



St Paul's
ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Year 8

2025
Course Guide
Warragul



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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, providing them with 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 and broaden their experiences and friendships in this way.

Year 8 is 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 continue to have choice in the subjects they can take this year through the Electives Program. The core subjects continue and will introduce students to many new concepts and skills. Head of Year 8 and Year 8 teachers work hard to ensure that there are interesting, challenging and enjoyable opportunities for all students. It is important that students find out what the options are and take up some of the challenges that are offered as they begin to take ownership of their educational journey.

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

- Communication (including social media)
- Relationships
- Risk Taking
- Goal Setting and Future Thinking
- Digital Footprint
- Role Models



Mrs Debbie Cameron

Head of Secondary



Mr Grant Coulthard

Head of Year 8



Mrs Bethany Thearle

Director of Studies – Middle Years



Year 8 Curriculum

Year 8 Subjects

Core Program

- Christian Studies
- English
- Health
- Humanities
- Language: Japanese
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Sport

Electives (students choose four of these for Year 8)

- Active for Life
- Architecture and Design
- Art in 3D
- A Slice of Art
- Code and Create (compulsory)
- Crime Scene Investigations: Forensics
- Drama: Make a Scene!
- Foodies
- Gamers: IT and Games programming
- Making Stuff that Moves
- Music: Bring on the Music
- Music: Find Your Groove (compulsory)
- Photos in Motion
- Robotics
- Textiles: Designers in the Making



Christian Studies

Course Description

Christian Studies encourages students to consider the spiritual dimension of life. It aims to provide students with experiences fundamental to their search for meaning, value and purpose. During the first semester students will explore the historical context of Jesus' life and teaching, with a particular focus on the parables. During the second semester students will explore the poetry of the Old Testament Psalms and the contemporary expressions of values through popular movies and other forms of media.

Areas of Study

Historical Jesus

Christianity is unique among the world's religions because it claims that God has revealed himself to us not simply through words on a page but in the person of Jesus Christ. In this unit, we will explore the evidence that Jesus was a real man, living in a real time and place.

Parables of Jesus

Many people came to hear Jesus when he preached in Galilee. Jesus tried to teach people through stories. He wanted everybody to be able to understand his teachings. He told stories about familiar things. Some of the stories that Jesus told the people were parables. A parable is a story that has a lesson or special meaning to it. In this unit we will explore some of Jesus' parables and consider how they might be communicated today.

Psalms

This unit introduces us to the ancient poetry of the Bible. In this unit, we will study these timeless songs, exploring what they reveal about God and his character, and considering what they say about how we can relate to him. The book of Psalms helps us see how people can relate to God in the midst of emotions and struggles that are part of every human life.

Values in the Media

"The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses." (Malcolm X). In this unit, we explore the way values are conveyed through movies, culminating in a critique of a movie of your choosing.



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, the students engage with a rich variety of texts, encountering 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 languages 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

Course Description

This course at Year 8 is designed to develop an awareness, knowledge and understanding of behaviours which contribute to a healthy life. Students engage in active discussion which promotes an appreciation of the consequences of positive and negative health behaviours. They will identify outcomes of risk taking behaviours, and evaluate harm minimisation strategies.

Areas of Study

Body Image

- Emotional health.
- Self-esteem.
- Values.
- Future thinking.

Sexuality

- Basic anatomy and physiology and the reproductive system.
- Diversity.
- Consent.
- Fertilisation, including a brief overview of pregnancy and birth.
- Introduction to contraception.
- Sexually transmitted infections and diseases.

Alcohol/Cannabis

- Effects on the body.
- Developing assertive social skills to enable healthy decision making processes.
- Learning how to recognise and cope with potentially threatening or dangerous situations.

Diseases and Disabilities

- Recognition of a disability.
- Understanding and assisting a person with a disability.
- Common diseases in our community.



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 at 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 which 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

This 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 tool used to see technology improve student learning outcomes.

Areas of Study

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 material and be able to read extended text.
- Access Japanese material online.
- Demonstrate comprehension of conversations, read dialogues, extracts of texts, 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 using guided examples of different text types 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 by their participation in the Maths Online homework program.

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



Physical Education

Course Description

This course at Year 8 encourages the development of physical, mental and social skills by introducing students to a range of sporting and recreational activities. These individual and team activities aim to improve each student's teamwork, fitness, skills and personal development. Activities are structured so that all can achieve some success and develop a positive self-image through a strong emphasis on participation and fair play. Through such participation, students are able to appreciate the benefits of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle.

Areas of Study

Tactical and Strategy based games

- Participation in minor games to build game sense.

Technical Games

- Development of ball skills, both hand and foot.

Court Possession Games

- Participation in Badminton, Basketball and Handball to develop and enhance skills, positional awareness and offensive and defensive tactics.

Field Possession Games

- Participation in Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee and Aussie Rules Football to develop and enhance skills, positional awareness and offensive and defensive tactics.

Fitness

- Understanding and developing fitness.
- Participation in a variety of fitness activities to help develop and improve fitness levels.
- Fitness testing and components.



Science

Course Description

Everyone needs to understand the processes of science to live intelligent, productive lives in our modern society. Science impacts on 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 and they 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.



Sport

Course Description

The key objectives are for Sport to have a positive effect on a participant's confidence, self-esteem and social interaction, through a program where the main emphasis is on 'Sports for Life'. The course also focuses on sports rules, co-operative play and enjoyment through activity.

Each Year 8 House group will work in a team environment participating in a variety of sports. Several sessions will be spent on each sport, commencing with rules of the sport and an understanding of how to play the sport whilst still maximising participation in competitive game situations.

Areas of Study

Throughout the course of the year, students will learn the rules and game play for several different sports. They will also display respectful conduct in sports, and their ability to operate in a team environment.

In the course students will participate in the following:

- Basketball
- Softball
- Tennis
- Fitness (circuit, walking, stretching)
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Table Tennis
- Badminton
- Touch Football
- Boxercise
- Ultimate Frisbee



2025 Elective Selection Process

Year 8 students will undertake two elective subjects in 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.

Of their four choices for the year, students must choose one subject from each of the following blocks:

- Block A: Performing Arts
- Block B: Visual Arts
- Block C: Technology
- Block D: Free Choice

Subject selections are made online. Individual instructions will be provided.

Any student who feels they have good reason to vary the elective arrangement below must apply in writing to the Director of Studies. This letter must be signed by a parent and attached to the online Preference Receipt page.

Block A Performing Arts	Block B Visual Arts	Block C Technology and the community	Block D Free Choice (This must not be a subject already chosen in Blocks A–C)
Drama: Make a Scene!	Architecture and Design	Active for Life	Active for Life
Music: Find Your Groove (compulsory – must be selected if not done in Year 7)	Art in 3D	Code and Create (compulsory – must be selected if not done in Year 7)	Architecture and Design
Music: Bring on the Music (Advanced)	A Slice of Art	Foodies	Art in 3D
	Photos in Motion	Gamers: IT and Games Programming	A Slice of Art
		Making Stuff that Moves	Code and Create (compulsory – must be selected if not done in Year 7)
		Robotics	Crime Scene Investigation
		Textiles: Designers in the Making	Drama: Make a Scene!
		Crime Scene Investigation	Foodies
			Gamers: IT and Games Pro- gramming
			Making Stuff that Moves
			Music: Bring on the Music (Advanced)
			Music: Find Your Groove (compulsory – must be selected if not done in Year 7)
			Photos in Motion
			Robotics
			Textiles: Designers in the Making



Web Preference Selection

Every student will be given an individual instruction sheet for completing this process on **Thursday 1 August 2024**. 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 by **Friday 16 August 2024**. The signed Preference Receipt must be returned to the Head of Year by **3:10pm on Friday 16 August 2024**. 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. Students can change their preferences during the above period. 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.



Block A – Performing Arts Electives

Drama: Make a Scene!

Drama: Make a Scene! focuses on the development of confident and creative performers. Students participate in a range of activities including mime, improvisation, monologue, duologue and group devised performance pieces. While this subject has a strong focus on developing dramatic skills and an engagement with performance and stagecraft, it also fosters personal growth and confidence through challenges and problem-solving. Students will enjoy the challenge of planning, devising, rehearsing, and performing a range of pieces.

Music: Find Your Groove (compulsory)

Find Your Groove encompasses practical, theoretical, and listening skills. Students are introduced to rhythmic and melodic notation and utilise these through the study of rhythm section instruments to perform individually and as an ensemble. Students explore, investigate, compose, analyse and perform different styles of music. Students compose their own compositions using ICT resources.

Music: Bring on the Music (advanced)

Bring on the Music encompasses practical, theoretical, and listening skills for students who enjoy or have a passion for music. Students are introduced to rhythmic and melodic notation and utilise these through the study of a concert band instrument to perform individually, in small groups and as a class. Students explore, investigate, compose, analyse, and perform different styles of music. Students compose their own compositions using ICT resources.



Block B – Visual Arts Electives

Architecture and Design

Ever wondered how architects and designers bring their visions to fruition? In this subject, you will learn to think like a designer as you find creative solutions to design challenges. You will develop skills in a variety of drawing systems and technology applications as you learn more about the role of scale and perspective in the process of architectural design. Follow the design process through the concept, to drawing and sketching, to 3D modelling and production while tackling challenges such as designing urban environments and using digital practices.

Art in 3D

Unleash the artist in you by designing and producing artistic creations in 3D. Discover the connection between sculpture and other art disciplines as they relate to 3D Art. Students will explore, develop and evaluate their own and other artists' ideas as they are inspired by works from different cultures and historical contexts. By applying the art elements and principles, students will create their own visual language as they experiment with different sculpture mediums, for example, papier-mâché, modroc and clay. Students will gain knowledge in additive, subtractive and assemblage techniques as sources of construction. Add another dimension to your creativity!

A Slice of Art

Get creative with drawing, painting and printmaking. Using traditional methods of art making, students will investigate, enhance and critique the fundamentals of art using a creative process. By researching other artists and the world around them, students will discover a wide variety of ways of using different materials. Learn how to represent themes and concepts as well as express reactions, taking into account the approach of different cultures and times. Students will develop skills in composition, colour mixing, texture and brush techniques and begin to 'see' the world in an entirely new way.

Photos in Motion

This subject combines the mediums of photography, media and animation. You will be introduced to the fundamentals of digital photography, animation and film making. 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 the field of digital media such as Adobe Photoshop, Premiere Pro 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.



Block C – Technology Electives

Active for Life

This unit offers you the opportunity to be physically active and participate in a range of individual, fitness-based, recreational and leisure sports. In this unit you will be assisted to understand and appreciate the skills needed to partake in sporting activities for your entire life. You will also have the opportunity to pursue sports outside of the school environment. If you want to try a range of sports, or just have a passion for sports in general, this is the elective for you.

Code and Create (compulsory, must be undertaken once at either Year 7 or Year 8)

St Paul's students all undertake this coding unit as a part of their elective program at Years 7 and 8. Throughout the semester, you will learn the basics of coding and write your own code with continuous feedback and support. You will create your own programs and see the results. The foundations of the coding you learn are based on industry standards and prepare you to participate in a Year 9 elective in which you apply coding to create graphical interfaces.

Crime Scene Investigation: Forensic Science

Have you ever wondered how scientists get evidence from crime scenes? In this subject, you will find out about some of these skills with hands-on practical activities to investigate various scenarios. Forensic science uses a combination of chemistry, biology and physics. It involves making predictions, analysing evidence and drawing conclusions from the results. Working in small groups you will learn how to use a range of scientific equipment and scientific methods. You will use and develop your problem-solving skills and learn new techniques to obtain evidence to determine the pivotal question: who done-it?

Foodies

This subject is all about experimentation and creativity in the kitchen; there is so much you can do with food! Foodies will empower you to prepare food safely, confidently and creatively. You will also debunk the myths and learn fascinating facts about the science behind food and nutrition to support a healthy, active lifestyle.

Gamers: IT and Games Programming

Enter the exciting world of computer programming as you conceive, design and test your own computer games. You will learn about the processes that are hidden behind the screen of popular genres such as 2D and multiplayer games, hone your problem-solving skills and your ability to think strategically while developing programs within the Game Maker environment. If you have ever wanted to know how games are made and are keen to tackle the challenges of designing and creating your own games, this is the subject for you.

Making Stuff that Moves

This subject is about creatively imagining, designing and building products with moving parts. Learn to think like an engineer as you work through the design and production process. You will experiment with materials such as wood, plastics and even electronics as you design and build objects such as puzzles, games and moving toys. Engage in the processes involved in construction and engineering by designing and building scaled models such as bridges. Learn more about the future of construction by exploring the possibilities afforded by sustainable materials and cutting-edge technologies like 3D printing.



Robotics

What is the future of Artificial Intelligence? Ponder this question as you learn to program our latest Adafruit Robots to successfully follow your commands. Robotics is a fascinating and exciting world of complex and sophisticated machines; this practical subject will engage you in the process of programming and controlling robots to solve specific challenges. Develop your creative problem-solving skills as you attempt to overcome barriers, avoid obstacles and employ sensors such as touch, infrared and distance locators which robots use to find out about the world around them. Robot races and competitions provide an exciting backdrop in which to test your robot against those made by others.

Textiles: Designers in the Making

Welcome to the world of fashion and design. This subject enables you to imagine and then create products using textiles, or soft materials. Master the sewing machine as you develop skills in machining and garment construction. You will design your own products by applying the design process. By researching, developing and experimenting with different ways of making textiles, you will create your own custom designs. Learn more about the sustainable future of fabric design by experimenting with 'upcycling', the creative reuse of products to make something new.



St Paul's
ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Warragul Campus

150 Bowen Street, Warragul, 3820
Ph: 03 5623 5833

stpauls@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au



stpaulsags.vic.edu.au