YEAR 9 SUBJECT SELECTION HANDBOOK

Melba COLLEGE

Address: 20 Brentnall Rd, Croydon VIC 3136

Ph: 9870 4551 F: 9870 1784

Website: http://melba.vic.edu.au

Email: melba.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au

Year 9 Subject Selections

Melba College's Year 9 curriculum aims to provide students with significant choice. The program encourages students to focus on their interests to increase engagement with school during their middle years of schooling. Research indicates that in Year 9 scores in English and Maths are the most important indicators for Year 12 marks. The research also reflects that students often underachieve in Year 9 because they are disengaged from school.

To ensure Year 9 students are engaged and given an opportunity to achieve in their later years of schooling, they undertake studies in Mathematics, English and PE/Health as core subjects. Students also get to select a wide variety of semester-based electives where they pursue their interests within the areas of Humanities, Science, Technology, The Arts, Language, Health and Physical Education.

Below is a table to show the distribution of classes within Year 9:

English 9 periods per fortnight	**Mathematics** 9 periods per fortnight	**Physical Education** 5 periods per fortnight	**Health** 3 periods per fortnight
Elective 1 6 periods per fortnight	**Elective 2** 6 periods per fortnight	**Elective 3** 6 periods per fortnight	**Elective 4** 6 periods per fortnight

Over the course of the year, students will complete 8 electives (4 Semester One, 4 Semester Two). To maintain pathway options in senior school, students must choose at least one semester of Humanities, Science, The Arts and Technology. They may, however, choose more than one in a given area after they have made one choice in each of those areas. For example, students may choose several Technology subjects or Arts subjects depending on their interests.

The following booklet contains information on the various subjects being offered as part of the Year 9 course at Melba College. Students are asked to consider their choices carefully and ensure they are confident to undertake the areas of study they choose, as they may not have the opportunity to swap subjects once the courses have commenced.

Kind regards,

Matthew Lee

Principal

Subject information

English and EAL – Core class

Subject name:	**English**
Domain:	English/EAL
Subject Description:	Students listen to, read, view, interpret, evaluate and perform a range of written texts. Students develop skills in reading, writing, comprehension, and clear thinking. Students develop their understanding of how texts are influenced by context and purpose and use this knowledge to create their own texts. They develop essay writing skills through a study of dystopian fiction and identify and analyse features of a narrative.

Subject name:	**English as an Additional Language**
Domain:	English/EAL
Subject Description:	This area of study aims to enable students to develop critical This area of study aims to enable students to develop critical understanding and control when using Australian English in a variety of situations, both formally and informally in their worlds. Students will be expected to communicate ideas, feelings, observations, and information effectively both orally and in writing to a range of audiences. This course recognises and values student diversity and encourages self-esteem by enabling students to use the English language confidently and take responsibility for their own language development. Students carry out classroom activities that integrate the skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking.

English and EAL – Elective option

Subject name:	**Writing Fiction**
Domain:	English/EAL
Subject Description:	In Writing Fiction, students are encouraged to experiment with a range of writing styles, forms and genres for different audiences and purposes. The unit focus is on developing creative writing skills, whilst increasing students' awareness of effective writing. Students are exposed to a variety of writing genres and examine the various ways that authors engage with their audiences.

Mathematics – Core class

Subject name:	**Mathematics**
Domain:	Mathematics
Subject Description:	During Year 9, students will further develop their mathematical knowledge and skills in the six strands according to the Victorian Curriculum: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics, and Probability. In Number and Algebra, students apply index laws, solve problems involving simple interest, manipulate, solve and model algebraic equations, expand and factorise simple quadratic functions, and work with real and irrational numbers. In Measurement and Space, they solve problems involving perimeter, surface area and volume. Students also explain the similarity of triangles, apply Pythagoras' theorem and trigonometry to right-angled triangles, and explore transformation of shapes. In Statistics and Probability, they represent data graphically, use measures of centre and spread for given data, compare data sets, and estimate probabilities of events, including compounding probabilty. Students are exposed to a range of Mathematics topics in order to prepare them for different areas of the workforce. They will be expected to complete common assessment tasks in the form of topic tests and investigations.

Health and PE – Core class

Subject name:	**PE**
Domain:	PE/Health
Subject Description:	In Physical Education, students develop advanced skills in selected physical activities and combine motor skills, strategic thinking and tactical knowledge to improve individual and team performance. Students measure their personal fitness levels, and identify places within their community to maintain participation in vigorous physical activity.

Subject name:	**Health**
Domain:	PE/Health
Subject Description:	In Health, students develop knowledge of the rights and responsibilities associated with the increasing independence of young people, including in sexual relationships. They analyse the impact of changing issues and risks, including road safety and mental health, as a result of ageing and create ways to implement safe practices in day to day activities.

Health and Physical Education electives

Subject name:	PE Plus
Domain:	PE/ Health
Subject description:	Students will analyse skills and movement patterns used in performance, plan and introduce ways of improving physical performance and evaluate individual and group tactics used in sporting performances. Through developing an understanding of the energy requirements and fitness components related to a sport of choice, students will explore testing that is beneficial to their sport and develop and participate in a tailored training program, designed by them. Students will learn the major body systems associated with developing and maintaining physical fitness and apply both training methods and principles to enhance physical performance. Through a skill analysis, they will learn how to integrate technology (including ICT) into training and assessing of sporting performance, to thus improve sporting performance, understand how to assess and develop skills. Students will develop this knowledge further and then plan and introduce a game plan encompassing both offensive and defensive strategies.

Subject name:	Outdoor Education
Domain:	PE/ Health
Subject description:	Outdoor education takes a focus on the environment and how we interact with it. Students are regularly engaged in activities such as camping, bushwalk and conservation studies. They also learn the basics of bush first aide and camp cooking. All students that sign up for Outdoor Education are required to attend camps and excursions as part of the course. Potential activities include: hiking, skiing, surfing, kayaking and mountain biking – depending on season and availability.

Humanities electives

Subject name:	History: Forging the Nation
Domain:	Humanities
Subject Description:	**Forging the Nation** looks at the dramatic impact of large scale change, conflict and social reforms. The subject takes an in-depth look at the social, technological and political lead-up to conflict and gives the students the chance to understand how such events came to be. Within this unit, students will analyse key changes in society during the industrial revolution, how these changes lead to the movement of people, and colonisation of Australia. Students will then look at how WW1

	impacted Australians who served during the war and how WW1 forged the Australian identity. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the various facets of history in these areas and develop a greater understanding of the events that have shaped the modern world.

Subject name:	**Tourism and food security**
Domain:	Humanities
Subject Description:	Tourism and food security look at elements of Geography through the lens of resource allocation and tourism. Students work to develop their understanding of how the natural, political, economic and cultural elements of societies contribute to the stability and prosperity of a region. Students will also look at Globalisation and the impact that has had on the way people move, spend money and communicate. Students will study the impact of Globalisation on the human experience in both developed and developing countries to understand the diverse world we live in.

Subject name:	**Law and Order**
Domain:	Humanities
Subject Description:	Law and Order introduces students to the legal framework that exists within Australia – and their place within it. Students will investigate the justice system and explore the various stakeholders and processes involved with criminal proceedings. Students will also learn about the courts, from the Magistrate's Court to the Supreme Court, and participate in a mock trial. Students will also learn about legal processes that are used in Australia and the legal rights and responsibilities that allow change to happen and citizens to participate in large-scale decision making. This ranges from their role as citizens in governmental systems to the right to protest and be heard.

Subject name:	**Entrepreneurs and billionaires**
Domain:	Humanities
Subject Description:	Year 9 Entrepreneurs and billionaires introduces students to the basics of economics and how businesses operate. Students examine the attributes and skills of business owners, examine the nature of business opportunities, consider marketing and discuss the importance of detailed planning to help maximise success. Students also examine the role and significance of savings and investments for individuals and the economy, demonstrating the skills required to successfully plan and manage personal finances.

Science electives

Subject name:	Biology and Chemistry
Domain:	Science
Subject Description:	Students describe the structure of atoms in terms of subatomic particles. They learn how the periodic table is arranged, distinguish between the atomic and mass numbers of atoms, and explain how this relates to isotopes. Students learn what radiation is, list the different types and describe some ways radiation is used in everyday life. They identify properties of metals, non-metals and metalloids, and of acids and bases. They represent chemical reactions with word equations and explore combustion, corrosion and acid-base reactions. Students learn about several body systems including the nervous, endocrine and immune systems. They develop an understanding about the structure of nerve cells and nervous impulses. Students explore the structure of the brain, the central nervous system and the peripheral nervous system. They engage in activities to investigate some of the senses. Students learn about the endocrine system, the endocrine glands, the hormones they produce and their effects on the body. They learn about the immune system and how it protects the body from invading organisms.

Subject name:	Physics and Earth Science
Domain:	Science
Subject Description:	Students will study **Electrical Energy** and learn what an electrical current is, what voltage and resistance are and how an electrical circuit is created. They will discover that there are different types of energy and how these can be transferred or transformed. A major investigation will be centred upon renewable energy and the efficiency of wind turbines. They will learn about **Ecosystems** and how organisms interact within them. How energy and matter flow through ecosystems and what factors have an effect on population sizes. They will discover the impacts of human activity and discuss ways of protecting and managing ecosystems. They will study **Earth Science**, to learn what lies below the surface of the Earth. They discuss and evaluate evidence for the theory of continental drift and they investigate how living near plate boundaries affects people's lives. They will discover why earthquakes happen, why volcanoes exist and what causes tsunamis.

Subject name:	Forensics
Domain:	Science
Subject Description:	Students study a range of techniques that are used in forensic science. Some of the techniques studied include fingerprint developing and analysis, handwriting and chemical analysis, hair and fibre analysis, blood

	grouping and DNA testing. The role of the scientific method and scientists in providing reliable and accurate data for criminal investigations is investigated. Case studies that used forensic science techniques to solve the crimes will be reviewed and students will investigate a famous case in depth and present their findings.

Technology electives

Subject name:	**Food Studies**
Domain:	Technology
Subject Description:	The focus in Year 9 Food Studies allows students to gain an understanding in two areas of study – The design brief process and multiculturalism around the world. The aim is to extend students' understanding of the design process through a thoroughly planned café style meal. Students have to plan, create, produce and evaluate café menu items taking into consideration the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. Students will study and learn about different countries around the world and learn about the cultures that reflect this. Students participate in a range of practical classes in which they are exposed to new skills, food and recipes throughout the semester.

☐

Subject name:	**Product Design and Technology: Wood**
Domain:	Technology
Subject Description:	The focus in 9 Product Design & Technology: Wood is to build students practical skill and technical knowledge. Students develop knowledge of technical marking out, simple and complex joinery, powered tools and equipment, how to produce simple technical drawings, cutting lists and production planning, as well as OH&S obligations. To do this students complete sample skills and then with a scaffolded planning process apply them to the set projects. Students build on this knowledge to develop their confidence in practical processes while working in a safe, efficient manner.

Subject name:	**Product Design and Technology: Textiles**
Domain:	Technology
Subject Description:	Students learn about and practise techniques used in fabric construction such as seam finishes, darts, zip insertion, hand stitching techniques. Key learning areas include: • Fibres & fabrics investigation – the properties of manmade and synthetic fabrics, how to identify different fabrics, the care properties of each type of fabric and the designs and styles best suited to each fabric. • Using commercial patterns – learning the symbols used in commercial patterns, how to understand a patterns envelope, using a commercial pattern to produce at least one fabric article of your choice. • Surface Decoration techniques

Subject name:	**Computing**
Domain:	Technology
Subject Description:	Data and computing underpins today's society and this subject to provide students with skills to make the most of our digitally driven world. Information Technology will explore computer hardware and networking, object orientated programming, and augmented reality. Students will gain an understanding of the primary components of a basic computer system, and, in groups, build a computer.. Students will learn Python and the basics in object orientated programming (OOP) through the GROK Learning platform - this is in preparation for more advanced applications in year 10 Information Technology and beyond into VCE. Students will also explore augmented reality through the Metaverse software.

Subject name:	**Systems Engineering**
Domain:	Technology
Subject Description:	Students are introduced to engineering principles and systems. Systems Engineering is an interdisciplinary field of study and encapsulates the practical application of STEM design thinking. Students investigate and make judgements on how the characteristics and properties of materials are combined with force, motion and energy to create engineered solutions. Systems engineering uses a host of tools that include modelling and rapid prototyping, and new technologies. Systems engineering techniques are used in complex projects: spacecraft design, computer chip design, robotics, software integration, and bridge building.

Arts electives

Subject name:	**Visual Arts**
Domain:	Arts
Subject Description:	In Visual Arts, students engage in hands-on artistic study in a range of mediums and styles. Students will refine their personal aesthetic and work through a series of development, trials, production and analysis of works. Throughout the semester, students will develop a portfolio of works to form the basis of assessment. Students will additionally respond to historical and contemporary artists and reflect on the

	contribution of personal identity to works. The unit focusses on identity, looking at sculpture and street art as the mediums for students to express themselves. Art is a recommended choice for students wishing to develop their creativity and artistic skills.

Subject name:	**Dance**
Domain:	Arts
Subject Description:	Students will develop skills in a range of dance styles that develop a kinaesthetic and cultural awareness of the body as a medium of expression. Students will learn and perform dance works created by another choreographer. They will also apply their understanding of the elements of movement and the dance-making process by choreographing their own small group dance works. Ultimately, students will learn about a range of problem solving techniques to structure their own creative intention through dance. Students will research culturally specific dance styles and apply their knowledge of dance terminology when reflecting upon and evaluating their own dance practice. Students will also learn about safe dance practices, including warm-up, stretching, alignment and postural relaxation.

Subject name:	**Drama**
Domain:	Arts
Subject Description:	Drama is the expression and exploration of personal, cultural and social worlds through role and situation that engages, entertains and challenges. Students create meaning as drama makers, performers and audiences as they enjoy and analyse their own and others' stories and points of view. Drama enables students to imagine and participate in exploration of their worlds, individually and collaboratively. Students actively use body, gesture, movement, voice and language, taking on roles to explore and depict real and imagined worlds. They create, rehearse, perform and respond using the elements and conventions of drama and emerging and existing technologies available to them.

Subject name:	**Media**
Domain:	Arts
Subject Description:	Students will be introduced to media making techniques and skills such as how to represent ideas and stories in media forms. They will focus on skills in the areas of film-making. Students will learn what constitutes genre in film and how different techniques may be used to engage an audience. They will learn about the basics of film production, in particular storyboards, scripts, filming and editing. They will learn to analyse films and tv shows of a particular genre. Students will develop an understanding of film and tv narrative structures and apply this by-producing a short film based on the genre studied.

Subject name:	**Music Performance**
Domain:	Arts
Subject Description:	Students will develop performance skills on an instrument of their choice (including vocals). Performance skills are developed through small band workshops and performances or as a soloist. All performances are held in a supportive class environment where students are encouraged to show improvement over the course. Students will learn how to read basic notation, guitar and bass tab, and chord charts. Students will explore the use of Music technology to compose, record and perform contemporary music styles. Students will also learn about a range of music styles through listening to and learning about music genre. Students choosing Music Performance are encouraged to undertake weekly lessons on their chosen instrument including voice. Music theory and aural training are also included to develop listening skills and overall understanding and appreciation of traditional and contemporary music styles. This may be studied for a semester or full year.

Subject name:	**Photography**
Domain:	Arts
Subject Description:	Photography gives students the opportunity to both develop a theoretical and a practical understanding of Photography. Students are lead through Photography fundamentals, such as how to adjust aperture/shutter speed/ISO on cameras to get the best photos and to create certain effects. They are taught how to approach different subjects utilising vantage points and framing to create more dynamic and thought provoking photographs. They are introduced to photo editing using Lightroom and Photoshop, utilising the most current technology to create exhibition style folios. Students also explore the photography of other artists and develop their ability to commentate on photographic elements and imitate style and technical skills. Students are then given the chance to practice these skills through specific design briefs and to develop 2 photography portfolios.

Subject name:	**Visual Communication and Design**
Domain:	Arts
Subject Description:	This unit focuses on developing an understanding of the design process and visual communication techniques. Students use presentation drawing methods that incorporate the use of Instrumental drawing methods to communicate information and ideas. They develop skills using ICT with consideration for the design elements and design principles to produce a visual communication to a brief. Students investigate a designer and produce a research task. This research introduces students to the broader context of the place and purpose of design. Students using a visual diary

	record all research, generation, development and refinement of a range of ideas and trialling different methods, media and materials.

Languages electives

Subject name:	**Japanese (Full year subject)**
Domain:	Languages
Subject Description:	This is an intermediate course with a focus on consolidating speaking, reading, writing and listening skills in different settings. There is also an emphasis on vocabulary acquisition associated with a range of topics and the extension of the grammar and structures covered in Years 7 and 8. Students will study and deepen their understanding of the Japanese culture. Please note: Japanese is a full year subject. It must be chosen for both semesters.

MAKING SUBJECT CHOICES

Year 9 is the first year that students make choices about the subjects they engage with. We ask that you discuss your child's interests and what they would like to do over the year. Electives provide the student with a feeling of being, to some extent, in charge of their educational destiny.

The process for choosing subjects is to choose your preferred 8 subjects and then identify your reserve choices from the other subjects available. Students need to choose ONE elective from Humanities, Science, Technology and The Arts in their preferred 8 to complete their timetable preferences. Students will complete four electives each semester.

To plan for entering your subject selection you may wish to fill in this ranking grid. Choose your top 8 subjects, choosing at least 1 subject from Humanities, Science, Technology and The Arts.

Subject	Cost	Preference
Humanities		
History: Forging the Nation	$0	
Tourism and food security	$0	
Law and Order	$0	
Entrepreneurs and billionaires	$0	
Science		
Physics and Earth Science	$0	
Chemistry and Biology	$0	
Forensics	$0	
Technology		
Food Studies	$75	
Product Design and Technology: Wood	$50	
Product Design and Technology: Textiles	$50	
Computing	$0	
Systems Engineering	$20	
Arts		
Visual Arts	$30	
Dance	$0	
Drama	$0	
Media	$50	
Music Performance (Half or full year)	$0	
Photography	$50	
Visual Communication and Design	$25	
Languages (Whole Year Elective)		
Japanese	$0	
Health and Physical Education		
PE Plus	$0	
Outdoor Education	$100	
English/EAL		
Writing Fiction	$0	

How to submit your choices – Webchoices

The actual subject selection process will be conduct through a program called “Webchoices”. This program links directly with our timetabling system to facilitate the construction of the timetable. Student subject selections will directly impact what subjects run – so please ensure you are choosing subjects you are genuinely interested in completing. Below are the steps for completing your Webchoices selections:

1. Every student will be emailed a personalised link to Webchoices. This link should not be shared, as they are individualised.
2. Families will be given access to the Year 9 Subject Selection Handbook and asked to consider their options
3. Families can log into Webchoices with the provided link. The program will prompt you to choose your main subjects and then rank your reserve subjects. Rank all subjects based on your preferences. Please note that you must have at least one subject in each of the domains below, so the program will prioritise the first entry for each one as your preferred subject in that area:
    - Humanities
    - Science
    - Technology
    - The Arts
4. Once your choices are complete you will receive a confirmation screen with your preferred subject rankings.

The school will then use this data to construct the timetable. Subjects that run will be directly influenced by the student interest within Webchoices. Please be aware that if numbers are insufficient for a class to run, it will be collapsed and your next preferences will be used. As a result, it is possible that some subjects in this booklet may not run.