection and characteristics of places and the relationships between them. Students focus on the nature of landscapes and the forces, processes and factors that shape them physically, as well as people's perceptions and use of them. Finally, students investigate governance, economics and community and neighbourhood in the context of urban landscapes.

Areas of Study

Semester 1

- Unit 1: Geography: Landforms and Landscapes.
- Unit 2: Civics and Citizenship: Citizenship, Diversity and Identity.
- Unit 3: History: Medieval History and Plague.

Semester 2

- Unit 4: Civics and Citizenship: Laws and Citizens.
- Unit 5: History: Shogunate Japan.
- Unit 6: Civics and Citizenship: Government, Democracy and Markets.
- Unit 7: Geography: Changing Nations.



Languages: Japanese

Course Description

The Year 8 course will provide students with the opportunity to continue to develop an understanding of the Japanese language and culture. Students will study topics based around everyday life and teenage interests and make comparisons between Australian and Japanese customs. The units of work are based on the Obento Deluxe series (retained from Year 7). Education Perfect, an online digital platform, is an additional technology used to improve student learning outcomes.

Learning Outcomes

Listening and Speaking

- Engage in real or simulated conversations and everyday transactions in familiar situations through imitating and adapting models.
- Participate in performances, paying attention to rhythm and intonation.
- Demonstrate verbal and non-verbal language including gestures and cues appropriate to Japanese culture in role plays or in classroom-based activities.
- Identify and imitate when to use culturally appropriate language and gestures.

Reading

- Use different types of printed materials and be able to read extended text.
- Access Japanese material online.
- Demonstrate comprehension of conversations, read dialogues, extracts of text, letters and magazine articles.
- Identify the main message in a text and use this information in an activity.
- Recognise Katakana script and some Kanji characters.

Writing

- Make summaries and organise information.
- Write letters and articles for a range of audiences, using culturally appropriate language.
- Present information about events, experiences or topics to suit different audiences and contexts.
- Use Japanese script appropriately and accurately to express themselves.
- Write all of the Katakana script and some Kanji characters.



Mathematics

Course Description

Mathematics is the study of function and pattern in number, logic, space and structure. It provides both a framework for thinking and a means of symbolic communication that is powerful, logical, concise and unambiguous and a means by which people can understand and manage their environment.

Students will develop mathematical skills for everyday living, employment and further study. Students have the opportunity to enhance and monitor their overall mathematical skills through their participation in the Maths Online homework program.

The Mathematics program provides the opportunity for students to be challenged through the Australian Mathematics Competition and other Mathematics extension activities.

Areas of Study

As outlined in the Australian Curriculum, Mathematics consists of the following areas of study:

- Number
- Algebra
- Measurement
- Space
- Statistics
- Probability

In this course, students will:

- Understand and apply key concepts.
- Use a calculator to perform calculations involving fractions, decimals and percentages.
- Use problem-solving techniques.
- Use mathematical software such as Maths Online.



Science

Course Description

Everyone needs to understand the processes of science to live intelligent, productive lives in our modern society. Science impacts our daily lives, our long-term health and wellbeing, and the nature of the world in which we live.

In Year 8, students build on the investigative skills they have developed in Year 7. Students are introduced to cells and link form and function at a cellular level to explore the organisation of body systems. Similarly, they explore changes in matter at a particle level and distinguish between chemical and physical change. They begin to classify different forms of energy and describe the role of energy in causing change in systems, including the role of heat and kinetic energy in the rock cycle. Students use experimentation to isolate relationships between components in systems, make predictions and propose explanations, drawing on evidence to support their views. Students will also undertake a prescribed extended research project.

Areas of Study

Biological Sciences

- Cells, their structure and function.
- Organs in multi-cellular organisms.
- Animal systems and how they enable the survival of the individual.

Chemical Sciences

- Elements and the periodic table.
- Differences between elements, compounds and mixtures.
- Chemical reactions and energy.
- Corrosion and combustion.

Earth and Space Sciences

- Types of rocks and minerals and how they are formed in the Earth's crust.
- Dynamic Earth and theory of plate tectonics.

Physical Sciences

- Different forms of energy.
- Energy transfer and transformation.
- Energy and electrical circuits.
- Energy efficiency.

EPI

- Design an appropriate experiment to investigate a topic.
- Conduct the experiment and collect data.
- Produce a formal report to analyse the results of the investigation and evaluate the methodology used.



Year 8 2025 Elective Selection Form

Year 8 students will undertake two elective subjects each semester, a total of four over the year. The electives listed below are available for selection and students will ultimately study four of these. It may not be possible to give students their four preferred subjects, but every effort will be made to do so. Students cannot choose electives they have previously studied at Year 7.

Students are required to make their choices and submit these online during the subject selection process. Individual instructions will be provided in due course.

Elective Choices

- Fun With Food
- International Sports
- Modern Timber Designs
- Robotics
- Performing Arts: Music Performance and Composition*
- Performing Arts: Musical Theatre*
- Visual Arts: Art in 3D*
- Visual Arts: Photos in Motion*

* Please note, if a student did not complete a Performing Arts subject in Year 7, they are required to do so in Year 8. This also applies to Visual Art subjects.

Unit Name	Preference Rank
Elective One:	1
Elective Two:	2
Elective Three:	3
Elective Four:	4
Reserve One:	5
Reserve Two:	6

Web Preference Selection

Every student will be given an individual instruction sheet for completing this process online.

Students can complete this process at home or at school during the school day. The computer must be connected to the internet and to a printer. This process must be completed, and the printed and **signed** Preference Receipt must be returned to the Traralgon Secondary School Office by **Friday 23 August, at 3:10 pm**. Late submission will mean that students may have their elective placement choices made for them by the Head of Year. No form will be accepted without a parent or guardian's signature.

Please note that whilst every effort is made to accommodate student choices, it may not always be possible. Students are asked to select reserves just in case.



Fun With Food

Course Description

Continue your journey into the wonderful world of food. Further enhance your food preparation skills by producing more complex recipes, some with an international theme, while learning about the origin and nutritional value of key foods. You will begin to understand why some ingredients have a specific function in a recipe. Presentation skills will be further enhanced to make your dishes stand out from the crowd with garnishing and decorating techniques. The Healthy Eating Pyramid and sustainable food choices will also be investigated.

Areas of Study

Safety and Hygiene

- Safe and hygienic use of food, tools and equipment during food preparation.
- Effective and efficient work habits and use of resources.
- Effective communication and interpersonal skills.

Preparation, production and presentation techniques

- Development and demonstration of organisational skills and presentation techniques during food preparation.
- Functional food properties and preparation processes.

Food and nutrition

- Origins and nutritional properties of key foods.
- Food selection model - The Healthy Eating Pyramid.
- Influences on food choices.
- Sustainable food production processes.



International Sports

Course Description

This unit offers students the opportunity to be physically active and participate in a range of international sports that are either unique, highly popular or originate in Asia or North America. This unit will be designed to assist students to further develop their skill level, teamwork, understanding and game strategies. Our North American unit will consist of sports such as Ultimate Frisbee, Lacrosse, Basketball and Flag Football (NFL). Our Asian unit will include sports like Badminton, Table Tennis, Baseball, Yoga, Tai Chi and a Martial Art.

In this course, students will:

- Participate in a range of international sports.
- Practice and refine physical skills and movements.
- Work cooperatively with others.
- Understand where sports have originated from or where sports are highly popular.

Areas of Study

- North American Sports.
- Asian Sports.

Assessment

Assessment will include:

- Effort and attitude.
- Organisation.
- Skill level in practical activities.
- Teamwork and communication skills.
- Knowledge and understanding of each activity.



Modern Timber Designs

Course Description

In this elective, you will explore how computer-generated designs are used to mass produce furniture items, how flat packs are an effective way of making and transporting items and how to combine a variety of hard materials such as plastics, timber and glass. You will explore how laser technology is used for precision cutting and how 3D printing can add a creative twist to your project design. You will understand the design process, practise drawing techniques and develop a building plan.

Areas of Study

Designing Projects

- Drawing skills and use of ICT design programs.
- Creative ideas.
- Making objects functional and making suitable modifications.
- Measurement and scale.
- Shapes and strengths.

Working Materials: Wood

- Safety.
- Marking out.
- Cutting with accuracy.
- Joining methods.
- Finishing methods.

Theoretical

The course is designed to develop a student's ability to recognise their needs and research possible designs to meet those needs. A design book is maintained that reflects research and modifications made to produce a design of their own project. Students will learn to sketch accurate designs, cost their project and plan the process and order of their build.

Practical

Completion of projects and use of technology for design purposes.



Robotics

Course Description

Would you like to enhance your Python programming skills and use these to solve practical, real-world problems, or create an interactive game simply for entertainment? Would you like to learn how scientists can collect data when out in the field? If the answer to one or more of these questions is yes, then the Robotics elective in Year 8 is for you!

Robotics is a fascinating and exciting world of complex and sophisticated machines. From intelligent home management systems to medical robots you swallow, robots are becoming more commonplace.

This unit introduces students to a practical study of robotics. Students learn and develop the skills involved in the control of robotic systems. They learn how computer programs can be written to read sensors, perform calculations and send output.

Areas of Study

Design to Programming

- Introduction to sensors.
- How to read sensors (receive input) and send output in Python.
- How to write basic Python functions to simplify programs.
- Introduction to flow charts.
- Completion of a series of programming tutorials.

Major Design Project

- Students plan and design an automated device or game.
- Incorporation of Python programming commands and skills learnt in the “Design to Programming” area of study.
- Use of flowcharts to plan and show the flow and logic of their program.
- Completion of the major design project will incorporate:
 - An initial design and description of their design.
 - A flowchart showing the logic of their program.
 - A bug-free program that allows their automated project to operate correctly and demonstrates their depth of knowledge in programming.
 - Additional design features.



Performing Arts: Drama and Music

The Arts are a form of human expression through activity. They contribute to the School's curriculum by offering a distinctive way of learning that integrates seeing, feeling, hearing, thinking and creating into a powerful, effective visual and aural communication form.

Through the Arts, students work both cooperatively and individually and have opportunities to research, identify and discuss issues. They are encouraged to provide insights, opinions, solutions and resolutions, and to reflect on, appreciate and evaluate artwork. The arts are a powerful medium for the exploration of the human condition, our society and our world. In this respect, they are a powerful educational tool for the exploration of different areas of the curriculum and of different cultures.

Music Performance and Composition

Course Description

Would you like to learn music through performance? In this course, class time will be devoted to playing, listening to, and composing music as a group. Students will develop their skills as musicians and their confidence as performers by playing music together using a combination of different instruments. They will also have the opportunity to compose their own pieces of music using sequencing software.

Areas of Study

- Create melodies and accompaniments in different styles.
- Reflect both formally and informally on their own and others' work.
- Analyse and compare music styles from different times in history.
- Improve personal aural and musicianship skills, developing personal listening, rhythmic and melodic skills.
- Develop skills using notation and sequencing software to assist in composition and aural activities.
- Perform vocal and instrumental music in different group types to a variety of audiences.

Assessment

Students will be assessed according to the standard of their completion of the following activities:

- Group vocal/instrumental composition and performance.
- Homework activities including aural development and research.
- Formal musicianship and aural tests.
- Research/analysis of known and unknown songs.



Musical Theatre

Course Description

Do you enjoy the idea of singing, acting and moving, or do you think you might? This unit is designed to help you develop your performance skills and hone your ability to be a versatile and confident performer on the stage. Musical theatre repertoire will be selected from popular musicals, as well as those more unfamiliar to many students. A large component of this course will also be focused around rehearsal preparation and how this can be structured to lead to an ideal performance.

Areas of Study

- Develop and use characters in a variety of stories and settings.
- Develop skills and confidence through the creation of a solo performance.
- Start to analyse script to improve personal performance skills.
- Develop and apply expressive skills in practical activities.
- Reflect upon, analyse and evaluate their own work and others to further develop dramatic understanding.
- Work individually and in small and large groups to demonstrate dramatic understanding.



Visual Arts: Art in 3D

Course Description

Students will explore space and form as they build, construct and assemble a variety of three-dimensional works. Students will explore several different artists as inspiration for their creative processes, as they journey through different art styles and movements. Students will seek inspiration from the world around them as they develop their skills in a variety of mediums such as ceramics, sculpture, carving, assemblage and Modroc.

Areas of Study

- Exploring the use of design elements and principles in art.
- Exploration of sculpture and techniques.

Assessment

Students will be assessed according to the standard of their completion of the following activities:

Practical

- Developmental workbook - ideas, experiments, sketches, notes and process development.
- Classroom and artwork tasks.

Theoretical

- Research, reflection and evaluation activities.
- Artwork analysis.



Visual Arts: Photos in Motion

Course Description

This subject combines the mediums of photography, media and animation. You will be introduced to the fundamentals of digital photography, animation and filmmaking. Create still and moving pieces of digital art as you develop your skills in the use of IT programs that are favoured by professional artists working in digital media, such as Adobe Photoshop, Final Cut Pro X and Adobe Flash. Experiment with the secrets behind special effects such as green screening, while learning about the principles and processes involved in stop-motion animation and Claymation.

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