



2025

Year 9 & 10 Elective Handbook

North Campus

Northumberland Road, Sunshine North
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West Campus

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INTRODUCTION

Sunshine College takes great pride in its year 9 – 10 elective program. The College introduces the elective program at year 9 to set the foundation for the years to come, both in the senior years and beyond. In years 9 and 10 students undertake core studies in The Arts, English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, and Humanities. Students further personalise their learning experience through the selection of a semester-based elective subject.

At Sunshine College we strongly believe that social, emotional and academic development is integral to the learning process. We know that students learn best when they are provided with high quality teachers, resources and learning opportunities. We know that learning occurs in a variety of contexts and experiences. Students are encouraged to select subjects which are of interest to them and which motivate them to learn.

Over the two-year program students should endeavour to experience a wide range of learning areas. Elective subjects are designed to challenge and develop critical and creative thinking and build confidence.



Advanced Electives Program (AEP)

A select number of students in year 10 will be offered the opportunity to pick a VCE/VET subject as part of the Advanced Electives Program. The AEP is open to students on both the Northumberland and Lachlan Rd Campuses. An assessment will be made of each student's suitability to undertake a VCE/VET subject.

To be eligible for consideration students must have an OnDemand Reading score of 8.5 or above at the time of subject selection. They must also have an attendance rate above 85% and demonstrate an ability to organise and meet deadlines, preparedness and an ability to work independently.

Students should note that each VCE/VET subject is studied over two semesters. All units successfully completed in year 10 will count towards to the acquisition of the Victorian Certificate of Education.

Change of elective subject and location

Whilst we endeavour to offer all students an opportunity to undertake a subject of their choice, where necessary students may be counselled to modify their choice due to a class being full or insufficient numbers to run a viable class.

In 2025, the year 9 & 10 elective program will take place across both the Lachlan Rd and Northumberland Rd campuses. Subjects will either run on both campuses or one and students will move between these campuses. Location of subjects is based on student numbers and resources.

How to apply for an elective subject

Students will be given a form to complete to select the preference order of their subjects for next year. The forms must be submitted to their year level co-ordinator. Students are encouraged to seek support and input from their parents around their subject selection.

SELECTING AN ELECTIVE

Students in Year 9 select 2 subjects from each block, a first choice and a second choice.

THE ARTS	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY
Music	Food Technology
Art	STEM
VCD	Science & Society
Drama	Robotics

Students in Year 10 select a maximum of 3 choices from all available subjects. Students who wish to undertake an AEP subject should make this their first choice.

Due to the popularity of some subjects, students may be restricted to undertaking certain electives only once during a two year period.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

STEM

Unit description: Students will work in a collaborative environment to investigate and solve problems relevant to today's constantly evolving industries and communities. They will build their knowledge, skills and understanding required to analyse and solve challenging questions. Students are encouraged to develop flexibility in their thinking and generate non-routine solutions. Students will have access to a variety of resources such as recycled and repurposed materials and 3D printers to create innovative solutions. This unit involves linking the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Pathways: This unit prepares students for a range of pathways. Throughout the semester students are encouraged to develop their communication and collaboration skills. Students also develop their critical and creative thinking ability and digital technology skills.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Unit description: Students will prepare a variety of foods with an emphasis on food from around the world. Students investigate Indigenous Australian ingredients, customs and cooking methods and explore the cultures and lifestyles that influence their diet and nutrition. Students investigate the environmental impact of food wastage and present solutions to prevent the wastage of vegetables. Food technology will also provide students with the opportunity to learn skills associated with the hospitality industry.

Pathways: This unit will prepare students for VCE or SBAT Food / Hospitality programs and for a career in the Hospitality Industry. It also allows students to gain valuable life skills.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

Unit description: Students will become familiar with the various components of Microsoft Office including Word, Excel, Publisher and PowerPoint. They will also become familiar with HTML programming and basic network use. They will investigate internet research techniques and procedures and be more efficient and productive whilst using the Internet.

Pathways: This unit will prepare students for VCE Information Technology.

DRAMA

Unit description: In this creative and hands-on unit students explore the elements of drama through role play, movement, voice and stagecraft. By creating devised and scripted performances, students develop their understanding of drama and its many forms, skills and styles. While presenting and performing, students improve and refine their teamwork and communication skills, and learn to interpret and evaluate drama in a range of contexts, using their experiences of drama practices to explore different viewpoints and cultures.

Pathways: This unit will help students to develop self-confidence and their public presentation skills. Students who undertake drama develop language and communication skills. This subject also helps students to develop an appreciation of culture and the arts and encourages their creativity.

ART

Unit description: This unit involves the study of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional topics through a range of practical experiences and Art appreciation. Students explore a range of mediums and techniques to develop a broad range of skills. They have an opportunity to experiment with painting, drawing, lino printing, silkscreen printing, collage, plaster, papier mâché and model construction.

Pathways: Students develop the ability to communicate their ideas and the ideas of others through various mediums. This subject provides a good foundation for students who wish to undertake VCE Art.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Unit description: The music elective course allows students to continue to develop their theory skills as they build on their understanding and use of the elements of music. A focus instrument is chosen to study, usually piano, guitar or voice. Reading music is an integral aspect of the course as it assists students in developing technical skills on their instrument. Students listen to and analyse a wide variety of music styles, which will help prepare them for studying music at a VCE level. Participation in both individual and group performances is a regular class activity and students are given opportunities to compose and arrange music.

Pathways: Students who do well in this subject and can also play a musical instrument to a reasonable level can continue with either the Music Extension unit or VCE Music Performance (Group). This unit will also assist students who are interested in continuing with VCE Media.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

Unit description: This unit introduces students to the way designers create and communicate through visual means to influence everyday life for individuals, communities, and societies. Students will develop a variety of drawing skills which will support them to visualise their thinking and to present potential solutions. Students employ a design process to generate and develop visual communications. Students explore how 3-dimensional objects are represented in drawings, including the use of scale to show size, symbols and drawing systems. Areas explored include furniture design, house design, architecture, and urban planning. Students work towards to producing a scale model of a room or building.

Pathways: This unit will prepare students for further studies in design. These include VCE Visual Communication and Design, and Art.

SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

Unit Description: Students will engage in topical issues in the local urban environment undertaking field work, data collection and analysis to plan, advocate and build sustainable solutions and places. Field work will use technologies to monitor and record environmental health. These activities include: investigating the health of our local waterways, planning and building a sustainable garden using both native and agricultural species, soil science investigations and composting and using environmental technologies including programming renewable technology systems.

These activities will be driven by project-based learning with the expectation that students will plan, design and implement their investigations and propose solutions. Students will develop a folio of their work. The course will develop students' ecological knowledge, and skills in site investigations using technology, data science, systems thinking, embedded programming, project planning and implementation. The course aligns with the Science and Digital Technologies Curriculum.

Students will participate in excursions for fieldwork investigations, community consultations and skills development.

Pathways: The course will support students' pathways in environmental science / engineering, landscape gardening, and data science analytics.

POLITICS, POWER AND PROTEST

Unit Description: This subject explores the concept of power in the world: what is it, who has it and who doesn't, and what they do with or without it. Students will investigate current and different political systems throughout the world to understand how power is used at a political level in different countries, including Australia and the United States. They will explore this using the lens of political ideologies and ideas – like fascism, communism and liberal democracy - which will help them to understand what they believe in themselves. They will look at current issues throughout the world such as climate change, poverty, arms control and terrorism.

The unit will also explore how people who didn't have any power fought for their rights. By exploring different political movements and revolutions that changed the course of history, students will gain a deeper understanding of the historical importance of protest, but also will develop their own toolkit to shape their own history. This subject will incorporate both historical and contemporary perspectives.

Pathways: VCE Australian and Global Politics, Modern History, Legal Studies.

AUSLAN

Unit description: Auslan is the language used by the Australian Deaf community. This elective will allow students to interact with our Deaf Facility students and other Deaf members of the school and community. Sunshine College has had a Deaf Facility for over 25 years with more Deaf students using Auslan as their preferred mode of communication. Students will develop skills to communicate in Auslan with Auslan users and develop an awareness of the values of the Deaf community, identity and culture. Students will learn and develop fingerspelling skills and an understanding of Auslan grammar while building on their overall sign knowledge and vocabulary. They will be provided with opportunities to practise these skills with other members of the Deaf community.

Pathways: This unit prepares students for a number of different pathways as Auslan is part of the Australian Curriculum. The ability to communicate in Auslan may provide students with improved vocational opportunities such as teaching the language, teaching deaf children, interpreting, social work and counselling.

PHILOSOPHY

Unit description: Philosophy is about thinking together. Philosophy as a discipline is an attempt to rationally answer the deepest questions we have. These might be questions about value. What is the meaning of life? How can people achieve happiness? How should we decide what is right? Alternatively, we might ask questions about what exists in the world and our knowledge of it. Do humans have a soul or are we just physically complex organisms? What is a soul? What can we know and how can we know it? This course invites students to ask philosophical questions, think critically to discuss them, and understand the key philosophical positions in response to these questions.

Pathways: This unit will prepare students for VCE Philosophy. Philosophy is a valuable area of study for all students as it explores key ideas that form that basis of all subjects. The 'examined life' is the goal for the philosopher.

ROBOTICS

Unit description: Students will be introduced to what robotics is and will work as part of a group to problem solve different tasks. They will learn how to use Microbits, Arduinos and incorporate basic electronics into their designs. They will be introduced to 3D modelling using a program called Tinkercad and are encouraged to create their own designs based on a specific requirement and will be introduced to programming starting with block coding and progressing to a written language.

Pathways: This unit introduces students to a range of pathways including Information Technology, VCE Physics and Digital Design (as part of Visual Communication and Design). Throughout the semester students are encouraged to develop their collaboration, creative thinking, technology and digital technology skills.

SUBJECT LOCATION

Historically, certain electives have been held at specific campuses. Some families prefer their child not travel and if this is the case please express this to your child's Student Engagement Coordinator.

West Campus Electives:

- Drama
- AUSLAN
- Philosophy
- Robotics
- Politics, Power and Protest
- Advanced Elective Program subjects

North Campus Electives:

- Music
- Information and Communication Technology

However, please note that there is no guarantee these subjects will run at the same locations in the future. The final decision on the location of electives will depend on several factors, including student enrolment numbers, available rooms, and teacher resources. Our priority is to ensure that each elective is offered in the most suitable environment to support effective learning.

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE UNDER THE ADVANCED ELECTIVES PROGRAM

Students are reminded that to be **eligible for consideration students must have a minimum OnDemand Literacy score of 8.5** at the time of subject selection.

PSYCHOLOGY

Unit 1 How are behaviour and mental processes shaped?

Unit 2 How do external factors influence behaviour and mental processes?

Psychology is a broad discipline that incorporates both the scientific study of human behaviour through biological, psychological and social perspectives and the systematic application of this knowledge to personal and social circumstances in everyday life. VCE Psychology enables students to explore how people think, feel and behave through the use of a biopsychosocial approach. As a scientific model, this approach considers biological, psychological and social factors and their complex interactions in the understanding of psychological phenomena. The study of psychology explores the connection between the brain and behaviour by focusing on several key interrelated aspects of the discipline: the interplay between genetics and environment, individual differences and group dynamics, sensory perception and awareness, memory and learning, and mental health.

LOTE: VIETNAMESE

Unit 1

Unit 2

The study of a language other than English contributes to the overall education of students, most particularly in the area of communication, but also in the areas of cross-cultural understanding, cognitive development, literacy and general knowledge. It provides access to the cultures of communities which use the language and promotes understanding of different attitudes and values within the wider Australian community and beyond. The study of Vietnamese develops students' ability to understand and use the language of a country that is one of Australia's closest neighbours. There is a large Vietnamese-speaking community in Australia and there are links between Australia and Vietnam in areas such as business, tourism and education. The study of Vietnamese promotes the strengthening of these links.

HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Unit 1 Understanding health and wellbeing

Unit 2 Managing health and development

Students investigate health and wellbeing as a concept with varied and evolving perspectives and definitions. It takes the view that health and wellbeing are subject to a wide range of contexts and interpretations, with different meanings for different people. As a foundation to the understanding of health, students should investigate the World Health Organization's (WHO) definition and explore other interpretations. Students identify personal perspectives and priorities relating to health and wellbeing, and enquire into factors that influence health attitudes, beliefs and practices, including among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Students investigate transitions in health and wellbeing, and development, from lifespan and societal perspectives. Students enquire into the Australian healthcare system and extend their capacity to access and analyse health information. They investigate the challenges and opportunities presented by digital media and health technologies, and consider issues surrounding the use of health data and access to quality health care.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

Unit 1 Planning a business

Unit 2 Establishing a business

The VCE Business Management study design follows the process from the first idea for a business concept, to planning and establishing a business, through to the day-to-day management of a business. It also considers changes that need to be made to ensure continued success of a business. Students develop an understanding of the complexity of the challenges facing decision makers in managing these resources.

A range of management theories is considered and compared with management in practice through contemporary case studies drawn from the past four years. Students learn to propose and evaluate alternative strategies to contemporary challenges in establishing and maintaining a business.

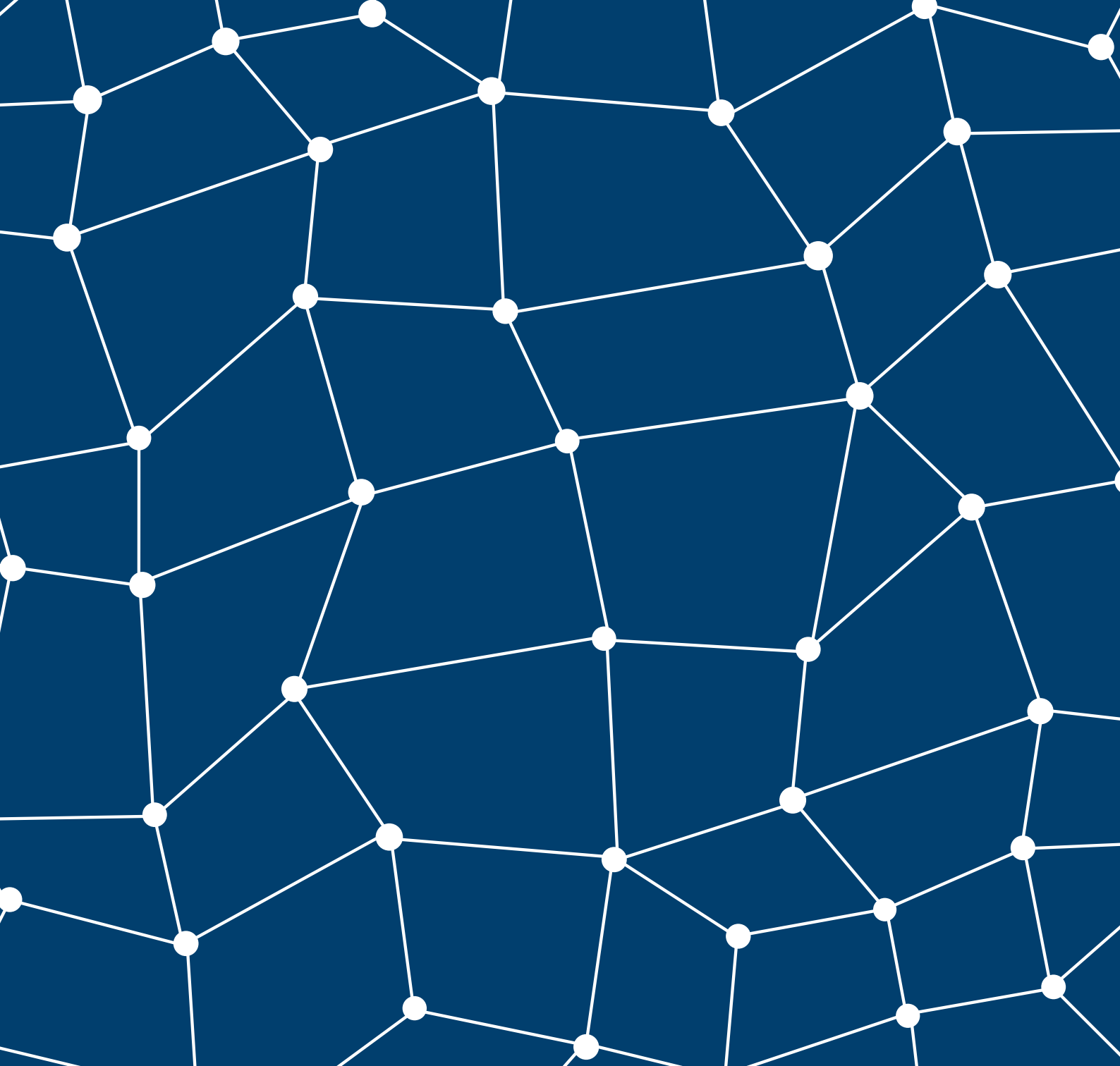
VCE MUSIC

Unit 1: Organisation of music

Unit 2: Effect in music

Music is a complex socio-cultural phenomenon that exists in every culture and is a basic expression and reflection of human experience. Research has proven that learning music has a significant impact on the development of brain, motor skills, social and cultural competencies and growth of the imagination and emotions. VCE Music allows students to explore music from a range of perspectives. Students will be performing, creating, responding to, and analysing music from across times, places, cultures and contexts. Prior experience playing an instrument or singing is essential, and the ability to read music is an advantage (but not a barrier as this skill will be taught in the course for those who require it).

VCE Music equips students with personal and musical knowledge and skills that enable them to focus on their musicianship in particular areas and follow pathways into tertiary music study or further training in a broad spectrum of music related careers. VCE Music also offers students opportunities for personal development and encourages them to make an ongoing contribution to the culture of their community through participation in life-long music making.



Sunshine College

Creating futures

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