HIGHVIEW COLLEGE

2026

YEAR 8 COURSE HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been prepared to assist students in understanding the course they will cover in Year 8. There are no selections to make as part of the broad array of subjects undertaken by all students in their Junior years.

If you require further details on specific units of study, please speak to your current subject teachers or the relevant Head of Faculty.

If you require any other information, please contact:

- Careers Practitioner
- Director of Learning and Innovation
- Head of Year 8

Dr Carolyn Moores
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

What You'll Be Studying In Year 8 5

Year 8 School Curriculum 6

Core Subjects 7

English 7

Mathematics 7

Humanities 8

Indonesian 8

Science 9

Physical Education 9

Health 9

Enrichment Studies 10

Art 10

Design Technology 10

Digital Technology 10

Food Technology 10

Media 11

Music 11

Stem 11

Visual Communication Design 11

Learning Diversity 11

WHAT YOU'LL BE STUDYING IN YEAR 8

At Year 8 students continue to follow a broad curriculum building on their experience of specialist areas and secondary academic requirements. Our aim is to ensure that learning is enjoyable, stimulating, challenging and engaging.

The studies offered in Years 8 are designed to provide a solid, broad framework covering key curriculum areas of English, Mathematics, Humanities, Science, Indonesian and Health & Physical Education and encouraging creativity and exploration through an Enrichment Program which includes specialist studies in Technology, STEM and the Visual and Performing Arts.

This booklet outlines details of the Year 8 Program in 2026. Core subjects run for the whole year and include our Student Wellbeing Program, 'DELTA'. The DELTA Program includes personal development and training for safe behaviours.

Enrichment Studies are designed to be hands-on and engaging. These run for a semester each and include:

- Art
- Design Technology
- Digital Technology
- Food Technology
- Media
- Music
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
- Visual Communication Design (VCD)

We encourage every student to explore their creativity and problem-solving capacity as a central component of their learning. In Year 9 students are invited to select electives. In Year 10 almost the entire program is elective, allowing students to begin to tailor their programs to their areas of interest, strength and aspiration as they prepare for VCE.

YEAR 8 SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Junior secondary studies present students with a foundation of knowledge and experience and opportunities to explore new specialist learning, to strengthen organisational and study skills, and to understand themselves as a learner. Core subjects are studied all year and the enrichment studies are studied for a semester each.

	STUDIES	LESSONS EACH CYCLE
CORE SUBJECTS	DELTA	12 minutes daily + 40 minutes Wednesdays
	English	11 lessons
	Mathematics	11 lessons
	Science	8 lessons
	Humanities	8 lessons
	Physical Education	6 lessons
	Indonesian/Learning Diversity	2 lessons
	Health	2 lessons (Semester 1)
YEAR 8 ENRICHMENT	Art	5 lessons
	Design Technology	5 lessons
	Digital Technology	3 lessons
	Food Technology	5 lessons
	Media	5 lessons
	Music	5 lessons
	STEM	3 lessons
	VCD	3 lessons

CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

Through the study of English, students learn to analyse, understand, communicate and interact with others and the world around them. It contributes to the creation of confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. English involves the development and consolidation of skills in the areas of reading, writing, and speaking thinking. Students also develop their critical thinking skills.

Throughout the year, students will study the set texts and participate in discussions about the ideas and concerns raised in these texts. They are expected to respond to short answer questions on a number of topics and write in a variety of styles, including essays. Students also begin to explain their choices in the writing process. Students deliver at least one formal oral presentation, developing confidence in their speaking skills. They will also complete spelling, grammar and punctuation activities as required.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics we build on the understandings students have already developed. Throughout the year students complete topics across the six main learning areas: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics & Probability. They will explore their fluency in sequences and patterns as well as developing their reasoning and explanation of processes. Students will also be exposed to a variety of problem-solving tasks to model authentic problems. Students may also participate in the 'Australian Maths Competition'.

Students will be supported in their Mathematics learning in classes with students of similar ability. We run 'Access Mathematics' for students who need more guidance to work at a secondary level in Mathematics, and for students who need assistance to close gaps in their Mathematics confidence in preparation for future years.

All Year 8 students will study Mathematics at the same time, allowing for movement between classes, as appropriate.

HUMANITIES

Humanities is an essential part of every student's learning journey from Years 7 to 9, and remains a valued and enriching option in Year 10. Year 8 Humanities provides a different topic in each term, to clearly distinguish the four topics of the secondary curriculum: Geography, Economics and Business, History, and Civics and Citizenship. Humanities has been purposefully developed to provide students with the skills they need for senior studies, with each stage building on the last. Assessment and activities are designed to reflect real world applications where practical, linking learning to skills for life.

Students build on their understanding by examining change over time and place, and how ideas, institutions and environments evolve. Across the four terms, they study:

- **Geography**: Students investigate the formation and value of landscapes and landforms, including mountains, coastlines and deserts. They examine human impacts on the environment and explore patterns of urbanisation, including case studies from Australia and countries such as China and Indonesia. Fieldwork and spatial technologies are further developed.
- **History**: This term focuses on the medieval and early modern worlds. Students study societies such as Medieval Europe, the Islamic Golden Age, and Shogunate Japan. They explore the impacts of religion, warfare, feudal systems and cultural change, while continuing to build skills in source analysis and historical interpretation.
- **Civics and Citizenship**: Students explore how laws are made and how the legal system works. They learn about different types of law (civil and criminal), the importance of the rule of law, and how citizens can influence the law-making process. This builds essential background for later Legal Studies.
- **Economics and Business**: Students examine the nature of business, entrepreneurship and markets. They explore how businesses operate, what makes them successful, and how ethical and legal responsibilities are balanced with profit-making. Students also learn how to avoid scams and make sound financial decisions.

Year 8 Humanities is about deepening understanding—how societies organise themselves, how people shape places, and how systems of law and business evolve.

INDONESIAN

In Indonesian, students engage in range of interactive, fun activities with classmates to express their likes, dislikes and preferences, and to exchange opinions relating to the world in which they live. Students will develop a foundation in basic skills, adding abstract grammar to their use of the spoken and written language. Students also create individual and shared texts, building on language modelled in class.

SCIENCE

Science provides students with opportunities to develop and explore their scientific inquiry skills through a number of research tasks and practical investigations. Through a practical approach, students are introduced to the following topics: Microscopes & Cells, Plant & Animal Systems, Electrical Circuits, Energy, Elements & Compounds, Chemical Reactions, Rocks and Plate tectonics.

During these tasks, students are encouraged to identify questions and problems that can be investigated scientifically and make predictions based on scientific knowledge. Students also have the opportunity to design their own experiment within a set of parameters in an area of interest to them. Students will have time to design and conduct their project. Through this project, students will have opportunities to develop their scientific investigation skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education encourages students to compose and perform movement sequences for specific purposes in a variety of contexts. This is facilitated by participation in a variety of activities such as fitness, athletics, softball, netball, volleyball and football. This allows them to experience the cultural and historical significance of a range of physical activities.

Students practise, apply and transfer movement concepts and strategies and demonstrate how the elements of effort, space, time, objects and people can enhance performance. Through their participation, students can evaluate and justify reasons for decisions and choices of action when solving movement challenges. This forms the basis for their ability to recognise and act upon movement changes to enhance their performance capabilities.

HEALTH

Health builds on the foundations from Year 7, with a continued focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding, and skills to support their health, safety, and wellbeing. Guided by the Victorian Curriculum 2.0, the program encourages students to reflect on their values and behaviours while learning to make responsible and respectful decisions.

Students explore a range of topics that help them navigate adolescence and build confidence in managing real-life health issues. They examine the impact of risk-taking behaviours, explore strategies to build resilience and mental wellbeing, and strengthen their understanding of personal identity, inclusivity, and respectful relationships.

Topics include:

- Respectful relationships and consent education
- Managing stress and promoting mental wellbeing
- Positive body image and media literacy
- Alcohol, tobacco, and drug education
- Online safety, digital behaviours, and peer influence
- Nutrition and healthy lifestyle habits
- Diversity, inclusion, and cultural understanding
- Problem-solving and help-seeking strategies

ENRICHMENT STUDIES

ART

This semester-long Art program enables students to refine their technical skills across a range of methods, including drawing, painting, printmaking, and ceramics. Students engage with both traditional and contemporary art-making practices to explore creative expression. A broad selection of materials and media is used to visually communicate personal observations and interpretations. Through the study of local and international artists, students strengthen their creative and critical understanding of contemporary art practice.

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

In this unit students explore the key concepts of safety, design and production. This course is designed to build upon students' skills and confidence in using tools, learning processes and making projects in a safe way. Students are exposed to multiple different materials shaping and producing these with tools including laser cutting, 3D printing and pyrography.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Digitech is a semester-long subject designed to build on students' foundational programming skills. Throughout the course, students will deepen their understanding of Python, focusing on number variables, nested *if* statements, and *while* loops. Learning is driven by a series of fun, hands-on coding challenges that promote creativity, logic, and problem-solving. Students will gain practical

experience writing and debugging code, gradually developing the confidence to tackle more complex tasks. The semester culminates in a major project, where students apply their learning to create either a simple chatbot or a basic combat simulator.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Students will explore the key concepts of kitchen safety, design and food knowledge while beginning their journey in developing their cooking skills. This course is designed to develop students' skills and knowledge needed in the food area. Additionally, students are introduced to concepts of designing solutions for healthy eating and other ethical considerations.

MEDIA

In Media, students develop skills in the areas of media production and analysis. Students use the production process to create their own work in a range of media forms including film, print, photography and more. Students develop their practical skills with the use of production equipment such as cameras and lights, as well as their skills in computer editing software.

Students develop their media language and learn how to explore media work that is created across cultures, times, places and other contexts to communicate ideas, perspectives and meaning.

MUSIC

Music will build on the musical knowledge and practical skills from Year 7 to further develop a deeper understanding of the elements of music. Students will learn the characteristics and historical influences of music through practical activities in relation to a 'hands on history of Rock 'n' Roll'. Starting with the 12 Bar Blues and moving through 60s, 70s and 80s music, students will develop performing skills through learning guitar, keyboard, bass guitar and drums, as well as performing in small groups.

STEM

In this unit, students will explore the key concepts of design and enquiry. This course is designed to build students' inquiry and problem-solving skills while producing solutions to a project that incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Using these areas of study, students investigate, design, test and evaluate a project such as bridge building.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

In VCD, students apply industry-standard software such as Adobe programs alongside manual techniques to produce creative and innovative visual outcomes in response to design briefs. They learn how to integrate digital and traditional processes to develop original design solutions. By studying the work of local and international designers, students expand their knowledge of contemporary design practice. This is further developed through structured research tasks and case studies that connect design thinking with practical applications.

LEARNING DIVERSITY

Some students may benefit from undertaking regular learning support in the Learning Diversity hub (Room 1) instead of Indonesian.

There will also be flexible arrangements for students to attend the Learning Diversity hub for support at other times.

The Learning Diversity hub will also offer reading recovery sessions including the Maquarie Literacy Program in the place of some Humanities classes in Semester 1 for specific students.