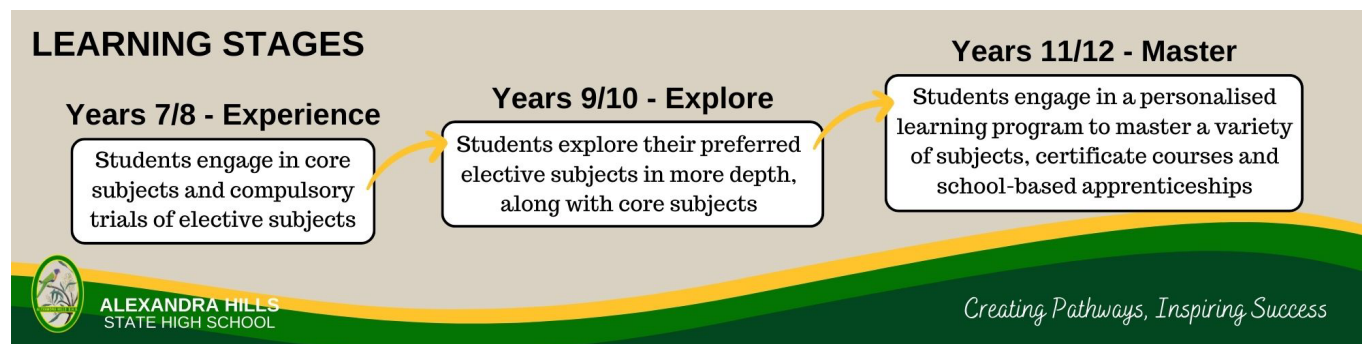




Subject Selection Guide – Year 9

Course Overview



In year 9, students participate in a set of compulsory subjects and have an opportunity to choose from a wide range of elective subjects to start exploring their future learning pathways.

	Compulsory Subjects				Elective subjects	
Semester 1	English	Mathematics	Science	History or HPE*	Elective 1	Elective 2
Semester 2				(swapping mid-year)	Elective 3	Elective 4

* Basketball / Rugby League Academy in Terms 1-3, with History Term 4

Elective Subjects (4 choices in total for year 9)

Civics & Citizenship	Drama	Hospitality Practices - Junior	Media Arts
Dance / Dance Academy**	Economics & Business	Italian**	Music
Design and Technology	Furnishing Skills - Junior	Japanese**	Visual Arts
Digital Technology	Geography		

** Language subjects and Dance Academy are studied year-long.

Subject Types – planning for years 11 and 12

General	General subjects primarily prepare students for university and other academic pathways.
Applied	Applied subjects primarily prepare students for vocational education and training (VET), further education, and work.

Selecting Subjects – Guidelines

- Students will select four (4) elective subjects for Year 9, with two (2) studied each semester.
- Elective subjects **can only be studied for one semester**, except for Languages (Italian / Japanese) and Dance Academy which are studied year-long.
- Availability of a particular subject is dependent upon a number of important factors, including availability of staff, availability of specialised classrooms and class numbers.
- Students will be required to identify one (1) “preference” (reserve elective).
- Students will remain in their elective subjects for the full semester. Subject changes are typically **only possible at the end of a school term** and can only happen where class sizes permit. If an elective change is desired, students and families must complete and return the school’s “subject change form”.

Selecting Subjects – Advice

Some of the most important decisions you make at school are concerned with your subject choices. A wise choice of subjects has an important bearing on happiness at school, success in studies and the range of options available for further study or entry to a desired vocation.

When making your selections, you should include subjects which:

- You are interested in
- You have experienced past success with
- May lead to your preferred career path
- Optimise opportunities to reach your potential.

A student SHOULD NOT choose subjects for the following reasons:

- *‘My friend is taking that subject.’* There are usually several classes in a subject, so even if you are doing the same subjects, you won’t necessarily be in the same class
- *‘I do/don’t really like the teacher.’* There is no guarantee that you will have any particular teacher
- *‘Someone told me that the subject is fun (or easy, or interesting).’* Just because a subject may be enjoyable/easy/interesting for someone else does not mean that it will be same for you. Make up your own mind based on what you enjoy
- *‘Someone told me that the subject is boring.’* See point above
- *‘Someone told me that I do/don’t need that subject for the course I want to take in Year 12/at university.’* If you are planning this far ahead, speak with the relevant Head of Department, check tertiary prerequisites or talk to a Guidance Officer.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

❖ ENGLISH Compulsory

The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and with the world around them. The study of English plays a key role in the development of reading and literacy skills which help young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society.

Link to senior subjects:

- General English / Literature (General)
 - Essential English (Applied)
-

❖ MATHEMATICS Compulsory

Mathematics provides students with essential mathematical skills and knowledge in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. It develops the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their personal, work and civic life, and provides the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built.

Link to senior subjects:

- General Maths / Maths Methods / Specialist Maths (General)
 - Essential Mathematics (Applied)
-

❖ SCIENCE Compulsory

Science provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of important science concepts and processes, the practices used to develop scientific knowledge, of science's contribution to our culture and society, and its applications in our lives. It provides an understanding of scientific inquiry methods, a foundation of knowledge across the disciplines of science, and develops an ability to use evidence to solve problems and make evidence-based decisions.

Link to senior subjects:

- Biology / Chemistry / Physics / Psychology (General)
- Agricultural Studies / Science in Practice (Applied)

❖ HISTORY Compulsory

History provides opportunities for students to investigate Australian and world history. Australian history is taught within a world history context. Students develop knowledge, understanding and skills through their study of societies, events, movements and developments.

Link to senior subjects:

- Ancient History / Modern History (General)
- Social and Community Studies (Applied)

❖ HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HPE Compulsory

(General HPE, Basketball Academy, Rugby League Academy)

In Health and Physical Education, students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to support them to be resilient, to develop a strong sense of self, to build and maintain satisfying relationships, to make health-enhancing decisions in relation to their health and physical activity participation, and to develop health literacy competencies to enhance their own and others' health and wellbeing.

Link to senior subjects:

- Physical Education (General)
- Certificate III Fitness
- Sport & Recreation (Applied)

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

❖ CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP Elective

Students focus on Australia's political system and how it enables change. Students examine the ways political parties, interest groups, media and individuals influence government and decision-making processes. They investigate the features and principles of Australia's court system, including its role in applying and interpreting Australian law. Students also examine global connectedness and how this is shaping contemporary Australian society.

Link to senior subjects:

- Legal Studies (General)
- Certificate IV Justice Studies
- Social and Community Studies (Applied)

❖ DANCE Elective

Dance (regular) is a semester subject

Dance Academy is a year-long subject

In Dance, you'll dive into the world of movement and creativity! This is your chance to explore how dance can be a powerful way to express ideas, emotions, and stories, without saying a word. You will learn how to watch and interpret different styles of dance, discovering what each performance is trying to say. But that's just the beginning! You'll become a choreographer, designing your own dances using innovative techniques, choreographic tools, and various production elements to bring your vision to life. Whether it's contemporary, jazz, hip hop, tap, or cultural dance, you will rehearse and perform with style, showing off your technical skills and expressive flair. You will work solo and in groups, learning from each other and building confidence as performers.

Link to senior subjects:

- Dance (General)
 - Dance in Practice (Applied)
-

❖ DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY Elective

User-Pays Subject (\$)

Design is a unique multidisciplinary subject built on innovation and problem solving. Students in this subject will get exclusive use of a range of Laser Technologies and 3D printers which allows them to rapidly prototype their project ideas and solutions. The use of laser technology allows students to learn in hands-on, cross-disciplinary ways by transforming designs into physical objects, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and STEM skills. 3D printing technology positions students as creators. Instead of buying or consuming the creations of someone else, they become inventors, who can identify needs and create solutions. Built on a 'Systems Thinking' approach this subject is ideal for future entrepreneurs, creators and problem solvers. In this subject, students benefit from cutting-edge resources and unique learning opportunities made possible through our [Centre of Excellence in Automation and Robotics](#) (link).

Link to senior subjects:

- Design (General)

❖ DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY Elective

The rapid expansion of new technologies in society has had an impact in almost every industry. Digital Technology provides students with skills equip them for their future in 21st Century society. Topics covered include: Robotics, Drones, Virtual Reality and Coding. In this subject, students benefit from cutting-edge resources and unique learning opportunities made possible through our [Centre of Excellence in Automation and Robotics](#) (click link for more information).

Link to senior subjects:

- Digital Solutions (General)
 - Aerospace Systems (General)
 - Certificate III Aviation / Drones
 - ICT: Information and Communication Technologies (Applied)
-

❖ DRAMA Elective

In Drama, you begin exploring how different techniques, performance skills, and dramatic conventions are used to bring stories to life. You will dive into a mix of styles and cultures to discover how drama can share powerful ideas, challenge opinions, and celebrate what it means to be Australian. Whether working solo or in a team, you will shape your performances using elements of drama and creative structures to express meaning and emotion. You experiment with voice, movement, and character skills to keep audiences hooked—whether that's through improvisation, creating original scenes, or performing scripted plays.

Link to senior subjects:

- Drama (General)
 - Drama in Practice (Applied)
-

❖ ECONOMICS & BUSINESS Elective

Students focus on aspects of economics and business that affect daily life. Students will learn about the role that individuals, businesses and governments play in the economy, the way they make decisions about how to allocate resources and the effects of these decisions. Key questions include: What strategies can be used to manage financial risks and rewards? How does creating a competitive advantage benefit business? What are the responsibilities of participants in the workplace and why are these important?

Link to senior subjects:

- Diploma of Business
- Certificate III in Business
- Business Studies (Applied)

❖ FURNISHING SKILLS - Junior Elective

User-Pays Subject (\$)

Students will be exposed to a diverse range of problems, skills, tools and materials. This will provide the basic building blocks for further years to expand on these processes. Students will establish technical knowledge, develop reasonable proficiency in hand and machine skills, create an awareness of quality design and create a safe and productive working environment.

Subject Fee – A subject invoice will be issued to families for woodwork project material expenses.

Safe Footwear – To enrol in this subject and participate in its practical activities, students must wear black, fully enclosed leather sports joggers (not mesh, canvas or suede) or leather lace-up school shoes.

Link to senior subjects:

- Certificate II Construction Pathways
 - Furnishing Skills (Applied)
 - Industrial Technology Skills (Applied)
-

❖ GEOGRAPHY Elective

Geography provides opportunities for students to investigate, analyse and explain the characteristics of the places that make up our world. The key inquiry questions include: What are the causes and consequences of change in places and environments and how can this change be managed? What are the future implications of changes to places and environments?

Link to senior subjects:

- Geography (General)
 - Social and Community Studies (Applied)
-

❖ HOSPITALITY PRACTICES - Junior Elective

User-Pays Subject (\$)

Students achieve a broad understanding of food selection, preparation and presentation for use in the home and the hospitality industry. They will focus on the planning and preparation of tasty, healthy, budget foods which can form part of the everyday diet of students' families.

Subject Fee – A subject invoice will be issued to families for cooking ingredient expenses.

Safe Footwear – To enrol in this subject and participate in its practical activities, students must wear black, fully enclosed leather sports joggers (not mesh, canvas or suede) or leather lace-up school shoes.

Link to senior subjects:

- Hospitality Practices (Applied)

❖ ITALIAN Elective

Year-Long Subject

Learning an additional language provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their understanding of the language studied and the communities that use it, while also assisting in the effective negotiation of experiences and meaning across other cultures and languages. Students participate in a range of interactions in which they develop intercultural understanding and become active participants in understanding and constructing written, spoken and visual texts.

Link to senior subjects:

- Italian (General)
-

❖ JAPANESE Elective

Year-Long Subject

Learning an additional language provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their understanding of the language studied and the communities that use it, while also assisting in the effective negotiation of experiences and meaning across other cultures and languages. Students participate in a range of interactions in which they develop intercultural understanding and become active participants in understanding and constructing written, spoken and visual texts.

Link to senior subjects:

- Japanese (General)
-

❖ MEDIA ARTS Elective

In Media Arts, you get creative with designing, making, and exploring media like videos, podcasts, and digital stories. You will learn how media can share powerful messages and reflect different values and points of view. By looking at media from different cultures, times, and places, you will discover how things like genre, camera angles, music, and symbols help tell stories and connect with audiences. Whether you are creating your own media or checking out others' work, you become smart media makers and viewers - thinking about how meaning is made and how media can shape the way we see the world.

Link to senior subjects:

- Film, TV and New Media (General)
- Media Arts in Practice (Applied)

❖ MUSIC

Elective

In Music, you will learn how to break down music like the professionals, exploring how composers and performers use sound, rhythm, and structure to grab attention and tell a story. You explore music from different cultures, time periods, and styles to see how it can express ideas, emotions, and even challenge what it means to be Australian. You will sharpen your listening skills and learn to create music that speaks to people. You experiment with sounds, instruments, and techniques to shape their own compositions, and record or write down your music to share it. When performing, you use the correct skills and styles to bring your own or others' music to life - whether it's singing, playing, or mixing it up on stage.

Link to senior subjects:

- Music (General)
-

❖ VISUAL ARTS

Elective

User-Pays Subject (\$)

In Visual Art, you get hands-on with creativity, making, displaying, and talking about your own artworks. You will explore different ways to express yourself, build confidence in your artistic skills, and enjoy the process of creating something unique. Through drawing, painting, design, collage, and mixed media, you will learn how to use the elements and principles of art to bring their ideas to life. Art becomes a way to share personal stories, explore big ideas, and connect with others. Whether it's sketching, experimenting with materials, or putting their work on display, you will discover how art can be fun, meaningful, and a skill you can use in everyday life.

Subject Fee – A subject invoice will be issued to families for art project material expenses.

Link to senior subjects:

- Visual Arts (General)
- Visual Arts in Practice (Applied)