Rotational Units

A range of The Arts, Technology and Business subjects are available for students to select. The purpose of this system is to broaden students' learning opportunities and gain a basic realistic understanding of each subject area. This system helps students to identify their interests and strengths to assist them to select their Year 9 Elective subjects.

THE ARTS

MAGIC ON STAGE (MOS)

Drama contributes skills in improvisation and role-play mime, movement, vocal dynamics and performance. Students have the opportunity to form and present improvised and scripted scenes, participate in practical dramatic activities and analyse the ways in which the skills and techniques of Drama are utilised in creation and performance. Drama is at the forefront of developing social communication skills, both in use and evaluation.

Dance promotes and strengthens cultural awareness by covering various dance styles and movements utilised in our everyday lives. Students explore the idea of the body as a medium of expression through choreography, performance and appreciation.

MUSIC

Music also contributes to this rich mix of performance skills with familiarisation of music styles and appreciation of various types of music. Practical activities include playing drums and guitar. Students are exposed to classic styles and modern forms.

ART

Practical experience is the essence of the Art program. The studies in this course include drawing, painting and 3-D work. Variety is emphasised so that students have the opportunity for success in more than one art medium. Such accomplishment encourages them to continue with Art now and in later life. The personal efforts of students serve to help them value their own work and the accomplishments of others.

TECHNOLOGIES

VISUAL STORIES AND TECHNOLOGY (VST)

This subject introduces the concept of telling Visual Stories through Photography, Graphic Design and Information Technology. These three mediums are used to communicate concepts visually in our everyday lives and therefore this subject aims to equip students for communicating in the 21st century and to develop an active and critical media literacy. As director of their own film company, students use their newly acquired IT skills and knowledge of media and advertising to develop a Visual Story.

WOODWORK

Students will have the opportunity in this subject to gain valuable life skills as well as gain knowledge in an area which could lead to a career. Woodwork will be project based, working with wood and plastics. Students will also gain an understanding of wood technology based on the areas covered in each project.

METALWORK

Methods of working metals are changing and this is an area where the College's updated workshops, for junior and senior schooling, prepare students for current trends. This subject will incorporate areas such as fabrication, sheet metal, plastics and art metalwork. This is also a skills based subject closely aligned with industry.

GRAPHICS

Students have the opportunity to enjoy challenging learning experiences which will enable them to communicate graphically through AutoCAD which is a computer aided drawing software package. Students learn to draw basic 2D and 3D objects in this introductory course.
Core Subjects

The Year 8 Curriculum at Holy Spirit College is based on the first phase of the Australian Curriculum and the junior programs supported by the Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority. Our Year 8 Program is designed to provide a breadth of curriculum experience across all Learning Areas while supporting student success in secondary learning by providing a core teacher who has pastoral as well as academic oversight of each class and is a contact for families.

All students study essential Core subjects for the whole year. In Year 7, students have experienced the full range of Arts, Technology and Business rotational subjects.

All Year 8 students have a computer with them throughout the day to support ‘anywhere, anytime’ learning. DAPR~8 (Digital Assistant Program for Year 8) ensures that the best of digital education is available to our students in addition to the many other styles of learning accessed at Holy Spirit College and continues to support them throughout Years 9 and 10.

Religious Education

Religious Education in Year 8 deals with the foundations of Catholic faith and practice. Students complete four term-length courses covering a variety of topics. Term 1 is focused on Initiation into Community which centres on self and the family, the school and church communities and sacraments of initiation. Term 2 deals with Tradition, Symbolism and Prayer which includes Catholic Rituals such as the Eucharist, the Rosary and other prayers. Church etiquette and symbols. Term 3 is about The Early Christians, in particular focusing on the lives of Saints Peter and Paul and the persecution and challenges faced by early disciples. In Term 4, students study Catholicism and Church History which provide a historical overview of the Church, explains the mission of the local church, and examines the ministry and vocation of believers today.

English

English develops communication skills, expands imaginations and creates informed citizens. English helps us become critical thinkers, to understand the meaning of texts and to become confident speakers. Novels, poetry, dramatic performances and media texts are studied in English units. These include classic, contemporary, international and Australian literature. A mixture of fantasy, fiction, historical and realistic texts is covered. Year 8 English units include: It's All About Me: My Life as a Teenager; Extra, Extra: Read all about it!; Fantastic Fantasy; and Tales from Beyond: Myths, Legends and Fairytales.

Mathematics

Mathematics is important in many aspects of our daily lives and we recognise a need for creative, skilled mathematicians in our society. In Year 8, students will consolidate skills and knowledge implemented and established in Year 7. Through investigative and problem-solving strategies students explore and apply the concepts of numbers, measurement, geometry, statistics and probability. Students have opportunities to participate in "Fun with Maths" and the Australian Mathematics Trust competition. Computers, calculators and discovery learning activities are embedded in the teaching of Mathematics.

Science

Science in Year 8 will recognise and focus on three integrated dimensions of Science including science based enquiry skills, the influence and contributions of historical and modern scientists and the understanding of science knowledge. The program will be both theory and practically based, with students experiencing the specialist laboratories and equipment available at Holy Spirit College. The broad areas being covered throughout Year 8 will be: Cells and Biological Systems; Geology; Matter and Chemical Bonding; and Energy and the Environment.

Japanese

Learning a language not only enhances your brain power, it helps open up employment opportunities in all fields – from engineering and mining through to law and medicine. The government is aiming to increase the number of students studying a foreign language in Year 12, with incentives being offered in the form of university placements, scholarships and employment preferences.

The Year 8 Japanese course provides students with the opportunity to learn basic Japanese communication skills in Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing. Students who are motivated and achieving at a high standard have the opportunity to continue with their study of Japanese right through to the Senior level.

History

Students will investigate the History of particular countries and societies of people and the changes which have occurred in them over time. People and events of the past are important because they shape the future. We all live in, and are part of, history. The history of human societies from different times in the past includes: where people lived, the way they lived, what they believed, how their lives changed and how their lives today have been shaped by people and events from the past. The focus of Year 8 History is Medieval Societies. This is in line with the Australian Curriculum. Students will spend time studying Medieval Europe which covers such topics as the Crusades, the role of the church, the building of forts and castles, the bubonic plague and feudalism. Students will spend some time investigating the Vikings and their unique culture including boat building and navigation. Lastly, students will study feudal Japan and the Shogunate.

Geography

The study of Geography complements History as students examine the physical, social and economic interactions of human civilisations. The first unit of study is called Landscapes and Landforms. This will focus on "Creek to Coast" which investigates the course of a river system from wetlands to catchment areas and coastlines where the river meets the ocean. Students become aware of how humans have impacted on these systems and undertake an excursion to Botanic Gardens. Much of the study is based on local area examples. Students are encouraged to use maps, diagrams, statistics and pictures to enhance their understanding of geography and in particular, sustainability, which is an important concept that permeates the Australian Curriculum. The second unit is called Changing Nations and focuses on the changing human geography of countries as revealed by shifts in population distribution. This unit investigates urbanization and migration especially throughout South East Asia and the Pacific.