



STAINES
MEMORIAL COLLEGE
transforming lives

CURRICULUM HANDBOOK YEAR 7

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Our Teaching & Learning Team



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Learning Matters

Teaching and learning in the twenty-first century world is constantly evolving. New technologies, opportunities, challenges, occupations...we are preparing students for a world where many of these may not yet exist, and where many of the things we take for granted today may have ceased to exist. In short, we are educating students for a future that is in many ways unknown or yet to be discovered.

At Staines we believe that learning is not limited to school subjects, or the first 13 years of formal education, but rather, that learning is for life. Further, we believe that teaching and learning is a partnership between staff, students and parents where all work together to enable our students to realise their God-given academic potential.

The Power of Every Minute

Each moment a student spends in a classroom, at home, or even on the sports field can be instrumental in shaping his or her academic future. Students at Staines spend in excess of 23 hours per week in scheduled subject lessons; yet, it's not just about the time, it's about how the time is spent that matters. Secondary staff are committed to supporting students in making every minute count through our Ready, Set, Learn approach outlined on the following page. This framework encourages students to be intentional about their learning thus building a foundation for lifelong learning.

Learning is a Partnership

Traditionally, there has been a clear demarcation between the roles of teachers, students, and parents. However, in the modern educational landscape, these boundaries have started to blur, creating a more holistic and collaborative approach. A study by the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2018 found that parental engagement has a direct correlation with student achievement. Active involvement in your child's learning experience - understanding his or her strengths, weaknesses, interests, and passions - and collaborating with your child's teachers, teaches students that learning is valued outside the physical walls of the classroom.

Ownership of Learning

For lasting academic success, it is crucial that students take ownership of their learning. This means being proactive, asking questions, seeking help where needed, and being genuinely curious about the world around them. There is a plethora of research to support that students who believe in their ability to grow (a growth mindset) tend to achieve more than those who think their abilities are fixed. When students own their learning, they are more inclined to cultivate this growth mindset, leading to a more resilient and adaptive approach to challenges.

Welcome to year 7. Please read the information in this booklet carefully and contact staff if you have any questions. We look forward to partnering with your family as your child begins Secondary with us.

Melanie Taber

Deputy Principal / Director of Teaching & Learning



EVERY MINUTE MATTERS

for students



READY: BEFORE CLASS

- Arrive at class on time
- Make sure you have all the required materials for the lesson before you enter the classroom
- Ensure any homework is completed before the lesson
- Prepare for class: revise previously taught work and look ahead to what you will be learning.

SET: FIRST 10 MINUTES

- Go straight to your allocated seat - do not rearrange furniture unless asked to by your teacher
- Only turn your device on if instructed by your teacher
- Pay attention to the learning intentions and success criteria
- Complete entry ticket activity.

LEARN

- Be open to learning new things: you never know when you are going to use the information or skill you are being taught
- Understand how you learn - not everyone learns the same way
- Own your learning: work hard on the tasks you have been set
- Make a positive contribution: participate in class discussions, work positively with your peers on group tasks
- Talk to your teacher: ask questions, clarify your understanding and ask for help if you need it
- Take risks: don't be afraid to try something new or even to fail.

REMEMBER...

- ...*Every Minute Matters*
- Learning should inspire you and challenge you at times. It's OK if things are hard or if you don't always get the answer right. It's even OK to fail - as long as you are learning from your mistakes and keep trying
- You have a lot of people supporting your learning journey - your parents/carers, teachers, peers, but ultimately....
- You are responsible for your learning.

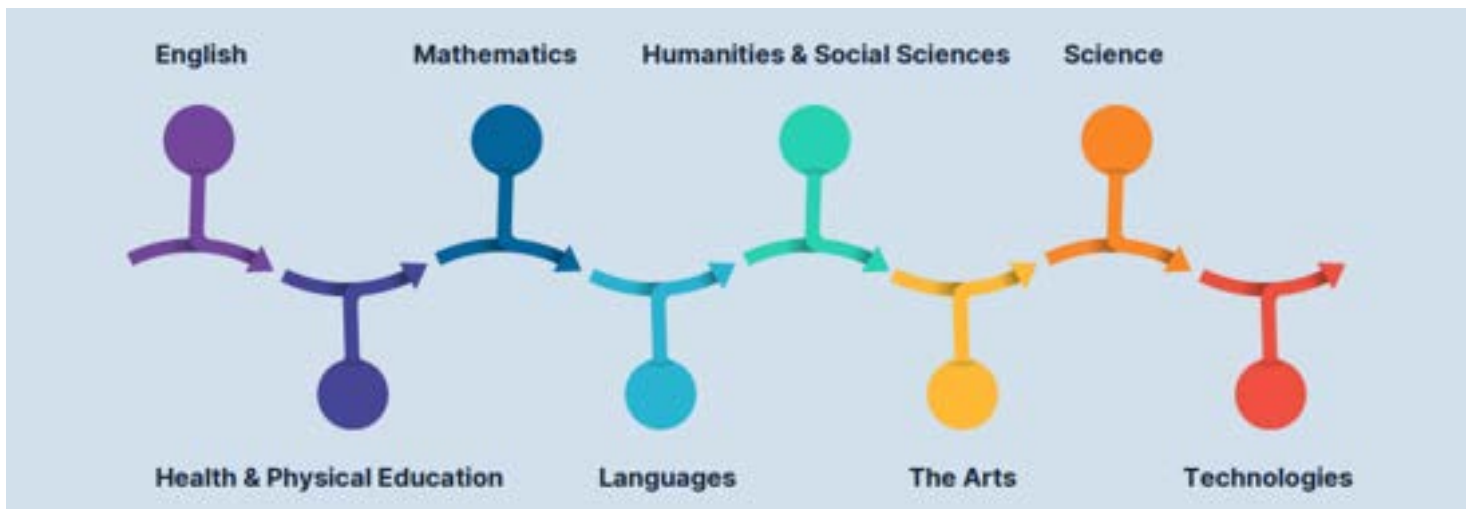
Australian Curriculum Version 9

Version 9 of the Australian Curriculum has been released and will be implemented across our Prep to Year 10 classes from 2024. In alignment with Queensland directives, we will initially focus on English and Maths, with other subject areas rolling out over subsequent years.

The Australian Curriculum sets out what students should learn, with the goal of creating:

- successful learners
- confident and creative individuals
- active and informed young people who are ready to take their place in society.

Year 7 students study subjects across 8 key learning areas as depicted below:



Within the subjects taught, seven general capabilities are integrated to equip students for success in 21st-century learning, living, and employment. These are: literacy, numeracy, critical and creative thinking, digital literacy, ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, and personal and social capability. Additionally, three cross-curriculum priorities - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia, and Sustainability - are woven through units where appropriate.

More information about the Australian Curriculum can be found at:
<https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/resources/parent-information>

Homework And Assessment

Homework

While homework is an essential aspect of our academic program, we are deeply committed to ensuring that it remains manageable, meaningful, and aligned with our educational goals. We believe in balancing academic rigour with well-being, allowing students ample time for other important aspects of life such as faith, family, hobbies, and recreation.

Year 7 students can expect to receive homework 5 nights a week. Homework should not take any longer than an hour.

Structure of Homework

- Preparation for upcoming lessons: pre-reading and previewing material for the next class ensures students come prepared; which maximises in-class learning time.
- Review and reflection: revisiting what was learned in class reinforces memory and comprehension. This is also a time for students to note any questions they have about the class work completed during the day.
- Consolidation and practice: just as playing a musical instrument or a sport requires repeated practice, academic skills are developed in the same way. Through regular practice, students internalise foundational skills and knowledge and are then able to apply what they've learned in new and more complex contexts.

Another important by-product of homework is an increase in student academic confidence. By consistently preparing, reviewing, and practicing, students not only learn but also build confidence in their abilities. This, in turn, fosters a positive attitude towards learning, allowing students to face challenges and navigate increasing complex work as they progress through secondary school.

Assessment

All subjects (except Faith & Life) will be assessed formally through the year. Assessments will include a mixture of the following:

- written, spoken, multimodal, and practical tasks
- tasks completed under supervised conditions and extended assignment take-home tasks
- individual, pair and/or group tasks.

More information can be found in our Assessment Handbook.

Reporting

Year 7 students will receive two College reports per year:

- end Term 2: Semester 1 report
- end of Term 4: Semester 2 report.

Student results will also be released on the CarerOrbit App within two weeks.

Parent-teacher interviews are held early Term 2 and Term 3. Parents are also welcome to contact their child's teacher for updates at any time during the school year.

Year 7 Subjects

Students are required to study the following core subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Science
- Health & Physical Education
- Digital Technologies
- Languages (Spanish)
- Faith & Life
- Approaches to Learning (1 Term Rotation)

In addition to core subjects, students will also study Arts and Technologies subjects by rotating through the following throughout the year:

THE ARTS

- Media Arts
- Music
- Performance
- Visual Arts

TECHNOLOGIES

- Engineering Principles & Systems
- Food Specialisations

Students will also choose between the following technology electives:

- Design Technologies: Materials OR
- Textiles

Information on each Year 7 subject is provided on the following pages.

English

LENGTH: Full year

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: Our English curriculum is structured around three main areas: Language, Literature, and Literacy. These three aspects work together to help students improve their skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing, and creating. Key to our English program at Staines is a focus on the basics: grammar, spelling, punctuation, and vocabulary, with Year 7 building upon what students have learned in previous years.

In Year 7, students engage with different types of texts, ranging from various forms of media, online content, and digital materials to novels, non-fiction, films, poetry, and dramatic performances. They will experience a wide range of literary selections including the oral storytelling traditions and literature of First Nations Australians, as well as classic and contemporary works from Australian and global authors. Literary texts will be drawn from various genres such as realistic fiction, fantasy, speculative fiction, and historical fiction.

ASSESSMENT: Year 7 English will be assessed by a range of written and spoken tasks covering narrative, persuasive, and analytical genres.

Mathematics

LENGTH: Full year

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: Mathematics is pivotal for all students, equipping them with knowledge and skills in various domains, from algebra to statistics. Mathematics cultivates critical thinking, pattern recognition, and spatial reasoning, preparing students for STEM-related careers. It encourages creative application and fosters confident, self-driven learners through interactive, challenging experiences.

Year 7 Mathematics at Staines nurtures numeracy essential for daily life and forms the foundation for advanced mathematical applications.

Mathematics classes utilise Maths Pathway, a comprehensive learning and teaching model that uses online diagnostic tools and modules, teacher-led mini lessons, small group activities, and whole class problem-solving tasks. The Maths Pathway diagnostic tool is adaptive, so the questions change, based student responses, and their gaps/competencies are assessed across the curriculum from Year 6 to Year 10. The appropriate curriculum-mapped content is delivered to students via online modules.

ASSESSMENT: Modules are assessed fortnightly. Students may also sit end of term or semester examinations and participate in project or assignment work..

Humanities & Social Sciences

LENGTH: Full year

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) consists of four strands: History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business.

In HASS students delve into human experiences across social, cultural, environmental, and political arenas. With both historical and modern lenses, from personal to global scales, HASS helps students understand upcoming challenges and global matters, fostering their development as informed, active global citizens.

Studying HASS sharpens students' abilities to critically think, communicate, solve problems, make informed decisions, and adapt to changes.

In Year 7 HASS, students focus on the following topics:

- History: deep-time history of Australia; Ancient Egypt
- Geography: water in the world; place and liveability
- Civics: government and democracy; laws and citizens
- Business: introduction to business and economics

ASSESSMENT: Students will demonstrate their learning in a range of tasks and conditions including written and multimodal assignments, examinations and practical tasks.

Science

LENGTH: Full year

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: Science is a dynamic, and creative subject arising from our desire to understand the world. It lets us delve into mysteries, predict outcomes, and address challenges, offering a tangible method to answer pivotal questions. Science knowledge, constantly updated and new evidence, guides our personal and societal actions.

Year 7 Science consists of the study of four sub-strands:

- **Biological:** study of living things, including animals, plants and microorganisms, and their interdependence and interactions within ecosystems.
- **Earth and Space:** study of the Earth's dynamic structure and its place in the cosmos. Students appreciate that living things depend on sustainability of the Earth system and investigate the influence of human activity on key processes, cycles and relationships.
- **Physical:** students develop an understanding of forces and motion, and matter and energy.
- **Chemical:** study of the composition and behaviour of substances such as solids, liquids and gases; or their composition, such as elements, compounds and mixtures.

ASSESSMENT: Students will be assessed by a variety of tasks and conditions including practical experiments, examinations, and assignment work.

Health & Physical Education

LENGTH: Full year

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: In Health & Physical Education, students gain the knowledge and skills to promote their own health and that of their communities.

Central to this education is mastering movement skills, concepts, and strategies for various physical activities, ensuring confident and adept participation. Through movement, students not only enhance their physical capabilities but also cultivate personal, social and cognitive skills that support lifelong activity and improved performance.

HPE also fosters personal and social skills as students interact in both academic and active settings. They leverage health resources to benefit their wellbeing and that of their peers. The curriculum addresses factors shaping health, safety, relationships, and activity habits.

ASSESSMENT: Students will demonstrate their learning through a variety of practical and theoretical tasks.

Technologies Overview

LENGTH: Term units

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: Australian Curriculum: Technologies comprises two subjects:

- Design & Technologies
- Digital Technologies.

It is essential for students to understand the role and development of technologies in society. Technologies have a transformative effect on global societies, offering potential for sustainable advancements.

The Technologies curriculum exposes students to a broad spectrum of technological advances, prompting them to consider their ethical and societal impacts. Using their practical skills, students devise innovative solutions, focusing on sustainability and the well-being of future generations. They collaborate to tackle contemporary challenges and envision positive futures.

The hands-on nature of Technologies promotes critical and systematic thinking, emphasising the importance of structured problem-solving. Integrated STEM education amplifies students' design, analytical, and collaborative capabilities, preparing them for diverse career paths and future academic pursuits.

Digital Technologies

Digital Technologies comprises two strands:

- Knowledge & understanding of digital systems (hardware, software, and networks), and data representation
- Processes & production skills.

Design Technologies Electives

Engineering Principles & Systems

Students will be introduced to the engineering process, including the ethics involved in engineering and how ancient knowledge has led to modern innovations. Students will examine how machinery and products have been developed to solve problems. They will use the engineering design and production process to design and create their own models.

Food & Fibre Production

This unit will focus on an introduction to textiles where students will learn basic sewing skills, investigate the development of the Ugly Doll franchise, and create their own unique Ugly Doll.

Food Specialisations

This unit focuses on healthy eating, the Australian Dietary Guidelines and creating healthy versions of our favourite snacks.

Materials & Technologies

In this subject, students will be introduced to the wood workshop creating projects such as a pencil box, a name plaque and plastic key tags.

In Year 7, students will rotate through all five Technologies contexts across the year.

Languages (Spanish)

LENGTH: Full year

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: Studying languages expands students' perspectives, opening doors to personal, social, cultural, and job opportunities in our closely-knit global community. As nations and societies become more intertwined, individuals often need to bridge languages and cultures. Relying on English, despite its global prominence, can restrict international possibilities.

In Year 7 Spanish, students embark on their language journey, influenced by any previous language-learning experiences. They employ Spanish to discuss personal topics and engage with instructors and classmates, both inside and outside the classroom. Activities encompass listening, speaking, reading, viewing, and writing, supported by teacher guidance and feedback.

Students will engage with genuine and specially-crafted resources in Spanish, such as dialogues, audio/video segments, textbooks, ads, blogs, and magazines. Leveraging their English literacy skills, students contemplate parallels and distinctions in pronunciation, structure, and features between Spanish and English. They understand that language choices mirror cultural identity and underlying beliefs and values.

ASSESSMENT: Students will be assessed by a range of spoken and written tasks across the year.

Faith & Life

LENGTH: Full year

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: Year 7 Faith & Life aims to establish a strong connection between real-world issues and the Bible's relevance in the lives of students. Our Faith & Life program is designed to be both practical and reflective, offering many opportunities for students to respond to the Gospel and engage with the overarching narrative of Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration. Through the different topics studied, students are able to see that God loves them; has a plan for them; has given them gifts and talents; and is always there for them.

Faith & Life aims to:

- equip students to become critical thinkers who have a foundational knowledge and understanding of Biblical truth and how this is expressed in Christian belief
- empower students to take responsibility for their lives and actions, and contribute positively to their local communities
- instil in students an awareness of national and global issues, equipping them with the tools to live and work as 21st century citizens
- support students to thrive as whole people by challenging them to engage with issues of faith and supporting them as they apply these to their personal life.

ASSESSMENT: This subject is not formally assessed, however student engagement in class will be recorded on College reports

The Arts Overview

LENGTH: Term units

SUBJECT OVERVIEW: The arts are deeply rooted in human history and central to every culture, including First Nations Australians. They allow us to share stories, ideas, and insights. Engaging in the arts nourishes our emotional well-being and stimulates our imaginative and intellectual capacities. Arts subjects empower students to explore, challenge, and envision new horizons. They convey emotions, observations, and experiences, fostering a holistic understanding of oneself and the world.

The arts also provide avenues to explore and celebrate cultural diversity. They enable students to express ideas in both traditional and innovative artistic forms. Students benefit from interactions with arts organisations and professionals, deepening their knowledge and appreciation.

Through the arts, students articulate their perspectives and enhance their aesthetic awareness. They learn that both creativity and critical thinking are pivotal to arts education. Ultimately, the arts cultivate individuals who are creative, confident, and compassionate, fostering critical reflection and a desire to positively shape their communities.

The Arts Electives

Media Arts

In Media Arts, students combine images, sound, text, and technology to craft and understand narratives about people and their surroundings. Our Year 7 program focuses on creating a video advertisement for a product that promotes a social value.

Music

In Music, students engage with a variety of styles and cultural backgrounds, listening to, creating, and performing pieces. Year 7 Music will focus on the fundamental elements of music, learning to read, create, and appreciate melodies, rhythms, and harmonies.

Performance

In Performance, students are introduced to the elements of drama and dance, developing their skills in creating, performing and responding to artistic works. Students will explore dance through practical learning experiences, while their Drama studies will culminate in a folio of assessed work combining scriptwriting, live performance and analysis of a dramatic piece.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, students delve into art, craft and design. They engage with a range of artistic works from various contexts and styles, gaining insight into the importance of visual arts for both personal and broader community perspectives.

In Year 7, students will have the opportunity to study four Arts subjects for a term each.



STAINES

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#proudtobeSMC 📱

Our desire is to partner with families in providing a holistic education based on the Biblical worldview in which the hearts and minds of young people can grow and pursue their full potential for God.

General enquiries / Administration

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