

SUBJECT SELECTION GUIDE

YEAR 7 GOING INTO YEAR 8 - 2023



HILLBROOK

IN BALANCE WE GROW

ART

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING ART?

If you haven't been taught Art by a specialist teacher, you may not think you're any good, or a 'natural' at it. However, we believe that everyone has an artist hiding inside just waiting to get out, once you apply the principles we teach!

Art is where you will learn to explore your creativity, build confidence, solve problems, and understand yourself and the world. As there is often more than one solution to a design problem, you'll learn to develop your imagination, lateral thinking skills, time management skills, and learn to use the building blocks of making amazing art.

WHAT IS STUDIED IN YEAR 8 ART?

This is where you begin receiving one-on-one support in developing your artistic abilities. Most students notice a rapid increase in their fine art skill set during this first year. You also experiment with a range of art media and processes including: painting, drawing, mixed media, photography, and sculpture. Activities could include a still life drawing, designing and creating marketable art of your own choice, painting, photography, mask making, clay sculpture, and more. You write down your ideas, experiments, and reflections in your Art Visual Diary, or as a digital presentation.

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

Art involves two parts: making artworks and responding to them. Art is assessed on the standards developed using the Australian Curriculum Content Descriptions and the Achievement Standards.

BUSINESS STUDIES

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING BUSINESS?

Business Studies provides you with real-world experiences. This course prepares you with information and skills that are applicable both personally and in any career choice. The topics of consumer choice, financial literacy, and personal finance help you learn to manage your finances in our increasingly complex consumer-driven world. In this course, you will unleash your entrepreneurial capabilities by developing new business ideas for the \$20 Boss Program.

You will learn about economics and the circular flow of our economy. In later grades, you will learn basic and essential accounting skills using both manual and computerised systems, such as MYOB. As every business person needs good communication skills, report writing, and presentation skills these topics will also be covered in Business Studies.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

Semester 1: Introduction to Economics

Semester 2: \$20 Boss Program (entrepreneurial program)

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

Students will be assessed under the Australian Curriculum. A variety of assessment techniques are used in Year 8 including a test, an assignment, and a project.

DESIGN

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING DESIGN?

The study of Design provides you with opportunities to engage in the exploration and production of innovative designed solutions. You will develop your creative thinking and problem-solving skills through the practical application of design thinking, drawing, and prototyping to clearly communicate solutions in response to design briefs.

You will work both independently and collaboratively, to make discerning decisions when conceptualising creative products, and will learn about and work with contemporary and emerging technologies to create quality prototypes.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

- Graphic Design: Adobe Photoshop (prototype)
- Communication Design: Digital Sketching, Procreate (portfolio)
- Product Design: Adobe Illustrator and Laser Cutter (portfolio and prototype)

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

- The assessment in year 8 requires you to deliver portfolios and prototypes.
- The two key dimensions assessed are (1) Knowledge and Understanding and (2) Processes and Production Skills

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES?

The world is moving toward the digital economy where education, health, and all aspects of life are progressing towards digitisation. It is important that you learn how to use and develop digital technologies in order to participate fully in the digital world. In this course, you will learn how to be both digitally literate as well as creators of technologies.

Digital Technologies is the study of how the application of information systems, computational design, and systems thinking enable the creation of purpose-designed digital solutions to meet current and future needs.

Students develop a range of thinking skills, such as systems thinking, design thinking, and computational thinking. They also learn how to plan and manage digital projects, to create interactive information, and to consider how the solutions they create now will be used in the future. Students design user experiences (UX), algorithms, and implement digital solutions. They evaluate information systems and their solutions in terms of meeting needs, innovation, and sustainability.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

- Lego Robotics
- User Interface and User Experience Design
- Systems and Data
- Algorithms
- Python Coding

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

By the end of Year 8 students will have had opportunities to create a range of digital solutions both practical and project based and an exam in Systems and Data.

STUDENT'S OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS ARE ASSESSED WITHIN THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Knowledge & Understanding
- Processes & Production Skills

DRAMA

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING DRAMA?

Drama provides a medium for exploration, celebration, and entertainment. It enables you to understand yourself and the world around you by looking at contemporary issues and responding to dramatic scripts and performances. The course provides you with knowledge and skills to enable you to understand and experience Drama as an art form. The collaborative nature of the subject provides you with personal opportunities to learn to manage your time and to be able to better work in groups.

Drama is a great way to enhance personal confidence and helps you to become better at presenting to an audience.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

- Acting Studies
- Student-devised Cyber Drama
- Collage Drama
- Introduction to Shakespeare

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

Drama has a variety of assessments, but works through three domains.

These are:

- Forming (creating drama)
- Presenting (to an audience)
- Responding (to something that you have read, or that you have seen on stage)

In a semester, you would usually do:

- Two practical tasks, based on the unit being studied
- One written task, in conjunction with one of the practical tasks

ENGINEERING

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING ENGINEERING?

Engineering is a course of study which contextualises the Australian Curriculum (Technologies, Mathematics, Science) and prepares students for Senior Engineering. It challenges you to explore open-ended problems and actively construct your learning by undertaking purposeful engineering activities and applying learned technical knowledge, principles, processes, and skills.

The problem-solving process in Engineering aligns with a problem-based framework, requiring engagement with the phases of exploring, developing, generating, evaluating, and refining to mirror real-world scenarios. Engineering allows for the development of critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and teamwork, personal and social skills, and information and communication skills.

THE MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS THROUGH THE COURSE OF STUDY ARE:

- Engineering Materials Science
- Engineering Mathematics (Mechanics)
- Control Systems (Electronics, Flow Charts, Logic)
- Engineering Communication – CAD software (Fusion 360, ArchiCAD)
- Workshop Tools & Equipment Including Safe & Responsible Use
- 21st Century Tooling – 3D Printers, Laser Cutters, CNC Routers
- Project-Folio Compilation – Presentation & Reporting Techniques for Problem-Based Learning Challenges

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

- 3D Parametric Software – Fusion 360: Modelling, Simulation, Working Drawings
- Architectural Communication – Archicad
- Additive Manufacture – 3D Printing
- Laser Cutting & Etching
- Concrete as an Engineering Material

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

The problem-based projects in Year 8 typically span a term and require submission toward the end of a Project Folio documenting evidence of the learning that has taken place.

For Engineering Communication units (Fusion/ArchiCAD), this will take the form of:

- Engineering Drawings
- Floor Plans
- Stress Analysis/Simulation

For Concrete as an Engineering Material, this will include:

- A practical component and theoretical report

For the Additive Manufacture unit (3D Printers), this will include:

- A practical component
- Safety test (onguard)
- Technical report/project-folio

Student's overall achievements are assessed within the following criteria:

- Knowledge & Understanding
- Processes & Production Skills

FOOD & NUTRITION

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING FOOD & NUTRITION?

Creativity is a skill everyone should develop to make life interesting and embrace originality. Working with food and using design skills can be an enjoyable experience as you produce a variety of products, adding your own creative touch.

This subject provides opportunities to develop essential knowledge of contexts such as Food Science, Nutrition, and Food Presentation. You will also gain experience in developing skills needed for a variety of practical techniques. The design process will be used to allow you to design and create solutions considering constraints such as foods available and a sustainable future. Project-based learning will be used throughout the course.

If you wish to pursue a career in food related areas such as Food Scientist, Chef, Dietitian, Nutritionist, or Teacher you will benefit from this subject. Food & Nutrition will also lead into other design areas. It can also benefit further studies in food production.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

- Semester 1: The Chef
- Semester 2: The Adolescent

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

There will be two assessment tasks for each semester as follows:

- Written Test
- Project & Product

GERMAN

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING GERMAN?

Languages are the key to the world. They not only help you with international travel, but are an invaluable asset when applying for jobs later. Employers look for workers who have many skills and who have shown that they can adapt to different environments. The study of languages has also been shown to increase academic success in other fields, as it develops memory and verbal skills in general.

Every two years, in June/July, Hillbrook takes a group of students studying German to our partner school, Ricarda-Huch-Schule Gymnasium, located just outside Frankfurt, for a three-week exchange. Students spend two weeks staying with a host family and attending school. During this time, we also arrange school-based excursions to interesting landmarks. The remainder of the trip is spent travelling around Germany. Later in the exchange year, in October, our German exchange partners visit us at Hillbrook and join in with school life here.

Learning a language gives you so much more than language skills; it develops intellect, enhances employment prospects, creates friendships with, and knowledge of, another culture and people. You will have regular access to online listening and reading websites to support your learning. A range of listening and interactive language learning tasks, such as Education Perfect, are posted online@Hillbrook during each unit studied.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

In Year 8 there is an emphasis on useful and functional language, focusing on the students themselves.

Focus areas include:

- Who am I?
- Pets
- School
- Clothes
- Hobbies
- Food
- Families
- Celebrations

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

- The four macro-skills of German (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) are assessed in test form
- Comprehension (listening and reading) is tested at least once per semester
- Conveying meaning (speaking and writing) is also tested at least once per semester

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY SKILLS?

Industrial Technology Skills is a course in which you investigate the nature and functions of available materials and resources through the application of inquiry, research, and problem-solving methodologies. You are encouraged to apply your learned knowledge and skills towards the creation of products in a variety of contexts.

The course provides a unique opportunity for you to experience the challenge and personal satisfaction of undertaking practical work in a new and exciting environment. You will hopefully be able to confidently transfer your skills and problem-solving abilities to future life situations. Industrial Technology Skills also aims to assist in the development of fine motor coordination, confidence, and self-esteem through achievement-oriented tasks.

THE MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS THROUGH THE COURSE OF STUDY ARE:

- Project research, interpretation of technical specs, production planning, and development
- Tools, materials, surface finishing, and sustainability
- Fabrication and resource management of traditional and contemporary technologies
- Construction techniques and planning
- Industrial and personal safety awareness and practices

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

Year 8 expands upon the learning experiences from Year 7, with student responsibility and choice taking an increasingly greater role in the course. The students' knowledge of machinery and associated technologies, and awareness of the role of safety, is also developed in preparation for further studies and personal life skills:

- Timber, plastic, and metal jointing, shaping and finishing are investigated through various contexts
- Typical projects could include BBQ spatulas, incense burners, cheese platters, and self-designed toys for young children
- Students are required to select appropriate strategies and resources that may solve a given problem, implement a plan, and evaluate the outcome
- Students are exposed to a range of intellectual challenges while developing practical skills associated with tools and equipment

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

- The assessment in Year 8 involves varied types of practical projects throughout the course
- Students' overall achievements

JAPANESE

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING JAPANESE?

Students who learn another language develop cognitive flexibility and problem-solving ability which can be applied not only when problems and solutions are clearly evident, but also when critical thinking and creative approaches are required.

Because of Australia's location within the Asia-Pacific region, it is becoming increasingly important for young Australians to be able to converse with people in their own language. Japan provides Australia with its largest overseas market and opportunities in commerce, technology, law, health care, international relations, tourism, and education are available to students who have a knowledge and understanding of Japanese language and culture.

The range of job opportunities is constantly expanding within the established trade and business links between Australia and Japan. Knowledge of Japanese will establish a career advantage for young Australians. Learning Japanese is a fun and challenging experience that gives plenty of opportunities to develop linguistic skills, as well as a greater understanding of an intriguing culture.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

Learning the Japanese language in Year 8 is contextualised through the following themes:

- Japanese Dishes
- My Friends
- Family
- Teenage Culture in Australia and Japan
- My Town
- My Week
- Daily Routine
- School

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

- The four macro-skills of Japanese (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) are assessed in test form
- Comprehension (listening and reading) is tested at least once per semester
- Conveying meaning (speaking and writing) is also tested at least once per semester

LITERACY & NUMERACY ENHANCEMENT (LANE)

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM LITERACY AND NUMERACY ENHANCEMENT (LANE)?

The LANE program is designed to support students in the development of their literacy or numeracy skills across the curriculum.

Students who select the LANE program will be reviewed and a decision will be made based on the following: feedback from teachers, parents, and applicable staff, NAPLAN and PAT testing, as well as academic achievement and subject data. Class numbers are kept low in order to be of most benefit for students.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

The LANE program is run in addition to timetabled Mathematics and English classes. Students will study topics which are similar to their classroom Mathematics and English topics. LANE as additional lessons mean that more time can be spent with each student to review and rephrase learning and understanding of the core content.

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

There is no homework or assessments set for LANE. At the end of the semester, progress will be reviewed and students will receive a comment from their LANE Teacher.

MUSIC

HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM STUDYING MUSIC?

Music makes life better! In addition to the fundamental artistic benefits of being a musician, our Music course aims to assist you in developing life-enhancing skills in teamwork, self-discipline, and self-confidence. It exposes you to a wide range of musical styles and gives you greater ability to express your opinions of these styles.

You will gain experience in performing within the class environment and also have the opportunity to present your skills to the wider school community. It is expected that classroom music students will be learning an instrument or voice during their period of study. This may be within the school co-curricular program or externally.

You will utilise online music notation software throughout the course to develop composition skills relevant to the area of study. Underpinning course subject matter is development of aural skills.

WHAT ARE THE TOPICS IN YEAR 8?

Musical skills in Year 8 are contextualised through a study of the following genres:

- Hit it! (music for percussion)
- Music and Me
- Film Music
- Jingle All the Way (music in advertising)

WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT?

Music operates within three dimensions. These dimensions are Musicology, Composition, and Performance. All three dimensions are assessed at least once in a semester.

Assessment may take place in the form of written exams, composition assignments, performance tasks, and enriched project-based tasks.

CHOOSING SUBJECTS

The Year 8 curriculum is structured to give students more electives choice and retain the opportunity to experience a broad range of learning experiences.

Subject Selection Advice

DO

Think broadly, gain a wide set of experiences: intellectual, practical, creative, individual, and personal

DO

Think of your talents and interests when choosing subjects

DO

Give strong consideration to a language other than English (Japanese or German). We are a global community and languages are a crucial element in this.

DON'T

Think career or post school courses; there is plenty of time for that later.

DON'T

Focus too much on Year 12 at this early point; that comes later. This is a time to engage in a variety of learning experiences, to enjoy them, and to develop talents and interests!