Victoria University Secondary College

victoria university secondary college

Create The Future

Year 9 Handbook 2023

victoria university
secondary college

Create The Future

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At Victoria University Secondary College we teach and learn within the College's core values.

We expect students to:
Create the Future
by
Aspiring to Achieve
Strengthening the Community
and
Respecting Themselves and Others

Welcome

Welcome to Year 9! Victoria University Secondary College is proud to offer an 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.

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.

In 2021, 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.

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.

Students may be required to contribute an additional fee to cover the cost of excursions and activities for this subject.

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 or Economics & Legal Studies. Students can also specialise in the areas of Mathematics and Sciences, being part of extension Mathematics and Science classes where they undertake inquiry-based learning. Some students are able to specialise in all areas.

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.

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. As well as responding to a range of contemporary literature, poems and films, students also participate in the exploration of context focusing on a specific theme, where they will read and write in a variety of genres. Speaking and listening is also a focus of the Year 9 course and students will present their point of view through persuasive and informative oral activities. 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.

English as an Additional Language

The EAL program is mostly aligned to mainstream Year 9 English with some variations. 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, designed to meet individual student needs. The focus is on learning how English functions in the Australian context while practising the skills required for mainstream English in the later years. 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.

Enhanced Literacy - Reading

The Enhanced Literacy Reading program supports the development of critical reading skills which can be applied across all subject areas. With a focus on reading, students learn to read a variety of texts using essential comprehension strategies. They also learn how to establish and maintain a reader's and writer's notebook while using the library to engage in a wider reading program. Students are streamed into classes in this subject to allow them to work at a suitable level.

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.

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. Students 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.

Physical Education & Health

This subject has two major components: Health and Physical Education. In our Health unit students will undertake a party safe unit and be educated on how to be safe around alcohol and drugs as well as explore respectful relationships and understand how to develop healthy relationships, gender and identity. Students will explore sexual education through understanding how to be safe and consensual. Students will also develop skills in health promotion and understand its benefits to the community. For Physical Education students will develop skills in a game sense approach to sports strengthening their skills in tactics and strategies. Students

will undertake a range of sports to apply this approach including basketball, volleyball, tennis, netball, tchouk ball and badminton. Students will undertake an inclusive Physical Education unit learning how people with barriers in their lives can still participate in sport. Theoretically students will undertake units on the skeletal and muscular systems, training methods and principles that will lead into the senior years of Physical Education.

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

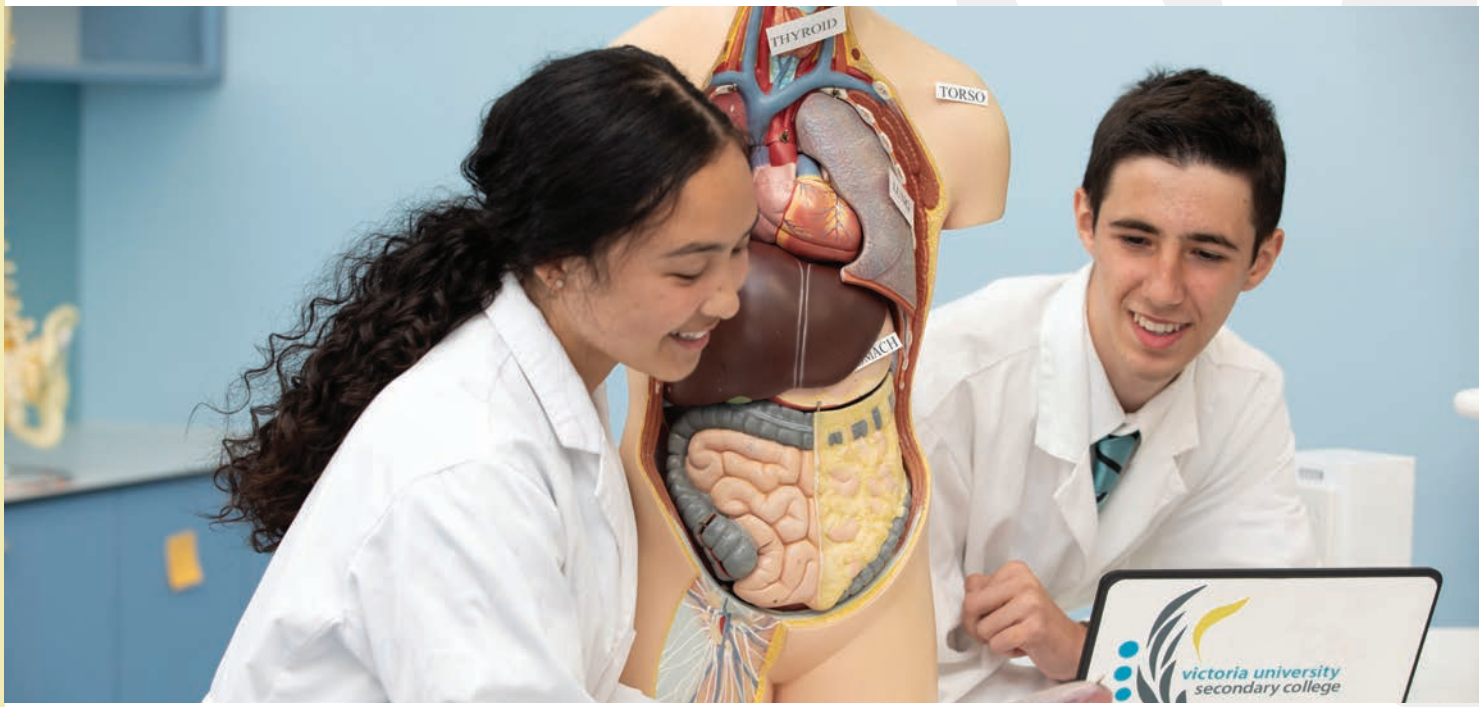
During Semester 1, Year 9 Mathematics focusses on the topics of number skills, measurement, probability, and linear relationships. The topics of statistics, Pythagoras' Theorem and trigonometry, algebraic expressions, and financial mathematics are the focus of Semester 2. Students explore these concepts through problem-based lessons and differentiated learning centres, targeted at their level of readiness. They use a variety of models and manipulatives to develop a conceptual understanding of mathematical ideas.

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 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.



Course Structure

Mainstream Program

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

Maths/Science Deep Learning Program

Subjects	Periods
English / EAL	3
Enhanced Literacy / EAL / AVID	2
Humanities	2
Mathematics - Deep Learning	3
Science - Deep Learning	2
Inquiry	2
Physical Education & Health	2
Elective / Specialist Program 1	2
Elective / Specialist Program 2	2
TOTAL	20

English/Humanities Deep Learning Program

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

All Areas Deep Learning Program

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

Specialist Programs

Specialist programs are offered to students who are excelling in particular areas of the college. These courses run for a full year and students are selected to enter into these programs.

Music

Concert Band – Full Year

The Concert Band program has been a well-respected program at the College for several years now, giving students opportunities to perform and collaborate with their peers.

Students select a concert band instrument of their choice. Instrument families consist of brass, woodwind, percussion and bass guitar. Concert band classes run twice per week as part of the elective program. Students work on concert band arrangements of modern pieces and perform for College assemblies and functions. The cost of the concert band covers the instrument hire, sheet music hire, as well as a thirty-five minute instrumental lesson with a professional instrumental teacher on the selected instrument.

An additional fee to cover the cost of materials, excursions, etc, may apply for students choosing this elective.

Languages

Chinese (Mandarin) – Full Year

This course requires that students have had a minimum of 100 hours instruction in Mandarin Chinese throughout Year 7 and 8, in a school where a language other than Mandarin is the main language of instruction. They must be familiar with Pinyin, and must be able to recognise the 150 most commonly used Hanzi characters. Students with no prior knowledge of Chinese (Mandarin), unfortunately cannot be accommodated in this course.

In Year 9 Chinese, students who elect to study Mandarin Chinese will continue to develop all four macro skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. By the end of the year, students will be able to comprehend short texts in Chinese related to the topics in the textbook. Students will be able to participate in simple conversations regarding everyday topics, and will be able to write more extended sentence patterns, structured paragraphs and small written pieces. Language learning will always be supported by social and cultural contexts.

Chinese is a full year elective.

Sports Academy

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

Electives

Year 9 students will complete up to TWO electives each semester.

Students who are not participating in a specialist program must select at least one elective 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 Technology' 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 2022. 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

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.

Digital Art

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.

Please note that students are required to have the following programs installed on their laptop devices: Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop.

Drama

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. Students do not need prior experience in Drama to elect this subject. Year 9 Drama focuses on encouraging students to develop their language and communication skills as well as encouraging students to understand the world around them.

Modern Music

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 will combine the work of musical analysis, performing songs, as well as creating new and informed musical works.

Music Performance

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.

Health and Physical Education

Sport Education (SEPEP)

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, game analysis skills and tactics. Sport Education aims to maximise involvement and deepen understanding of sports by giving students dedicated roles outside of just participation. Students will run their own sports tournament as well as peer teach through a variety of roles. It seeks to develop leadership and other interpersonal skills valuable to all aspects of life.

Health and Human Development

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; Dimensions of health, Global health initiatives and interventions, Australia's health care, 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

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.

Humanities

Philosophy

The subject Big Philosophical Ideas focuses on allowing students to ask questions across a range of areas of philosophical thought. Students consider moral dilemmas and the meaning of right and wrong. Students also learn about metaphysics, asking questions about the nature of the mind and soul. Across all philosophical study, students learn to apply logic and critical thinking skills. Student engage in discussion and learn to write philosophical dialogues. They also learn how to evaluate different arguments.

Mathematics

Astronomy

Astronomy is the study of things and phenomena that exist in space. This course will build on the skills students have developed in their maths class to explore the origin and evolution of the universe. Topics in the course will include the formation of solar systems, galaxies and black holes, the life and death of stars, and earths place in the universe. Students will be exposed to a variety of fields they could pursue if they study Mathematics, Engineering, or Physics in the future. Learning will happen through hands on investigations and give students the practical skills to observe the sky using telescopes.

Sciences

Forensic Science

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.

An additional fee to cover the cost of materials, excursions, etc, may apply for students choosing this elective

Marine Biology

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.

An additional fee to cover the cost of materials, excursions, etc, may apply for students choosing this elective

Introduction to Environmental Science

Students will be introduced to Environmental Science, an elective that focuses on human's impact on the environment. Students will investigate the extent to which humans modify their environments and the consequences of these changes in local and global contexts with a focus on pollution (natural and manufactured) and how we can manage this population using primary and secondary data and sources. At the latter half of the unit, students will investigate how to manage food and water security in Australia and through the lenses of Indigenous Australians. Introduction to Environmental Science is a precursor to VCE Environmental Science.

Technology

Information Technology

Students engage with contemporary forms of digital information. Utilising skills in the previous years, students in year 9 will develop and refine their computational thinking and expertise using the problem solving methodology whilst encountering different problematic scenarios that reflect today and the future's challenges. This involves the compilation of a range of logics and algorithms in text coding using Python and data representations using Microsoft excel.

Food Technology

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.

An additional fee to cover the cost of materials, excursions, etc, may apply for students choosing this elective.

Notes

Notes

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