

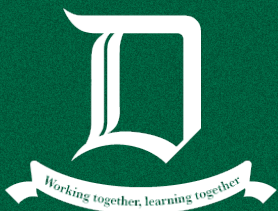
JUNIOR SCHOOL

HANDBOOK



2024

Working together, Learning together



DONCASTER
SECONDARY COLLEGE

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WELCOME TO YEAR 7 & YEAR 8



Our aim is to create an environment where students feel empowered to learn and achieve. Our Junior School teachers will prepare our students for the next steps at DSC and in the future. We want our students to be healthy, positive, resilient learners who have the literacy, numeracy and personal and social capabilities required to achieve their best.



BELINDA MCGEE

Assistant Principal (Junior School)

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We strive to help our learners become:



Critical and creative thinkers



Resilient and able to problem solve



Lifelong learners



Empathic and understand the world around them



Inclusive and engaged with their school community



Confident



Positive and possessing self-belief



Aware of their current literacy & numeracy abilities, and reflective of what the next steps are to improve



Self-directed and independent learners

LEARNING FOCUSES

There are three learning focuses in Junior School: Literacy, Numeracy and Personal & Social Capabilities. Whilst all subjects are responsible for building skills in all three areas, the subjects listed below focus on developing these skills in line with the relevant Victorian Curriculum.



LITERACY

Englishes
Languages
Reading
Writing
Science
Humanities
The Art & Technologies



NUMERACY

Mathematics
Science
Humanities
Numeracy
The Art & Technologies



PERSONAL & SOCIAL CAPABILITIES

Managing Me
Physical Education
Health
Englishes

WHAT ARE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL CAPABILITIES?

Students with strong personal and social capabilities understand themselves, can recognise and regulate their own emotions, and have empathy for others. They are creative and confident learners who have skills in building positive relationships, make responsible decisions, work effectively in teams and have developing leadership skills. The development of personal and social capabilities is a foundation for learning and for citizenship. See page 11 for more information.

THE FACES OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

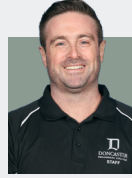
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THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP at DSC

The Learning Partnership is:

- + Excellent teaching
- + Positive family influence and interest
- + Maximum student effort
- = **GREATER GROWTH, SUCCESS & LEARNING**



At Doncaster Secondary College, we believe that students are most able to experience growth and find success when there is a learning partnership between the teacher, the family, and the student. Each member of the partnership has a different but equally crucial role to play.

Teachers will deliver the Victorian Curriculum to students, aiming to meet them at their current point of need. Teachers will report on student progress regularly.

Families can engage with teachers through Compass, the Student Planner, and conversations with their child.

Students should always strive to live the school values of **respect, resilience, responsibility**, and **teamwork** and take each opportunity available to put their best effort in.

TRANSITION TO DONCASTER SECONDARY COLLEGE

Junior School, in particular Year 7, is a transitional stage in schooling. Students move from the integrated approach of primary school to the more diverse, subject-oriented approach of secondary school. In Year 7 at Doncaster Secondary College, the focus is upon assisting students to make this transition smoothly and building upon consolidating and extending the basic skills acquired at primary school.

The College has a well-developed Transition Program to assist students in their adjustment to secondary school so that they can proceed to maximize their learning and take advantage of the many opportunities, which the College provides.



ACTIVITY:

PURPOSE:

PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS

Prior to Year 7 enrolment, our Junior School teachers visit local primary schools to discuss high school life with prospective students. Students can also ask the teachers any questions. After enrolment, our teachers will meet with primary schools to gather academic and social development information about incoming Year 7 students.

EXPLORATION AFTERNOONS

Throughout terms 3 & 4 prior to the year of commencement, the College hosts numerous informal events, such as the Exploration Afternoons. New students can familiarise themselves with the Junior School building, its processes and meet their teachers.

YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING

To establish the Learning Partnership with families our College holds an Information Evening in term 4 prior to the year of enrolment to deliver transition information. A social BBQ is also held in February to welcome new families.

PRE-ORIENTATION

A Pre-Orientation morning is offered to students who are the only one coming from their primary school.

YEAR 7 ORIENTATION DAY

Held in December, all Grade 6 students enrolled in DSC get to experience a full school day at our College and meet their Peer Leaders.

PEER LEADERS

Year 9 Peer Leaders work closely with Year 7 students to help address any concerns they may have. Their lockers are located alongside their respective Year 7 classes to offer continual support.

YEAR 7 CAMP

Held early in the year, the Year 7 camp is invaluable in establishing friendships, confidence and team spirit. Peer Leaders also attend this camp.





Wherever possible, classroom teachers will teach their Year 7 class for more than one subject. This enables classroom teachers to get to know their students as quickly as possible, cater programs better suited to each student's individual learning styles, and be aware of any transition issues that may arise with students.

LITERACY

Literacy is a focus of all teachers at Doncaster Secondary College, and it is at the forefront of teaching and learning. As a result, we create various opportunities for students to extend themselves and build their reading, writing, comprehension, and metacognition skills, coupled with the Victorian Curriculum Achievement Standards. Doing so supports students to succeed in all their subjects and prepare them for Senior School, including the Victorian Certificate of Education.

Subjects that focus on Literacy development

English / EAL	Science
Writing	Humanities
Reading	The Arts
Languages	Technologies

Other programs that support Literacy development

School Library
Education Perfect
Debate Club
The DSC Reading Nook
Extension English & SEAL English
Student Representative Council

In the classroom, teachers use various approaches to build, improve and extend students' literacy skills. These include research-based strategies endorsed by teaching specialists and the Department of Education, such as:

- Reciprocal Teaching
- Reading Comprehension Strategies
- Robust Vocabulary
- Questioning
- Writing to Learn



FURTHER INFORMATION:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/literacy/Pages/default.aspx>

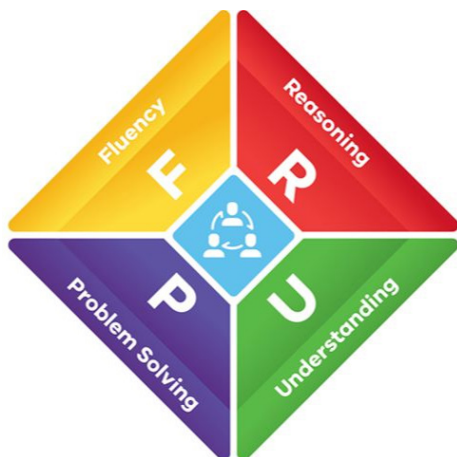
NUMERACY

Numeracy is a focus of all teachers at Doncaster Secondary College as well as the Eastern Region. In recent years we have been working to update our teaching practice in our teaching of Mathematics and key Numeracy skills, to maximise learning and create more positive pathways for our students in the 21st Century.

As a result, our teachers will create various opportunities for students to extend themselves and build their Mathematics and Numeracy skills, coupled with the Victorian Curriculum Achievement Standards. Doing so supports students to succeed in all their subjects and prepare them for Senior School, including the Victorian Certificate of Education.

In the classroom, teachers use various approaches to build, improve and extend students Numeracy skills. These include research-based strategies endorsed by teaching specialists and the Department of Education, such as:

- Connecting mathematics to real-life contexts
- Use of digital and representational tools
- Scaffolding skills



Subjects that focus on Numeracy development

Mathematics	Humanities
Numeracy	The Arts
Science	Technologies

Other programs that support Numeracy development

Tutor Initiative Program
Education Perfect
Numeracy Help Sessions
Homework Club
Extension Mathematics and SEAL
Mathematics

Our curriculum focuses on the Mathematical Proficiencies, championed by the Department of Education: Fluency, Reasoning, Problem Solving and Understanding.

FURTHER INFORMATION:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/maths/pages/numeracy-for-all-learners.aspx>

PERSONAL & SOCIAL CAPABILITIES

The Personal and Social Capabilities, as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum, aims to develop knowledge, understandings, and skills to enable students to:

- Recognise, understand and evaluate the expression of emotions.
- Demonstrate an awareness of their personal qualities and the factors that contribute to resilience.
- Develop empathy for and understanding of others and recognise the importance of supporting diversity for a cohesive community.
- Understand how relationships are developed and use interpersonal skills to establish and maintain respectful relationships.
- Work effectively in teams and develop strategies to manage challenging situations constructively.



Year 7 Orientation Camp, 2023

At Doncaster Secondary College, we believe these skills are essential for students to maximise their learning and exhibit positive learning behaviours. Our most successful students in VCE are often the students who have strong organisation, resilience, empathy and the ability to handle challenging situations.

As a result, we place these skills at the forefront of our work with Junior School students, to position them to better live the school values of **respect, resilience, responsibility, and teamwork**.

Subjects that focus on Personal & Social Capabilities

Health
Physical Education
Managing Me
English / EAL

Other programs that support Personal & Social Capabilities

School Social Clubs
Sports Carnivals
Student Representative Council
Sports Teams

SEAL & Extension Opportunities



Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) is a pathway for high-ability students which aims to challenge and offer opportunities to grow.

Our SEAL students explore the Victorian Curriculum whilst additionally having opportunities to engage in philosophy, ethics, STEAM and politics. There is an emphasis on collaborative learning with other academically-minded students, as well as engagement in higher-order thinking skills, community-based projects, inquiry-based learning, and leadership opportunities.

The program runs from Year 7 to Year 9, and in Year 10 beginning to branch into VCE subjects and Extension classes in student specialist areas.

Refer to our website and the Year 7 Transition Handbook for more information around how the entrance process works. We encourage all prospective SEAL families to attend our annual SEAL Open Night, which occurs in Term 3, and will be advertised on our College website.



There are further extension opportunities available to non-SEAL students in the Junior School, through the Extension English and Mathematics electives in Year 8. This gives driven students an opportunity to develop their Literacy and Numeracy skills further, in preparation for the senior years.



LEARNING SUPPORT

Teachers at Doncaster Secondary College aim to meet students at their point of need. For many students, that means finding opportunities for them to extend. For other students it may mean additional support is required to feel comfortable in the learning environment and to grow. Students who have identified additional needs or who believe they would benefit from an **Individual Education Plan**, may meet multiple times throughout the year with the Junior School Leaders to develop goals and reflect on achievements.

Further Literacy support is provided in Year 8 through the **Literacy Support class**. This class runs twice a week and is scheduled on the timetable, so no disruption occurs to other classes.

When available, Doncaster Secondary College also provides tutors in English and Mathematics classes to work with students individually or in small groups to support their learning and achievement in class.

Doncaster Secondary College is an inclusive environment, and we aim to support all students to succeed.



LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

At Doncaster Secondary College, student voice is an important part of the day-to-day running of our school. There are various opportunities for students to practice their leadership skills, including Class Leaders. We also have a **Student Representative Council (SRC)**. Students are elected to the SRC through an interview process and are given the opportunity to provide a voice for the student bodies they represent.

The SRC is primarily involved in policy, planning, and assisting with daily school operations. It includes senior and middle school captains together with representatives from across all year levels. The SRC discusses a wide range of school issues such as uniform, curriculum, staff, and student expectations. The SRC also meet to discuss proposals and recommendations that often get put forward to school council meetings.

Students are invited to participate in the **School Improvement Team (SIT)**. These student representatives receive an opportunity to review our school's current goals and reflect on data. They can offer their perspective and discuss their experiences with the College Principal and the Junior School team.

More information about the school's student leadership opportunities can be found on the [Community > Student Voice & Leadership](#) page on the College website.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

Educational Enhancement:

- AMEB Music Examinations
- Classroom Leaders
- Debating
- Subject Competitions
- DSC Short Story Competition
- Homework Club
- Student Representative Council
- School Improvement Team



Sport:

- Inter-school Sport
- Sports Carnivals
- Lunchtime Sport Clubs
- Cross Country

Visual & Performing Arts:

- College Magazine - Cornucopia
- Music Bands & Ensembles
- School Production
- Student Art Gallery
- Instrumental Music
- Student Sound & Lighting Technicians



Camps, Excursions & Clubs:

- Instrumental Music Camp
- Year 7 Orientation Camp
- Student Interest Clubs
- Lead to Sustain excursion



● LUNCHTIMES OR 3.30PM

CLUB LIST

MONDAYS B'FAST CLUB KPOP FEMINIST COLLECTIVE Y11 HOOPS		TUESDAYS LEGO CLUB HISTORY ART CLUB ZUMBA Y12 HOOPS
	WEDNESDAYS CRAFTERNOON Y8 HOOPS	
THURSDAYS JUNIOR SLIME CLUB ENVIRO CLUB Y9 HOOPS INT. STUDENT CLUB HOMEWORK CLUB		FRIDAYS B'FAST CLUB GAMES CLUB RAINBOW COLLECTIVE MOVIE CLUB YEAR 10 HOOPS BADMINTON

SEE THE BULLETIN FOR ROOM DETAILS

DONCASTER
SECONDARY COLLEGE

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AT DSC

Music is a big part of life at Doncaster Secondary College. We have a wide range of music ensembles from large Concert Bands and String Orchestras to Jazz Bands, Guitar Ensembles and Rock Bands. Students can choose to learn, or continue to learn, a musical instrument at the College.

Learning an instrument teaches you skills that no other activity can, and these skills benefit many other aspects of life.



Nicholas Dean
Music Coordinator

The College offers professional tuition in:

- **Woodwind:** flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet and saxophone;
- **Brass:** trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, euphonium and tuba;
- **Percussion:** orchestral and drum kit; and
- **Strings:** violin, viola, cello, double bass, classical guitar and electric bass guitar.

Come along to our annual **Music Information & Tryout Evening** (keep an eye on your Compass messages for details). Interested students can see, hear and play all the instruments we offer. Our Music staff will provide professional advice when deciding on the program and how to hire or purchase an instrument. Even if you have no intention of learning an instrument, come along and try one. You may be surprised at how easy and fun it can be!



No prior music instrumental experience is necessary. In fact, most students who join our music instrumental program in Year 7 have never played before.

Instrumental Music lessons take place in small groups on a class withdrawal basis, where students come out of a different class each week for approximately 35 minutes.

Students will have the opportunity to perform to their peers and to the wider community, at assemblies, school events, the Victorian Schools Music Festival and our Winter and Spring Music Concerts.

Students are expected to join one of the College's many instrumental ensembles, such as **Soundworks** (Junior Concert Band) or **Stringworks** (Junior Orchestra). These ensembles rehearse before and after school and students will play in one appropriate to their standard. A **Rock Program** is also offered at the College.



HOMWORK POLICY & STUDY PRACTICES

Homework at Doncaster Secondary College aims to always be purposeful and support the learning and growth of our students. Doncaster Secondary College's at home study guide is outlined in the table below.

Use of the **DSC Study Planner** and communication with the classroom teacher is critical for students to maximise their learning at home.

At the end of each school day, students are expected to:

ACTIVITY	SUGGESTED TIME
Complete any <u>specifically assigned homework</u> . Check your study planner to confirm what is required and when it is due	Varies. Generally, 30 minutes to 1 hour.
<u>Check your study planner for upcoming assessments</u> and revise for this using your class notes, lesson plans and textbooks for support. If you are unsure what to do to practice and prepare, contact your teacher for advice.	Varies.
<u>Review your work for each period</u> on that school day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Look over your notes and check any answers you were unsure about. ■ Contact your teacher via MS Teams or email with questions you had from the lesson that you were unable to discuss during the lesson OR write down questions to ask your teacher in the next class. ■ Discussing your work from the day with your parents / guardians ■ Look at your lesson plans for the next day and consider what pre-reading or preparation you can do. 	10-20 minutes for each class (5 classes per day).
<u>Reading</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fictional novels are encouraged ■ Graphic novels, manga and comics are acceptable ■ Newspapers and text books are acceptable 	30 minutes

WELLBEING SUPPORT

Doncaster Secondary College offers a supportive school community where student wellbeing is fostered and valued. By nurturing students in this way, it helps them to thrive, become engaged learners and caring citizens both today and into the future.

DSC has a whole school approach to wellbeing that builds an inclusive culture of mutual care and respect where diversity is celebrated. Student wellbeing roles within the College include a student's Managing Me teacher, Student Wellbeing Coordinator, Youth Worker, Counsellor, Social Worker, Careers Coordinator, Health Centre Officer and Student Managers.

Our Wellbeing Placement Program also expands the College's network by incorporating trained volunteers and students who are undertaking studies in social work, counselling, or youth work.

Wellbeing Programs

Breakfast Club
Wellbeing Hub
Connection Group
Hoops Program
VCE Lounge
Preventative Wellbeing Programs



ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

Student assessment seeks to promote a positive attitude towards learning and to encourage the pursuit of personal excellence. As such, assessment practices at DSC focuses upon personal growth and the application of feedback for continuous improvement.

Subject teachers, Level Coordinators and Leading Teachers, continually monitor student performance and progress within the classroom. A variety of assessment practices are embedded into the school curriculum.

Assessment is based on:

- ✓ Formal testing (such as NAPLAN, PAT testing)
- ✓ Common assessment tasks (CATs)
- ✓ Individual written work e.g. exercises, essays, reports, assignments, research, book work, folios
- ✓ Individual and group projects
- ✓ Oral presentations, dramatic or musical performances
- ✓ Creative works e.g. models, painting, constructions
- ✓ Participation and skill demonstrated

Self- and peer-assessment, reflection and goal setting are also employed at various stages within a unit of work; these practices, plus timely and relevant feedback, ensure a personalised approach to student learning. All the assessment practices mentioned above, plus observations, provide the basis in which teachers report on student progress.



Parents/Guardians receive regular information regarding their child, using the following formats distributed during the year.



Learning Tasks on Compass

These are the important tasks that students complete throughout the year in all of their subjects. They receive a performance indicator and written feedback for most of these tasks.



Progress Reports

These are termly and are focused on the learning behaviours of students, supporting them to make connections between their performance and their learning habits.



Semester Reports

Twice a year staff report on student progress through the Victorian Curriculum and/or the Victorian Certificate of Education.



Student Led Conferences

Twice a year there is an opportunity for students to meet with their teachers and their families to discuss their progress, celebrate their successes and plan the next steps forward for their learning.



Our College teachers understand that the feedback process is essential for student improvement. Feedback on work also supports the construction of the **Learning Partnership**, allowing the student to optimise their learning in the Junior School.



AWARDS & CELEBRATIONS

Each term students are celebrated at assemblies. We acknowledge the effort, attendance, and achievements of students. They receive certificates and prizes.

We also hold an annual **Junior School Awards** event in the Performance Centre. Selected students receive awards for academic excellence, personal best, music achievements and living the College values.

Acknowledging the hard work students put into their work and into our community is a priority for us and helps build positive learning culture where students strive to be their best.



**YEAR 7
SUBJECT SELECTION**

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY IN YEAR 7?

Junior School students are placed into mixed ability form groups in which they remain for most of their classes. The exception is the Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) class, which is based upon ability testing and recommendations by primary school teachers.

Care is taken to ensure that each student is placed in a form group that supports the personal, emotional, and social development of the child.

All Year 7 subjects are year-long courses with the exception of the Art & Technology subjects, which Year 7 students will study one term each.

Students will study one Language: Italian or Mandarin.

YEAR 7 SUBJECTS:

Managing Me	Maths	Numeracy
English (or EAL)	Reading	Writing
Italian or Mandarin	Health & PE	Humanities
Science	Art*	Music*
	Digital Technology*	Food Technology*

* Term-long subject

MANAGING ME

Key Objectives

- Focused on building the Personal & Social Capabilities.
- Supporting students with their transition to high school.
- Supporting organisation and understanding of school processes.
- Encouraging mindfulness, connectedness and empathy for others.

ENGLISH OR ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Key Objectives

- Focusing on the Victorian Curriculum, building skills and knowledge in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening.
- Reading narratives - both novels and graphic novels.
- Constructing various written pieces.
- Focusing in developing a writing style.
- Focusing on developing an opinion and articulating it.
- Building reading analysis skills.

READING

Key Objectives

- Focusing on Literacy skills and the Reading strand of the Victorian Curriculum.
- Reading short texts using the reciprocal reading strategies.
- Unpacking test-style questions.
- Building reading confidence and general comprehension abilities.

WRITING

Key Objectives

- Focusing on Literacy skills and the Writing strand of the Victorian Curriculum.
- Trying different writing styles to build an understanding of form and purpose.
- Building vocabulary and sentence structure skills.
- Developing a persuasive and narrative voice in their writing.

MATHEMATICS

Key Objectives

- Using the Victorian Curriculum, explore various branches of mathematics including number, space, algebra, chance and data, measurement and mathematical tools.
- Develop skills in choosing appropriate procedures to complete mathematical questions.
- Recall factual knowledge and concepts.
- Investigate problems and think about how mathematical knowledge can be used to solve them.

NUMERACY

Key Objectives

- Focusing on building key numeracy skills to support learning mathematics, but also general numeracy skills in all classes.
- Focuses on number and measurement.
- Real world maths and how it used in every day life.
- Problem solving and applying knowledge to multiple examples.

ITALIAN

Key Objectives

- Develop the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Explore humorous cartoon / script / situations to assist them to communicate effectively in similar situations.
- Use ICT, including audio and visual stimuli, to assist with oral proficiency.
- Identify key words and phrases in passages of text.
- Comprehend factual information drawn from themes studied by comparing, analyzing and select correct information in order to respond appropriately when answering questions, completing close exercises or following instructions.

MANDARIN

Key Objectives

- Develop the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Explore humorous cartoon / script / situations to assist them to communicate effectively in similar situations.
- Use ICT, including audio and visual stimuli, to assist with oral proficiency.
- Identify key words and phrases in passages of text.
- Comprehend factual information drawn from themes studied by comparing, analyzing and select correct information in order to respond appropriately when answering questions, completing close exercises or following instructions.

HUMANITIES

Key Objectives

- Learn key geographical and historical skills that will empower students to be critical thinkers about the world we live in.
- How to create and interpret maps and graphs.
- Collect geographical information from a variety of data and analyse, evaluate and present it using a range of forms.
- Use a range of evidence to describe features of the past societies.
- How to investigate historical evidence to determine significance and a person's view.
- Frame and report on research questions; the difference between primary and secondary sources.

SCIENCE

Key Objectives

- Learn how to safely handle scientific equipment and chemicals.
- learn to make qualitative and quantitative observations, gather and record data, present data in tables and graphs, and draw valid conclusions based on the data collected.
- Pose different types of questions that can be investigated using a range of inquiry skills.
- Investigate relationships in the Earth, sun, moon system and use models to predict and explain events.
- Explore the properties of different materials and use this knowledge to separate mixtures.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Key Objectives

- Explain the impact bullying can have on others as well as discuss possible strategies to appropriately deal with such behaviour.
- Discuss the various forms of drugs as well as the dangers of recreational drug use.
- Identify the physical, social and emotional changes that occur throughout adolescence.
- Outline the key components of a well-balanced diet.
- Maintain regular participation in moderate to vigorous physical activity while developing their proficiency of the various fundamental motor skills.
- Respectful Relationships
- The 4R's: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience & Resourcefulness.

ART

Key Objectives

- Explore visual arts practices as inspiration to explore and develop themes, concepts or ideas in artworks.
- Explore how artists use materials, techniques, technologies and processes to realise their intentions in art works.
- Experiment with materials, techniques, technologies and processes in a range of art forms to express ideas, concepts and themes in artworks.
- Develop skills in planning and designing art works and documenting artistic practice.
- Create artworks, describing how ideas are expressed to an audience
- Analyse how ideas and viewpoints are expressed in art works and how they are viewed by audiences.



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Key Objectives

- Students learn how to write and test code, with an emphasis on design and creativity.
- Manage, create and communicate interactive ideas, information and projects collaboratively online, taking safety and social contexts into account.
- Design algorithms represented diagrammatically and in English, and trace algorithms to predict output for a given input and to identify errors.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Key Objectives

- Be able to demonstrate correct personal hygiene and safety in the kitchen.
- Understand the importance of food safety and hygiene.
- Demonstrate how dry and wet ingredients are measured accurately.
- Demonstrate skills in reading and understanding a recipe.
- Demonstrate safety in using kitchen equipment.
- Understand and utilise the design process in developing concepts and ideas.
- Use problem-solving thinking strategies to create effective design solutions.
- Collaborate and work in teams.

MUSIC

Key Objectives

- Music enables students to express, communicate and understand musical ideas. The emphasis is on involvement in practical music-making whilst developing an understanding of basic music theory.
- Develop music ideas through improvisation, composition and performance, combining and manipulating the elements of music.
- Create, practise and rehearse music to develop listening, compositional and technical and expressive performance skills.



YEAR 7 EXAMPLE TIMETABLE

In 2024, Doncaster Secondary College will be adopting a **5 x 60-minute period** timetable. Most classes will run for 60 minutes however there is flexibility built into the structure that will allow 30-minute focused classes (eg. Numeracy skills) or extended 90-minute classes for more practical/hands-on subjects (eg. Food Technology).

An example of a Year 7 timetable is shown below.

PERIOD	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	Managing Me	Managing Me	Health or PE	Managing Me	Managing Me
	Reading	Reading		Numeracy	Writing
2	Maths	Science	English	Humanities	
Recess					
3	Humanities	Maths	Italian or Mandarin	Art/Tech	Maths
4	Health or PE	English	Humanities		Numeracy
Lunch					
5	English	Italian or Mandarin	Science	Health or PE	Science



YEAR 8 SUBJECT SELECTION

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY IN YEAR 8?

Students complete a comprehensive program in Year 8, with a focus on stretching skills and raising expectations of work standards.

We begin to support students to take even more agency in their learning by choosing electives to go alongside their Core Subjects, and students begin to extend in their areas of strength. There remains a strong focus on Literacy, Numeracy and the Personal and Social Capabilities.

All Year 8 subjects are year-long courses with the exception of the Elective subjects (see next page). Year 8 students will select 4 Elective subjects that are one semester each.

Students will continue to study one Language: Italian or Mandarin.

YEAR 8 CORE SUBJECTS:

Managing Me	English	Reading
Mathematics	Numeracy	Humanities
Science	Health & PE	Italian or Mandarin



YEAR 8 ELECTIVES

During term three of Year 7, students will have the opportunity to declare their elective preferences for Year 8. The College will attempt to accommodate students as much as possible.

Students are encouraged to choose subjects that interest them. No elective subject is required to enter a specific Middle School or Senior School pathway. The purpose of Year 8 electives are to engage students, increase their agency in learning and create opportunities for them to explore different skills.

Students are to select four (4) electives from the options listed here. Each elective runs for one semester.

YEAR 8 ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:

Extension English	Extension Mathematics	STEAM
Drama	Digital Technologies	Food Technology
Music	Design Technologies	Visual Arts

EXTENSION ENGLISH

NOTE: Extension English is not available to SEAL students

Description

- An opportunity for strong English students to build their writing and reading skills through text study and creative writing. Students will only be considered if they have a B or more average in English in Year 7.

EXTENSION MATHEMATICS

NOTE: Extension Mathematics is not available to SEAL students

Description

- An opportunity for strong Maths students to extend their knowledge of mathematics through inquiry and accelerated work. Students will only be considered if they have a B or more average in Maths in Year 7.

STEAM

Description

- Engage in scientific investigation, developing a question for research and create a product.

DRAMA

Description

- In Drama, students identify and analyse how the elements of drama are used, combined and manipulated in different styles, and apply this knowledge in drama they make and perform.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Description

- Explores the wider societal changes because of the increasing use of digital technologies in society. The use of a 3D printer is then the basis for some ideas about designing a digital product.
- Students look at the structure of an information system using the Input > Processing > Output model. Students then learn how inputs can be processed by programming an Arduino processor to produce outputs.
- Students use the Unity game development environment to learn how to make a simple 2D game using a set of guided tutorials. Students then learn how to use design documentation to turn a game design into a 2D game.

MUSIC - MUSIC STUDIO

Description

- Students will get the opportunity to further develop their solo and ensemble skills on drum kit, keyboard, guitar, bass guitar, vocals or other instruments.
- They will learn how to use different technologies such as computer software, recording equipment, acoustic and electronic instruments, to create and develop musical ideas.
- They will learn about musical elements and theory concepts, how to manipulate sounds and how they can be used to create different moods and feelings all in a fun and interactive way.
- They will be able to apply this knowledge to create gaming theme music, sound effects and record live performances.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES

Description

- Students learn skills in metal work, woodwork and visual communication skills.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY - THE JUNIOR HOME COOK

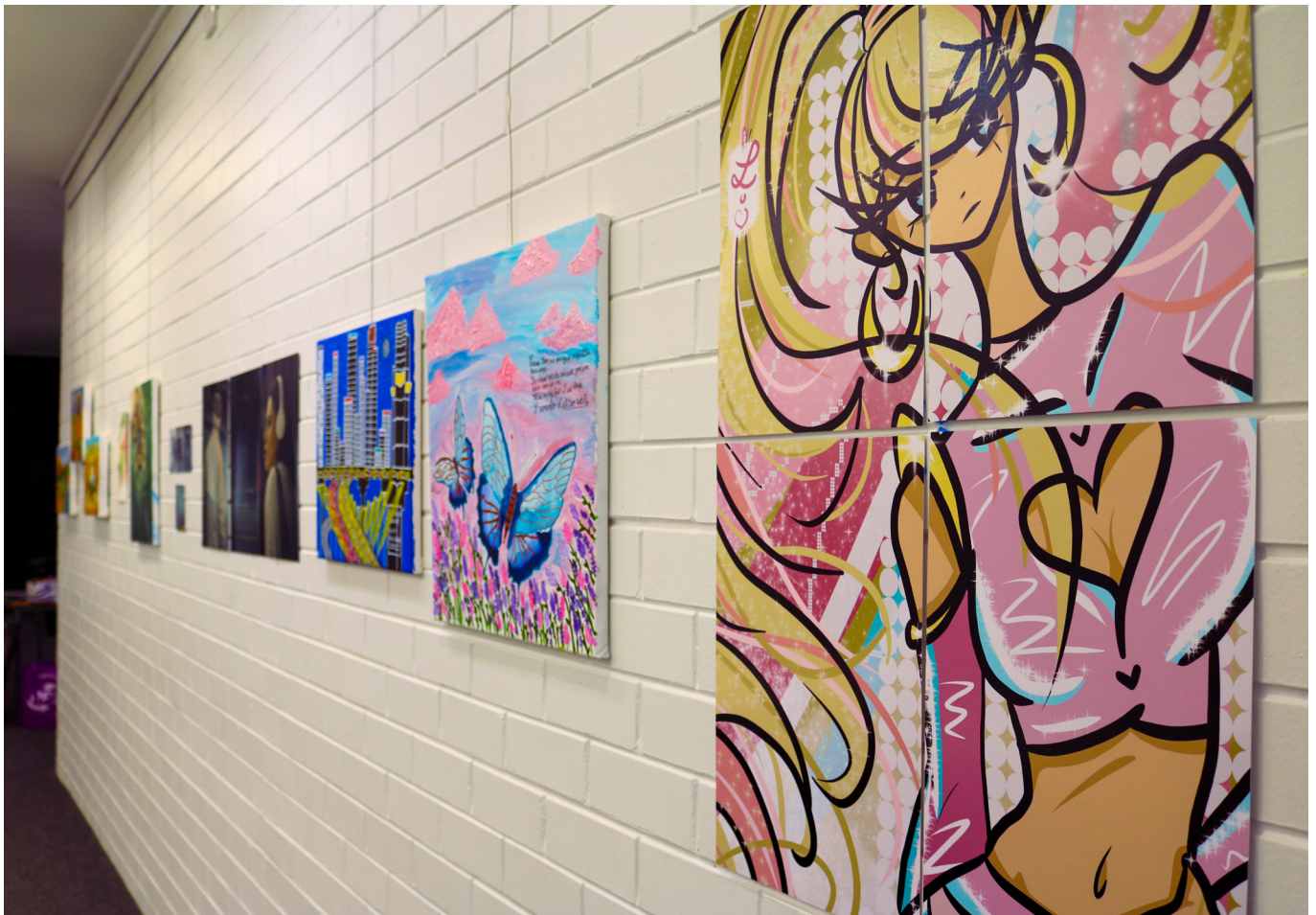
Description

- Students learn to prepare a combination of quick sweet and savoury items that can be prepared and shared with family/carers and loved ones.

VISUAL ARTS

Description

- This subject is an introduction to Visual Arts at the College. Students will be exploring a range of mediums and approaches to creation. Students will develop their skills in technical drawing, ceramics, and digital media art. This subject is designed to build your understanding of Art, Visual Communications, and Media skills.



YEAR 8 EXAMPLE TIMETABLE

In 2024, Doncaster Secondary College will be adopting a **5 x 60-minute period** timetable. Most classes will run for 60 minutes however there is flexibility built into the structure that will allow 30-minute focused classes (eg. Numeracy skills) or extended 90-minute classes for more practical/hands-on subjects (eg. Food Technology).

An example of a Year 8 timetable is shown below.

PERIOD	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1	Managing Me	Elective 1	Managing Me	Numeracy	Managing Me
	Reading		Reading		Reading
2	Maths	Science	English	Humanities	Elective 2
Recess					
3	Humanities	Maths	Italian or Mandarin	Elective 2	Maths
4	Health or PE	English	Humanities	Elective 1	Health or PE
Lunch					
5	English	Italian or Mandarin	Science	Health or PE	Science