



Create The Future

Year 9  
Handbook  
2020



Create The Future

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## Welcome

Welcome to Year 9! Victoria University Secondary College is proud to announce a new and exciting Year 9 program that recognises the unique nature of this year of schooling. In a year of rapid change and personal growth we hope to inspire our students to feel challenged, engaged and inspired to achieve.

The adolescent years are clearly a time of significant change: intellectual, physical, social, emotional and spiritual. There is the further realisation that despite these changes, these years are also formative and foundational. The maturation process inevitably concludes with formed habits, values and ideals. The special experiences and programs at VUSC are hence crafted to make these changes positive and to ensure that the best possible foundation is laid, as students become young adults, and as the inquiry and broad-based learning of the junior years gives birth to the knowledge, skill and understanding demanded in specific elements for the senior years.

VUSC is dedicated to making the passage of our students through adolescence as successful as possible. The Year 9 program has been designed to provide opportunities for some students to participate in a wide range of electives while others, who are ready to do so, may enter into a Deep Learning program which offers opportunities to extend themselves in their areas of passion.

Through a cross-curriculum Inquiry Learning unit and community based projects, the Year 9 program focuses on real-world learning as well as developing students' critical and creative thinking, ethical capability, intercultural capability and personal and social capability.

VUSC promotes effective organisation and systems skills that parallel with concepts of order, process and operational efficiency and effectiveness. Beyond the promotion of organisational skills is the desire to cultivate critical thinking students who are deeply intuitive and connected with their own learning; students aware of their learning styles and strengths; students capable of acting with independence and autonomy; and, students in control of their own learning habits and futures. If students have accomplished these tasks by the end of their Year 9 at VUSC then they will have gained an immeasurable amount from their experience. The foundations for a successful VCE or VCAL year, not to mention a fruitful journey of life-long learning, are in so many ways established at VUSC.



Elaine Hazim  
College Principal

## Course Information

The structure of the Year 9 learning program is designed to provide students with a range of learning experiences and allow students to begin to pursue areas of interest. All students study Mathematics, English or English as an Additional Language (EAL), Science, Humanities, Health & Physical Education and Inquiry Learning. Core subjects at Year 9 reflect the Victorian Curriculum and build upon the essential skills, knowledge and understandings that students have developed in Years 7 and 8. Year 9 students continue to study Enhanced Literacy to further develop the essential literacy skills of reading and writing.

In 2020, students will have an opportunity to select up to four elective subjects, two per semester, and study these subjects in depth. Students will be required to study one elective from either Arts or Technology. The remaining subject choices can be made from any of the electives offered. Subjects that are offered will only run if a sufficient number of students select the class.

### Team 9

#### Inquiry Learning

This unique Inquiry unit is designed to support students in developing a passion for independent learning. In addition to this, the unit aims to support students' personal well-being, assist in developing career pathways and to build a greater connection to local community. Students will have the opportunity to build a range of research skills and complete real-world projects that allow students to engage directly with the wider community. Students will also build their capacity for critical and creative thinking, ethical capability, intercultural capability and personal and social capability.

#### Physical Education & Health

As part of the Team 9 Program students will participate in a Physical Education & Health that enhances their own and others' health, safety, wellbeing and physical activity participation in varied and changing contexts.

To run this unique program and enable authentic and relevant learning activities, the cost of the Year 9 program is quite high. The majority of the cost is subsidised by grants and donations to the school. However, this does not cover the entire cost. **Students are required to contribute \$80.00 to cover the costs for the excursions and activities.**

### Deep Learning Program

At VUSC, Years 9 & 10 are focused on providing an adaptable curriculum to meet students' needs. During these years, some students are ready to specialise in their learning and develop their knowledge and skills in specific subjects in greater depth.

The Deep Learning Pathway allows students who are ready for increased complexity in specific subjects to access a greater level of challenge. Students can specialise in the areas of English and Humanities, taking an extension English class, Literature, and 12 months of their chosen Humanities, either History (Years 9 & 10) or Economics & Legal Studies (Year 10 only). Students can also specialise in the areas of Mathematics and Sciences, being part of an extension Mathematics class and having additional periods of Science where they undertake inquiry-based learning. Some students are able to specialise in all areas.\*

Students in Year 10 are able to take advanced placement in a Unit 1 & 2 VCE subject. These students may also take Introduction to Extended Investigation, which is an inquiry-based learning unit where students are able to pursue academic research in a field of their interest. Students who wish to apply for the Deep Learning Pathway need to ask for an application form at the office and submit this form prior to Course Counselling Day.

*\*Student who take AVID or Band are unable to specialise in all areas.*

### AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination)

AVID is an exciting program that supports students in enhancing their educational outcomes and preparing students for a university education. The AVID elective has a strong emphasis on collaborative problem solving, inquiry and study skills. Tutors from Victoria University will support students in the AVID elective. Students who are interested in enrolling in the Year 9 AVID program, even if they have not completed the Year 8 program, need to obtain an application form from their Campus Principal. Students will be required to attend a formal interview to determine their suitability for the program.



## Core Subjects

### English

In year 9 English, students extend their knowledge of text and language, with a particular focus on analytical, persuasive, and creative responses. The texts in year 9 continue to extend the reading skills of our students, and they also refine their literacy skills in the fortnightly library reading sessions. As well as a range of class novels, poems and films, students also participate in Literature Circles, where they choose their own text and form groups to discuss and analyse what they have read. They continue to prepare for senior studies in their writing of language analysis and analytical essay responses which require them to develop and express ideas in increasingly complex ways. Throughout the course, students work to refine their spelling and grammar, as well as their abilities to plan, draft, and edit their work. By the completion of this course, students should be well prepared for their senior studies.

**English - Deep Learning is offered to students in the Deep Learning Program.**

### Humanities

In the History component of the Humanities course, students learn about the causes and effects of the Industrial Revolution. They use evidence from historical sources to explain the changes to society during and after the Industrial Revolution. Students conduct research into an aspect of life in Australia during the period 1750 – 1918. They explore the causes and effects of World War I and learn about the experiences of Australians at war. The Geography component provides students with an understanding of the world's biomes and the human activities that alter these biomes. Students explore the factors that influence global food security and investigate the impacts of ecotourism on people and places. In Economics, students explore Australia's trade relationships. They evaluate how a product's production from 'source to shelves' impacts upon people and places.

**History or Economics & Legal Studies - Deep Learning is offered to students in the Deep Learning Program.**

### Mathematics

During Semester 1, Year 9 Mathematics focuses on the topics of Money and Financial Mathematics, Indices, Expanding, Solving equations and Linear and Non Linear Relationships. The topics of Pythagoras' Theorem, Data Representation and Interpretation, Chance, Using Units of Measurement, Geometric Reasoning and Trigonometry, are the focus of Semester 2.

**Mathematics - Deep Learning is offered to students in the Deep Learning Program.**

### Science

In Year 9, students further develop scientific inquiry skills, from questioning, planning and recording, to processing, analysing, and communicating. They delve into biological, chemical, physical and earth and environmental sciences, covering topics that include control and coordination, inside the atom and chemical reactions, dynamic Earth and ecology, and energy and electricity. They are challenged to develop higher level thinking skills and encouraged to approach problems in creative ways.

**Science - Deep Learning is offered to students in the Deep Learning Program.**

### Enhanced Literacy

The Enhanced Literacy course supports the development of literacy skills that can be applied across subject areas. With a focus on writing, students create a range of texts in different genres. They learn how to establish and maintain a writers' notebook and are introduced to the writing process. Students edit, proof-read and publish their work into a folio at the end of the course. Students are streamed into classes in this subject to allow them to work at a suitable level.

### English as an Additional Language

The EAL program is designed to meet the unique and varied needs of students for whom English is not the mother tongue. These are small, specialised classes, provided in addition to mainstream English classes and are designed to meet individual student needs. The focus is learning how English functions in the Australian context. Students explore how to use their English to enable effective communication. Students utilise the four language modes; speaking, listening, reading and writing to express and exchange knowledge, attitudes, feelings and opinions. They examine language patterns including spelling, grammar and punctuation at the word, sentence and extended text levels. Students learn to reflect upon their own speaking and writing, enabling them to continue to improve upon their use of English.

### Literature

Literature is designed to improve students' ability to read and respond to increasingly complex texts. Students are selected for this course based on their reading comprehension ability, which this course aims to extend. The texts are chosen because of their literary merit and are designed to offer a challenge to the students. They read the texts closely and consider the way that language has been used by the author. They respond to the texts in using different genres, with a focus on academic writing.

**Literature is a required subject for students in the English/Humanities Deep Learning Pathway. It is also offered as an elective to all Year 9 students.**

### Literacy Intervention

Literacy Intervention is designed to support students' reading. The students participate in the Macquarie Literacy Program, an evidence-based intervention for reading where they work in small groups with close support. Student work on the basic skills needed to improve their reading for all subjects and to build confidence with reading generally. In this subject, students work towards demonstrating key capabilities in reading, rather than completing assessment tasks.





# Course Structure

## Mainstream Program

Subjects	Periods
English	3
Enhanced Literacy / EAL / AVID / Band	2
Humanities	2
Inquiry unit	2
Maths	3
Physical Education & Health	2
Science	2
Elective Block 1	2
Elective Block 2	2
TOTAL	20

## English/Humanities Deep Learning Program

Subjects	Periods
English - Deep Learning	3
Literature - Deep Learning	2
History or Economics & Legal Studies - Deep Learning	2
Science	2
Inquiry unit	2
Maths	3
Physical Education & Health	2
Elective Block 1	2
Elective Block 2 / AVID / Band	2
TOTAL	20

## Maths/Science Deep Learning Program

Subjects	Periods
Mathematics - Deep Learning	3
Science - Deep Learning	2
Science	2
English	3
Inquiry unit	2
Physical Education & Health	2
Humanities	2
Elective Block 1	2
Elective Block 2 / AVID / Band	2
TOTAL	20

## All Areas Deep Learning Program

Subjects	Periods
English - Deep Learning	3
Mathematics - Deep Learning	3
Science - Deep Learning	2
History or Economics & Legal Studies - Deep Learning	2
Literature - Deep Learning	2
Inquiry unit	2
Physical Education & Health	2
Elective Block 1	2
Elective Block 2 / AVID / Band	2
TOTAL	20



# Electives

Year 9 students will complete TWO electives each semester.

One of the student's selections must be from either the ARTS or TECHNOLOGY Learning Domains. The remaining selection can be from any of the Learning Domains.

## Costs for some Elective Subjects

Parents and students should be aware that some of the electives require payment of a materials cost. Please note that due to the high demand for places in the 'Food' elective, payment of the materials cost should be made early to secure enrolment.

## Explanation of Costs

Students will be notified as to which elective they have been enrolled into for 2020. 50% payment (for those electives that incur a cost) is due when the student submits their subject selection form. The balance of the payment is due on confirmation of elective choices. If full payment is not made at this time, the student will be required to select another elective.

# Arts

## Visual Art – Semester 1

Students will use a variety of media for the production of artworks including ICT (Photoshop) to produce artworks. Students will explore the art elements and design principles through colour theory, application of wet and dry media and experimentation in painting and drawing. They will produce a folio of artworks. Students will learn art literacy and utilise art terminology in their written theory.

## Visual Communication – Semester 2

Students research and explore the elements and principles of design across a range of different media and technical devices. They produce a folio of designs that incorporates lettering, logos, ICT, packaging and instrumental drawing. A final product design is created using correct layout format.

## Digital Art – Semester 1

Digital art is an artistic work or practice that uses digital technology as part of the creative or presentation process. By illustrating the strategy of teaching art through technology, this elective may help guide the school to make suitable choices about which technological approaches are most effective in enhancing students' creative ability, and which digital art tools can benefit children by developing their technical skills. The techniques and processes that are taught within this elective will enable students to learn basic/advance technological skills that industries (such as film, graphics, visual communications and gaming) require from their employees/applicants.

## Drama – Semester 2

Students explore non-naturalistic theatre through the study of pre-modern and modern theatrical styles and conventions. Students work together to interpret and rehearse a script incorporating non-naturalistic theatrical elements. This study culminates in a class performance presentation.

## Modern Music – Semester 1

This is an inquiry-based subject that encompasses music from the twentieth and twenty-first century. Students create a deep musical presentation of ideas about a chosen genre of music from the time period that uses the three key skills from the Victorian Curriculum, listening, performing and composing. This presentation with combine the work of musical analysis, performing songs, as well as creating new and informed musical works.

## Music Performance – Semester 2

Students studying Music study a variety of areas of music. Students are expected to learn a musical instrument within the context of performing in a small ensemble. Students undertake a level of theoretical knowledge of music including written and aural theory. The subject also includes the exploration of a range of musical styles through listening exercises and an understanding of the use of musical vocabulary in response to listening.

## Technology

### Information Technology – Offered Semesters 1 & 2

Students engage with contemporary forms of digital information. They develop a range of ways to use information technologies, solve information problems and explore and develop ICT skills and techniques.

### Food Technology – Offered Semesters 1 & 2

Students will explore a range of international cuisines. Students will participate in practical classes to prepare and share food for good health and pleasure. Students will explore eating patterns, the types of food consumed and the skills and equipment needed to prepare the foods. **The cost for this unit is \$80.**

## Health and Physical Education

### Sport Education (SEPEP) – Semester 1

A student centred approach to Physical Education which takes the best parts of community sport to enhance student learning. Students will develop their game based skills, decision making and tactics. Sport Education aims to maximise involvement and deepen understanding of sports by giving students dedicated roles outside of just participation. It seeks to develop leadership and other interpersonal skills valuable to all aspects of life.

### Health and Human Development – Semester 1

Year 9 Health and Human Development is a precursor unit to VCE Health. Students will study content relative to the current VCE study design including; Nutrition, Global health initiatives and interventions, social dimensions of health, physical activity to promote health, and explore the development of health across the lifespan. This course is designed to give students the necessary tools to promote achievement in VCE by exposing them to concepts explored in later years.

### Exercise Physiology – Semester 2

Year 9 Exercise Physiology is a precursor unit to VCE Physical Education. Students will explore a basic introduction to human anatomy. They will be able to describe the structure and function of the human nervous, skeletal, and muscular systems. Students will examine the study of biomechanics in relation to our understanding of human movement and develop an appreciation for the anaerobic and aerobic processes that provide energy for the working muscle. Students will be able to identify the role the heart, lungs, vascular system, and blood play in the delivery of oxygen, nutrients, and the elimination of by-products from the working cells of the body. By the end of the elective, they will develop an appreciation for the many and varied benefits of regular exercise and physical training and understand basic tools and procedures that are used to assess exercise capacity and health risk.

### Sport Leadership and Coaching – Semester 2

This course is for sports enthusiasts and for students who want to make a difference to others through sporting participation. Students will work on the positive roles and responsibilities of a good coach, the importance of being a positive role model and will learn how to organise and coordinate a community fitness activity. The skills students develop in the first part of the course will then lead them into coaching a school team and/or organising a sporting activity. At the completion of the course, students will receive a Level 1 Certificate in Sport Leadership Award Training. This is a School Sports Victoria recognised certificate that students can use to gain employment in an 'Active Afterschool Program.'

## Year 9 Rugby Pathways – Full Year

The VUSC Junior Rugby League Academy program provides students with specialised and individual support in skill development and strength and conditioning in order to perform at the level required to access career pathways at professional sporting clubs. The junior program covers both theory and practical components throughout the course.

Areas of study include the following:

- Practical Components Theoretical Components
- Core Skills Diet and Nutrition
- Attacking Principles Drugs in Sport
- Defensive Principles Injury Management
- Team Skills Energy Systems
- Individual Skills Physical Literacy
- Strength & Conditioning Strength Training Principles

Students must meeting the entry requirements of the Rugby Academy and be prepared to represent VUSC at all Rugby League competitions.

## Languages

### Chinese (Mandarin) or Italian – Full Year

Students in this course learn to express themselves and understand others on topics closely related to their experience and daily life. The course continues to focus on developing the students' capacity to interact in familiar situations and identify what they have read or heard. The emphasis will be on developing fluency in reading and writing.

Chinese is a full year elective.

## Sciences

### Forensic Science – Semester 1

Forensic science is the application of science concerned with the analysis of evidence from crime scenes to support criminal proceedings. Students will explore how science is used in criminal investigations. It involves a combination of chemical, physical and biological tests on evidence such as hair, fibers, fingerprints and soil. Students are required to analyse evidence, observe reactions and draw conclusions from experiments performed and research undertaken. The cost for this unit is \$30.

### Marine Biology – Semester 2

Marine biology is the study of marine organisms, their behaviours and interactions with the environment. Students will investigate the sea, its inhabitants and the challenges they are faced with. Issues of coexisting with commercial shipping, recreational boating, plastics, chemicals, and other human activities will be explored. Students will study how these activities affect marine life, and suggest alternatives to minimise or prevent them. The cost for this unit is \$30.

## Elective Blocks

Students completing the mainstream Year 9 pathway must select electives from each block and fill in the Year 9 Selection Sheet on the following page.

Students completing the Deep Learning Pathway must complete an application form and, on acceptance into the program, will be given an alternative Deep Learning Subject Selection sheet. Application forms are available at the front office.

### Block 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
Visual Art	Visual Communication
Modern Music	Music Performance
Information technology	Information Technology
Sport Education	Exercise Physiology
Forensic Science	Marine Biology (?)
Food	Food
Chinese (Mandarin) or Italian – Full Year	

### Block 2

Semester 1	Semester 2
Digital Art	Drama
Food	Food
Health Education	Sport Leadership and Coaching
Chinese (Mandarin) or Italian – Full Year	
Rugby Pathways – Full Year	

## VUSC Year 9 Elective Selection Sheet 2020

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Group \_\_\_\_\_

Year 9 students will study English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, PE/Health, Inquiry Learning Unit Enhanced English/AVID/Concert Band and up to 4 electives. Please note 50% payment (for those electives that incur a materials cost) is due when subject selections are made.

Students who choose Chinese/Italian and Rugby should note that they run all year and count as 2 units. All other subjects count as 1 unit. The number of units for Block 1 must equal 2 units and Block 2 must also equal 2 units for a total of 4 units overall.

### Selecting Electives

1. Students are required to select their preferred subject from Elective Block 1 Semester 1 and write it in Priority 1. Then pick 3 back-up selections and place them in Reserve spots 1 -3.
2. Students then select their preferred subject from Elective Block 1 Semester 2 and write it in Priority 2. Then pick 3 back-up selections and place them in Reserve spots 4 -6. If students pick Chinese it runs all year and priority box 2 is left empty.
3. Students are required to select their preferred subject from Elective Block 2 Semester 1 and write it in Priority 3. Then pick 3 back-up selections and place them in Reserve spots 7 -9.
4. Students then select their preferred subject from Elective Block 2 Semester 2 and write it in Priority 4. Then pick 3 back-up selections and place them in Reserve spots 10 -12. If students pick Chinese, Rugby, Literature (in depth) or Science (in depth) they run all year and priority box 4 is left empty. **The number of units must add up to a total of 4 Units only.**

Subject Selection	Number of Units	Backup Selections
Priority 1 - Elective Block 1 – Sem. 1	-	Reserve 1 _____
_____		Reserve 2 _____
_____		Reserve 3 _____
Priority 2 - Elective Block 1 – Sem. 2	-	Reserve 4 _____
_____		Reserve 5 _____
_____		Reserve 6 _____
Priority 2 - Elective Block 2 – Sem. 1	-	Reserve 7 _____
_____		Reserve 8 _____
_____		Reserve 9 _____
Priority 2 - Elective Block 2 – Sem. 2	-	Reserve 10 _____
_____		Reserve 11 _____
_____		Reserve 12 _____
Total	4	

[illegible]





Create The Future

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