

PITTWATER HIGH SCHOOL

ELECTIVE INFORMATION

YEAR 8 2024



Still Life

Anna Ardanova

Year 9 Visual Arts

ELECTIVE INFORMATION

Table of Contents

The Year 8 Curriculum	4
Making Elective Choices	5
Elective Fees	6
Electives (students will study one)	
Agricultural Science	7
Dance	8
Drama	9
Graphic Design	10
Jewellery Design	11
Literature	12
Media Makers	13
Music	14
STEM	15
Visual Arts	16
Language (students choose German or Japanese)	17

Subject Selection Timeline:

1. **Wednesday 2 August 2023 Period 2** – Presentations from Head Teachers to explain the elective subjects available to them. Students will be given a subject information booklet and an explanation of how to access Web Choice on-line. An access code will be sent to students' email addresses on 2 August.
2. Students are to go on-line to <https://my.edval.education/login>. Use the web code emailed to their student email account to make their selection.

Week 3	Wednesday 2 August 2023	Year 7 into 8 Web Choice opens – 3 pm
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Week 4	Monday 7 August 2023	Year 7 into 8 Web Choice close – 9 pm
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THE YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

In 2024, Year 8 students will study the following courses:

Compulsory Subjects
English
Mathematics
Geography
History
Personal Development / Health / Physical Education (PDHPE)
Technology (Mandatory)
Language – German or Japanese
Science
Sport
Elective Course (one)

Electives (students study one):

Elective Subject	Faculty
Agricultural Science	Science
Dance	PD/H/PE
Drama	Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)
Graphic Design	Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)
Jewellery Design	Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)
Literature	English
Media Makers	English
Music	Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)
STEM	Science
Visual Arts	Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

MAKING ELECTIVE CHOICES

Students will study one elective subject in Year 8 and one language.

The Year 8 electives are designed as an introduction to different areas of study and to serve as preparation for further elective courses in Years 9 and 10. Students may wish to continue their study of their elective into Years 9 and 10 or select from other electives offered in the following years.

When choosing elective courses, consider the following questions:

Which subjects **interest** me?

Which subjects do I **enjoy**?

Which courses may I want to do in Years 9 & 10?



Which subjects do I **do well in**?

Before making your choices, please read the subject information in this booklet carefully. Understand that your first choice may not be available and that a reserve preference may be used instead.

All students will make one reserve preference.

The final elective courses to be offered will depend on the number of students requesting the course and the overall demands of the school curriculum and staff availability. The final decision will rest with the Principal.

When you are ready to submit your selections go on-line to:

<https://my.edval.education/login> to make your selections. Your web code will be emailed to your student email account.

ELECTIVE FEES FOR YEAR 8 2024

As advised by the Department of Education "schools may charge students for the purchase of materials used and consumed in particular courses". You should consider the below cost associated with each elective/language course when making your choices.

The **consumable costs** associated with elective/language courses must be paid at the commencement of each course and are not optional. Some course costs have been calculated to include all costs up front for excursions/incursions.

Consumable Costs

Elective Subject	Cost
Agricultural Science	\$55
Dance	\$50
Drama	\$40
Graphic Design	\$40
Jewellery Design	\$60
Literature	\$20
Media Makers	\$20
Music	\$50
STEM	\$50
Visual Arts	\$80
All Students:	
Language – German or Japanese	\$20

Alison Gambino
Principal

Sophia Bromley
Deputy Principal

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

The need for food and fibre is continually increasing as the world population expands. The Agricultural Science course is not only about understanding and applying knowledge, but also, more importantly, understanding why certain techniques are used and why management practices are implemented.

Students explore issues of welfare, sustainability, productivity, technologies and marketing by examining a range of plant and animal enterprises.

Throughout the Agricultural Science course, students develop the ability to solve problems, plan, organise and conduct scientific investigations, research, collect and collate information, work as a member of a team and communicate information to a variety of audiences.

Students will spend time both in the classroom and on the school's agriculture plots as theory is supported by practical experiences. The industries used as case studies may include, but are not limited to;

- cropping
- egg production
- apiary



See Agriculture in Action at PHS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0V5Mg6V9yE>

For further information, please contact Dr Griffin or Mr Morton-Ramwell on the school email should you have any questions.

DANCE

Under the guidance of our experienced senior Dance teacher, Linda Fabbro, students will experience and enjoy dance as an art form through performance, composition and appreciation. The course enables students to express ideas creatively and to communicate physically, verbally and in written forms.

Pittwater High School has an outstanding dance performance space consisting of a sprung floor, dance bars and mirror wall.

Two-thirds of the dance periods will be practical. The course content includes:

Appreciation	Study of different forms of dance and appreciation of such in a social and cultural context.	40%
Composition	The art of choreography, self-expression and communication through dance.	35%
Performance	Skills in dance technique and communication.	25%

Benefits of studying Dance as an elective include:

- an avenue for physical activity
- the development of teamwork, communication, problem-solving skills and self-expression
- increased confidence and self-esteem
- an improvement in Dance performance/technique.



For further information, please see Mr Schmutter, HT PDHPE in the PDHPE Staffroom, or Miss Fabbro in the Science Staff Room.

DRAMA

Drama in Year 8 is designed to develop students' confidence and build character through a number of individual and group performance scenarios. The course also fosters the interest of those who wish to participate in the development of crew roles as well. The activities include improvisation; student developed plays and presentation of published scripts.

Drama is part of the Key Learning Area of Creative Arts. It also opens a gateway for *self-expression*, trust in one's own voice, *collaboration*, *overcoming anxiety* and *self-consciousness*, as well as developing *personality traits* and *social skills* at this crucial stage of adolescent life.

Students will have the opportunity to perform in costume and make-up, particularly on Dance / Drama Night in the second semester as well as in class activities. The course includes:

- Improvisation
- Play building – self-devised and scripted
- Accent workshops
- Script reading
- Performances
- Experience of a dramatic performance

The course will include **at least ONE excursion** to a professional theatre production.

Assessment is continuous and is 70% Practical and 30% Theory.

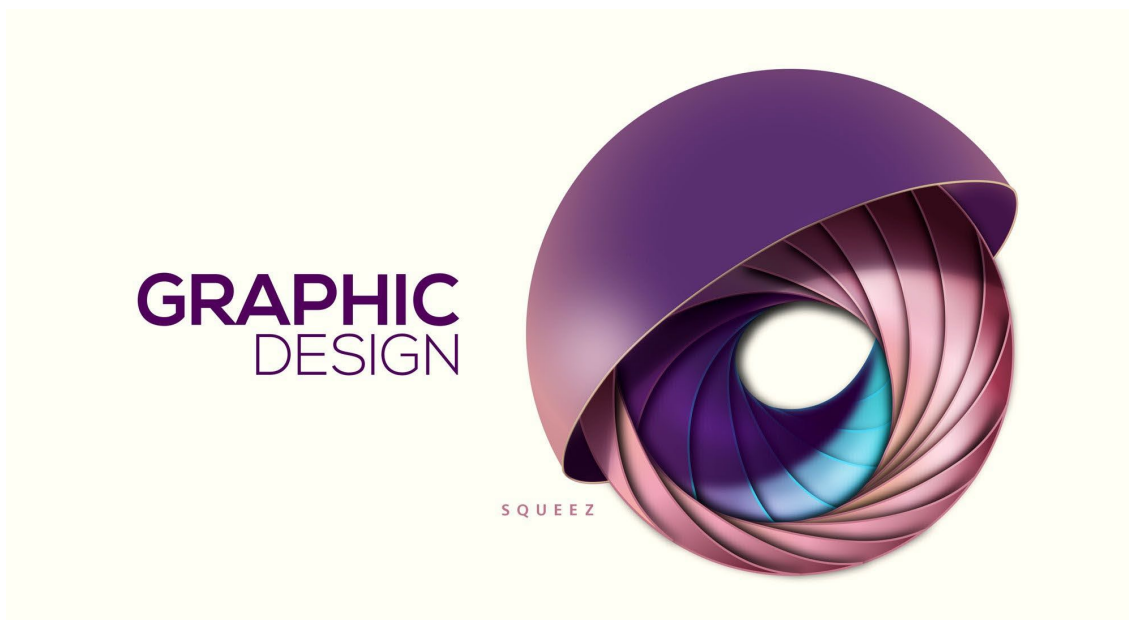
For further information, please contact Dr Hardy HT CAPA or Mr Gleeson, on the school email address should you have any questions.



GRAPHIC DESIGN

Immerse yourself in the world of graphic design as you embark on a thrilling journey of creativity and innovation. In this captivating course, students will unleash their artistic prowess by crafting an array of visually stunning graphical projects in physical and digital form as they explore, design and produce.

Each project will be handpicked to ignite your passion and push the boundaries of your abilities, fostering a gradual progression towards mastery and empowering you to become an independent force in the graphic design realm. Unleash your imagination as you delve into cutting-edge modules, expanding your expertise and honing your proficiency in the exhilarating realm of digital design. Discover the latest tools and techniques that will empower you to create authentic and captivating graphic designs that resonate with the contemporary world. Get ready to unleash your creative genius and make an indelible mark in the dynamic world of graphic design.



For further information, please contact Mr Hamed, Relieving HT TAS on the school email should you have any question.

JEWELLERY DESIGN

With a focus on silver jewellery, students will design and construct a range of wearable items. Students will be assessed on their research, design and manufacture of practical objects.

The projects undertaken will be chosen to promote the sequential development of skills and reflect an increasing degree of student autonomy as they progress through the course. In this course, students will study modules to develop their knowledge and skills in the use of materials, tools and techniques related to the creation of artistic metal projects with an emphasis on silver jewellery.



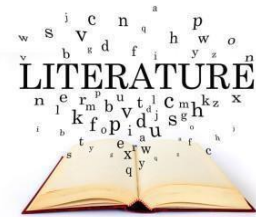
For further information, please contact Mr Hamed, Relieving HT TAS on the school email should you have any questions.

LITERATURE

This subject will focus on fostering a passion for literature. Students will explore a series of carefully selected texts around a particular theme, idea, context or genre. As students start to develop a well-rounded understanding of the unit focus, they will be directed toward creating a product to demonstrate their understanding.

The product could include:

- A short story/series of short stories
- A blog of reviews
- An adaptation of a particular text/genre/context
- A visual representation
- A graphic novel



Students will be encouraged to pitch their own ideas in consultation with the teacher and peers. The subject will foster a love of inquiry-based learning, encouraging students to take calculated educational risks. It will also reignite a love of reading among students allowing them to delve deeply into the texts set for discussion. Students will become analytical thinkers, versatile writers and creative problem-solvers, engaging with the world through the prism of great writing.

For further information, please contact Ms Phipps, HT ENGLISH on the school email should you have any questions.

MEDIA MAKERS

Media Makers is a course designed to teach students about the modern-day world of media in all its forms. With a focus on media and visual literacy, students are challenged to engage with the world of media around them and as they begin to understand it and its purpose, produce their own content that reflects that understanding. The sequencing of the course will lead into Year 9 courses such as Film Studies and Journalism.

The instruction will be hands-on, with co-operative and collaborative learning activities taking precedence. This mimics the way media is constructed by teams of professionals in advertising agencies and production companies.

The course will be semesterised, with the first semester focused on the commercial side of media making, particularly print and digital advertising.

Semester 2 will look at the artistic and informative aspects of media. There will be a focus on investigative news reporting and documentary film. Students will be learning the purpose of these formats and will create their own content demonstrating their grasp of a range of media techniques.



For further information, please contact Ms Phipps, HT ENGLISH on the school email should you have any questions.

MUSIC

Elective Music in Year 8 is designed to develop the students' skills in music through a range of experiences that encompass the three main areas of Performing, Composing and Listening.

Students will major on an instrument (or instruments) which will be the focus for all individual and ensemble performance activities. Students can choose to either continue with an existing band/string instrument or to further build their Year 7 skills on piano/keyboard, guitar or vocals.

The course covers a broad range of musical styles including Rock, Pop, Classical & Jazz.

Performing	Students will have the opportunity to choose a variety of repertoire for their chosen instrument in order to grow as confident performers. They will learn how to interpret musical symbols and concepts, express themselves musically and develop solo and ensemble techniques.
Composing	Students will learn how to compose in a variety of musical styles using traditional and non-traditional notation. They will have the option to compose music specifically for their instrument or in an area of particular interest, which is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring singer-songwriters. The online programs of Noteflight and Soundtrap are available to students for all composition activities.
Listening	Students will listen to examples from different musical styles and learn to analyse the use of musical concepts. This enables students to develop an appreciation for a wide range of music and further assists their understanding of their own performances and compositions.

All students are welcome in this course regardless of their musical skills, knowledge or experience, as it caters to the interests and needs of the individual.

Year 8 Music is a highly practical subject where all students are encouraged to get involved and share their passion for music.



For further information, please contact Dr Hardy, HT CAPA on the school email should you have any questions.

STEM

STEM education is the learning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through inquiry and project-based learning.

The importance of STEM disciplines for the future economic and social well-being of Australia cannot be underestimated. International research indicates that 75 per cent of the fastest growing occupations require STEM skills and knowledge.

The importance of STEM subjects to Australia is indisputable. Future employment opportunities for our students will be enhanced with STEM based knowledge and we are excited to be able to offer this opportunity to the students of the school.

Students will gain and apply knowledge, deepen their understanding and develop creative and critical thinking skills within an authentic context. Possible STEM learning areas may include but are not limited to:

- Coding
- Robotics
- Projectiles
- Rocketry and space vehicles
- Roller coaster design
- Innovative toy design
- Racing vehicle design



Students will:

- Gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to an authentic, engaging and complex question, problem, or challenge.
- Develop and apply skills in scientific investigation, design and the application of technology and mathematical concepts.
- Develop skills in documenting progress, using ICT technologies.

For further information, please contact Ms Savage, Relieving HT SCIENCE on the school email should you have any questions.

VISUAL ARTS

In Visual Arts students are able to develop their visual literacy skills in a world increasingly devoted to visual platforms of communication. This is a skills-based course aimed at increasing students' confidence with techniques and the manipulation of materials.

In the Year 8 course, there are opportunities for students to develop works in a wide variety of materials and themes, working in 2D, 3D and 4D forms.

Students will continue to explore and experiment with a broad range of drawing and painting mediums and will be introduced to a range of new mediums. Investigations of the practices of artists will be undertaken to support the themes and techniques explored during practical lessons.

This course is predominantly practical with some research and written components to help students develop a deeper understanding of the art world.

For further information contact Dr Hardy, HT CAPA on the school email should you have any questions.



LANGUAGES – German or Japanese

In Year 8 all students will study either German or Japanese.

The study of a language in Year 8 will enable students to communicate with others and to reflect on and understand the role of language and culture in their own life and in the lives of others.

In both language courses, students will engage in a variety of learning activities, including communication tasks, games and project-based learning.



For further information, please contact MS Winter, HT Languages, or Ms Hemmerle - GERMAN, or Ms Lustig - JAPANESE, on the school email should you have any questions.