

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL



ELECTIVE COURSE BOOKLET

An Information Package for Students

Entering Year 8 in 2021

Exceptional Learning Opportunities for Boys

Dear Year 7 Students and Parents,

This information booklet contains all the information that you require to make the correct elective subject choice for next year.

For Year 7 this subject selection process is important as it is the first opportunity for you to pursue a subject/elective of your choice at Asquith Boys High School.

I would also like to share some important considerations with respect to your subject selection. It is important to consider 2 factors when electing your subject. I believe that you should select the course that **you are good at** and **enjoy**. 'Success equals success and enthusiasm creates interest'. So, it is important to explore the opportunities that are available to you in Year 8.

I also have 2 strong recommendations on how **not** to select subjects. Those 2 factors are ***not to be based*** on:-

- what your friends are choosing – they may not end up in the same class and their interest may not be the same as yours, and
- who you think the teacher may be – as that can all change.

It is important to select correctly when you submit your choices, as this will enable us to map the best possible pattern of study that we can for you. Ideally, creating a broad and extensive pattern of electives for you – with a broad range of creative, academic and practical opportunities. Year 8 is an important educational development and building block, and while the subjects that you elect now, do not necessarily bind your future pattern of study for you in Year 9 and 10 or the HSC, they can have an influence.

Thank you for continuing your studies at Asquith Boys High School with all the wonderful teachers and subjects that are available to you. We look forward to you transitioning successfully to Year 8, and continuing your education journey and academic success next year.

Regards,
Bryce Grant
Principal

Information for Parents and Students

The elective subjects have been designed to offer dynamic and practical learning experiences suited to the needs and interests of boys, which may not be available elsewhere in the Year 8 curriculum.

In the elective subjects, Year 8 students will build on the creative thinking and planning processes started in Year 7. They will further develop their creative thinking skills and have the opportunity to work in collaborative teams around a number of activities. As well as contributing to group projects as part of their course work, students will also complete one Personal Interest Project (PIP) within their chosen subject.

The electives offered for 2021 will be:

Drama (\$20 course fee)

Music (\$20 course fee)

Photomedia (\$20 course fee)

Horticulture (\$20 course fee)

Introductory French, German and Japanese (\$20 course fee)

Creative Technology Design (\$20 course fee)

Parents will receive an email containing a personalised code for the online subject selection. When completing the online course selection, students must nominate all six electives in priority order. Whilst we will do our best to give as many students as possible their first priority, the number of students in each class is limited so there is no guarantee that you will receive your first priority.

Please note:

Six electives have been offered but only the four most popular will run.

DRAMA

Course Outline

Television drama, comedy, soap opera, film, internet video, advertising on television and the internet – our world is filled with Drama on a small and large scale. Even life with friends and family has drama acted out in it all day, every day. Teamwork is as important in Drama as in the workplace or on a sporting team. Drama is a physical, active subject that involves using your whole body to communicate ideas, messages and stories. We use all our senses in Drama to collect information and communicate to audiences.

You will build dramatic skills to enable you to explore different roles and aspects of Drama in your Group and Individual Projects. Plays and performances selected come from your world, helping you to question and understand communication, advertising and culture. Group projects apply and develop Drama skills and abilities to work in a **drama-troop** while the PIP project is far more open ended, exploring roles such as directing, acting and filming in Semester 1 and related aspects such as set and costume design, writing plays and screenplays and creating films in Semester 2.

	Task	Term	Details
Semester 1	Course work	T1	Booklet, participation/poster
	Subject Based Classwork	T2	Improvisation - <i>practical</i>
Semester 2	Duologue performance	T3	Script writing task and performance
	Group Project	T4	Playbuilding – booklet and performance

MUSIC

Course Outline

Year 8 Music builds on performance, listening and composing skills explored throughout Year 7. Students will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of instruments and form a band to rehearse and perform topic-based repertoire. Successful bands will be invited to perform as part of the annual MAD Night.

Digital notation and composition software such as Noteflight and Soundtrap will also be utilised to develop skills in music reading, ICT, songwriting and arrangement. Elective Music students will be provided with premium access to this software, which includes additional loops, instruments and features.

Music in Year 8 is primarily a practical course which aims to nurture an appreciation for Music as an artform and integral part of society.

	Topic	Term	Details
Semester 1	The Blues	1	Exploring the emergence of Blues music through band performances, listening and digital composition.
	The History of Rock	2	Band work with the goal of performing at the annual MAD Night.
Semester 2	Aboriginal Music	3	Developing an understanding and appreciation for Aboriginal perspectives and culture in Music. Band performance and research presentation.
	The Art of Songwriting	4	Prominent songwriters and popular songs are explored. Students are encouraged to write, record and perform own composition.

PHOTOMEDIA

Course Outline

Photographic images fill our world. We use all sorts of devices to capture “the decisive moment”; compact cameras, DSLR, video, GO PRO and our phones. In the 21st century we are able to exhibit our work in different ways and we will investigate the online world and social media.

This course will explore the different forms of photography and genres that have been documented. Students will experiment with analogue and wet photography methods of development in the darkroom. They will use digital photography to document school events and create photo stories. Studio photography will provide the opportunity to experiment with lighting and learn about commercial photographic practices at a beginners level. Students will also be provided with opportunities to experiment with manipulation of images using Photoshop. These experiences will be both individual and group projects.

Students will have the opportunity to attend excursions to offsite locations for photographic experiences beyond the school.

The PIP project allows huge scope to explore and develop your own photography in an area of your interest.

	Task	Term	Details
Semester 1	Course work	Continual T1 – T2	Lesson reflection journal
	Group Project 1	Continual T1 – T2	Photographic skills – analogue and digital
	Individual Project	T2 W5	Photographic series
Semester 2	Individual Project - PIP	T3 W10	You choose the project related to your subject in consultation with your teacher. Begun in class and developed and resolved as HWK task.
	Course work	Continual T3 – T4	Lesson reflection journal
	Group Project 2	Continual T3 – T4	Photographic skills – analogue and digital. Series of photographs depicting a genre.
	Individual Project	T4 W9/10	Photographic series

HORTICULTURE

Course Outline

Year 8 Horticulture is all about growing and caring for plants. Students will continue to develop the native garden on Jersey Street and grow vegetables and herbs in the agriculture plot. This will involve planning, plot rotation, propagation and an awareness of nature's cycles and the seasons. Students will become aware of the importance of soil, water, fertilisers, mulching, composting and aspect. Knowledge of pests and disease as well as the use of garden tools will develop throughout the course.

A project to build a greenhouse for seedlings is approaching completion. A small vineyard has been established alongside the fruit orchard.

A PIP project in Term 3 allows students to research, experiment and present information/data on their area of interest. Excursions will include a visit to the Sydney Botanic Gardens and possibly the Easter Show.

	Task	Date	Details
Semester 1	Course work	Continual T1 – T2	Lesson reflection journal
	Subject Based Classwork	Continual T1 – T2	Workbook – written
	Group Project 1	T1 W8	Plot development: vegetable garden
	Group Project 2	T2 W5	Healthy cooking
Semester 2	Individual Project - PIP	T3 W10	You choose the project related to your subject in consultation with your teacher. Begun in class and developed and resolved as HWK task.
	Course work	Continual T3 – T4	Lesson reflection journal
	Subject Based Classwork	Continual T3 – T4	Workbook – written
	Field Trip	T3 – T4	Nursery, Kimbrik Wildflower Garden
	Group Project 3	T4 W4	Plot development: herb garden
	Group Project 4	T4 W9/10	Plot development: native garden

INTRODUCTORY FRENCH, GERMAN and JAPANESE

Course Outline

GUTEN TAG! WIE GEHT'S? SALUT! BONJOUR! こんにちは！ 元気ですか。

In Year 8 Language, the first three terms will focus on the Language and Culture of French, German and Japanese Speaking Countries for one term each. In Term 4, students will have the opportunity to choose which of these three languages we will study in more depth. Plus they will investigate and explore on a deeper level any area of their choice relating to the course.

Communicative tasks, vocabulary learning and cultural studies are the main elements of this course.

Units of work will consist of components from the Syllabus Topics: Family, Likes and Dislikes, Daily Routines, Food and Drink and Weekend Activities, and will incorporate components from the Cultural Topics: Festivals, Food, Games, Daily Life, Crafts, Music, Places of Interest, Folklore, and Accommodation.

The amount of time and depth spent on Syllabus and Cultural Topics chosen will be influenced by students' interest.

Assessment will be progressive, which means the students are given the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt throughout the year rather than a Final Exam on completion.

	Task	Date	Details
Semester 1	Course work	Continual T1 – T2	- Lesson reflection journal - Workbook: Language and cultural activities
	Class work	Continual T1 – T2	- Class participation
	Group or Individual Project 1	T2	- Research and present an aspect of cultural interest.
Semester 2	Course work	Continual T3 – T4	- Lesson reflection journal - Workbook: Language and cultural activities
	Class work	Continual T3 – T4	- Class participation
	Group or Individual Project 2	T4	- Progressive research, discussion and presentation of an area of interest.

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY DESIGN

Course Outline

Year 8 Creative Technology Design is about building 21st Century skills using the STEM approach. STEM is an approach to learning and development that integrates the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Some key skills that will be addressed in this course will be problem solving, creativity, critical analysis, teamwork and digital literacy.

Boys will engage in project-based learning using technology to solve problems and challenges. Some projects may involve using traditional technologies while other projects may include design software, 3-D printing, laser cutting, coding, data-logging and robotics.

Students may have the opportunity to attend excursions or workshops to offsite locations.

	Task	Date	Details
Semester 1	Course work	Continual T1 – T2	Logbook journal
	Group project 1	Term 1	Design and build project using traditional technologies
	Group Project 2	Term 2	Design and build project using traditional and digital technologies
Semester 2	Course work	Continual T3 – T4	Logbook journal
	Group Project 3	Term 3	Problem solving project using technology
	Individual Project	Term 4	Personal interest project in consultation with teacher