DONNYBROOK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

7

YEAR 7 COURSE INFORMATION 2025

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The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) issues time allocation guidelines for all subjects in the Western Australian Curriculum. The Western Australian Curriculum, sets out the knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes students are expected to acquire. In a full school year, students complete subjects from the following learning areas:

English
Mathematics
Science - STEM
Humanities and Social Sciences (HaSS) - Agriculture, Critical Creative Thinking
Health and Physical Education (HPE) - Health, Physical Education
The Arts - Visual Art, Digital Media
Technologies - Home Economics, Woodwork, Metalwork and Digital Technologies

A typical timetable structure in Year 7 consists of four periods of English, Maths, Science and HaSS, two periods of Physical Education (timetabled as one double period) and one period of Health Education. Students also have Study Skills which supports their preparation for NAPLAN testing, their reading, literacy development and research skills. A Mindful Education period supports their Social and Emotional Learning and supplements the goals of the AdventureWorks program. In addition to this, students have an opportunity to complete additional subjects known as options, which cover The Arts and Technologies learning areas. The school endeavours to provide a balanced curriculum whilst catering for student interests. Students will experience a range of option classes throughout Year 7 and Year 8 to help them choose specialist subjects in Year 9 and Year 10.

Assessments and assignment work are an important part of the curriculum of all subject areas. Year 7 students will receive an assessment schedule at the start of each semester. Parents can access this schedule via Connect or by contacting the learning area teacher. This schedule of assessments is the pathway teachers use to generate a learning area grade.

As we are trying to assist students to become autonomous learners, we encourage the use of a diary to help students take responsibility for their learning and assignment work. It is a good idea to provide a student diary to assist in their study skills and mindful education. Students may receive homework to help them establish an effective study routine early in their high school career. This will be an important part of the preparation for developing good study habits.

Form

Students attend Form class each morning to provide additional pastoral care. During this time, students get important notes and messages about what is happening on the day or week ahead. They also receive Positive Behaviour Support at this time, as we explicitly teach the expected behaviours of our school.

Extension Class

In 2025, selected Year 7 students will be part of a combined class of Year 7 and Year 8 students identified as having the capacity to achieve at a high level in their core subject areas. These students will be provided with intense support, from subject specialists, to assist them to achieve their pathway goals. They will join their other cohort members for options classes. This class will be particularly suited to ATAR bound students. Suitability for the course will be determined by the Associate Principal, based on previous results, NAPLAN data, work ethic and teacher recommendations.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

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. Through the study of English, individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate with and build relationships with others and the world around them. The study of English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps learners become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society. English plays an important part in developing the understanding, attitudes and capabilities of those who will take responsibility for Australia's future.

Students in Year 7 focus on consolidating their written and spoken communication skills by applying the conventions of language correctly. They begin to develop their understanding of the construction of texts, which can be written, spoken or multimodal, and in print or visual forms. They continue to develop positive attitudes to regular reading of a variety of texts, as part of a structured English and Library program.

English is organised into three interrelated strands and their sub strands which focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in the language modes of listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing:

Language: knowing about the construction of the English language.
Literature: understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature.
Literacy: expanding the repertoire of English usage.

Students will also develop skills in Digital Literacy, enabling them to critique, evaluate and create content using digital media texts. Through this study, they will become more proficient at evaluating websites, understanding the complexities of digital media and learning how to critique information on the internet. They will also discover how to avoid plagiarism and master the art of creating bibliographies and referencing work.

MATHEMATICS

In the Mathematics learning area, students learn the essential mathematical skills and knowledge whilst developing the numerical capabilities needed in their personal, work and civic life. Importantly, they are provided with the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built. Students in Year 7 will be given the opportunity to work in groups within programs developed to meet their academic needs. All students study the Mathematics content strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Students will explore and develop their understanding of the content using the proficiency strands: Understanding; Fluency; Problem-Solving; and Reasoning.

SCIENCE

In Year 7, students bring the scientific skills acquired in the Primary school setting to secondary learning environment. In Science, they experience an engaging, relevant and specific curriculum based within practical activities that reinforce theoretical teaching and learning. In Biology, students will explore the diversity of life on Earth and focus on the role of classification and how ecosystems show the flow of energy in the environment. In Chemistry, students learn about mixtures, solutions and pure substances. In Earth and Space, students focus on the solar system and the predicted phenomena that occur on Earth, including tides, sunrises and sunsets. When studying Physics, students will explore the interaction of forces and how these explain changes in motion. Practical application of these concepts are further developed in a two period STEM class that each Year 7 student will partake in. Using fun and knowledge, students apply their knowledge of scientific concepts when engaging in practical activities.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Humanities and Social Science (HaSS) is the study of human behaviour and interaction in social, cultural, environmental, economic and political contexts. All students study the four subjects of: Civics and Citizenship, Economics, Geography and History throughout the year. Through research, analysis and questioning of evidence, students will develop a strong foundation of skills that will ensure success in the future. In Year 7, students will develop an understanding of Australia's Parliamentary and Legal Systems and how these are tied to the British Westminster System, the Division of Powers and Constitution are also explored. Through investigation of History, students will become familiar with the ancient past through the in-depth studies into ancient societies and peoples as well as the role and methods of archaeologists in determining historical events. Their studies of Geography link liveability and the importance of water as a sustainable resource. Time will also be spent developing students understanding of the fundamental concepts of Economics, including supply and demand and the power of the consumer. Students will demonstrate this understanding in written arguments and through the creation of projects.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At Donnybrook District High School, the Health and Physical Education learning area aims to provide students with learning experiences that lead to a lifelong, healthy and productive life. Students are given opportunities to develop skills and abilities through the many contexts this learning area offers. The school's programs are designed to engage students with a developmental focus on teamwork, cooperative learning, leadership attributes and building important relationship skills for the future.

All students participate in Health and Physical Education. The programs allow students to develop essential knowledge, attitudes, values, and skills required for a healthy life. Students are engaged in physically active and theoretical health lessons that allow them to enhance their well-being. Learning to communicate and cooperate with other students in practical situations will be monitored and developed throughout the year. Our Positive Behaviour Support philosophy is explicitly taught and modelled in these subjects.

Physical Education

Physical Education and sport play an important part in the development of students health and well being at Donnybrook District High School. Many life skills, such as teamwork, cooperation with others and the ability to strive for success, are valuable lessons that students learn from sports involvement.

These courses allow students to experience various sports: Aquatics, Athletics, Netball, Football, Badminton, Cricket and Basketball, whilst developing core skills such as throwing, catching, kicking, hitting and dribbling. Students are also introduced to offensive and defensive sporting strategies and will set fitness goals to maximise their participation levels.

The school encourages students to strive for excellence and to set high goals and standards for themselves while at the same time acknowledging the efforts of those around them.

Health Education

Students are engaged in lessons where they will develop important life skills concerning their health, which are also designed to prepare them for their later adolescent years. Topics include growth and relationship issues, building resiliency, coping with pressure and influence, fitness and exercise (including fitness testing), drug education and other community lifestyle issues. Emphasis is placed on assertive decision-making, with students taking ownership of their lifestyle decisions in regard to the importance of living a healthy lifestyle.

WELL ROUNDED ATHLETE PROGRAM (WRAP)

In 2024 the Well Rounded Athlete Program was launched at Donnybrook District High School. WRAP is a specialised program designed to develop leadership skills, self- management skills and teamwork, all of which contribute to making a well rounded athlete. Participants apply for their position within the course through a reflection against the CASEL framework and the WRAP rubric of expectations. This program is designed to challenge the students personally while developing their all-round skills.

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

Today's employers recognise that future employees must be capable of responding to the challenges of the 21st Century, using creative, innovative and adaptable thinking. These skills, known as soft skills, are developed through the use of critical and creative thinking strategies that seek solutions to complex problems. The school has dedicated two periods a week to helping our students develop these skills in a safe and collaborative learning space. The goal is to develop learners who are motivated to see a problem through to an innovative and logical solution. This is a skill that will create a resilient learner.

Students develop critical and creative thinking capabilities as they learn to generate and evaluate knowledge, clarify concepts and ideas, seek possibilities, consider alternatives and solve problems. Critical and creative thinking involves students thinking broadly and deeply using skills, behaviours and dispositions such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination and innovation in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school. This learning is embedded within our HaSS curriculum and assists students in developing solutions to social and emotional issues.

Productive, purposeful and intentional thinking is at the centre of effective learning. By applying a sequence of solutions-focused skills, students develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of the processes used whenever they encounter problems, unfamiliar information and new ideas. In addition, the progressive development of knowledge about thinking and the practice of using thinking strategies can increase students' motivation for, and management of, their own learning. They become more confident and autonomous problem-solvers and thinkers.

STUDY SKILLS

At Donnybrook District High School, we are constantly striving to improve students knowledge and success, providing every opportunity to improve your child's journey. sing whole school data collected and analysed by staff, a program of work is developed to meet the needs of each student using our data processing software, Elastik. This provides online practice for students working on their area of need in literacy and numeracy. Study Skills provides students with the opportunity to build and develop literacy and numeracy skills, learning and assessment strategies, with a focus on Instructional Strategies, and access extra teacher support for assessments. During these lessons, students also have access to the library to encourage students to become life-long lovers of reading. As a point of need arises, students may also access additional guided study lessons.

In Year 8, students participate in comprehension and reading programs, to further develop and consolidate these skills. Students have the opportunity to develop their creative writing skills and NAPLAN preparation is a key focus throughout the year.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL EDUCATION

ADVENTUREWORKS AND MINDFUL EDUCATION

At Donnybrook District High School we aim to develop student's self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, social awareness and relationship skills through the integration of Mindful Education lessons. The aim of the program is to develop the skills of empathy, self-reflection and understanding of the impact each person's behaviour has on their reputation, their school and their community. Each week, Mindfulness lessons teach students how to recognise and reflect on their attitude and behaviours, providing strategies to develop these skills further.

AdventureWorks camps and incursion days are designed to support students on their journey to adulthood. The AdventureWorks organisation focuses on transitioning our young people into adulthood by working with them to develop positive self-image and understanding.

The Mindful Education program is explicitly taught to each year group. Working with two teachers, students foster a safe and supportive space for young people to have real conversations about what they are feeling and experiences as a teenager.

Our programs are focused on developing the competencies of our young people requiring them to be socially and emotionally aware of themselves and others. The AdventureWorks Team and the school collaborate to integrate the connection between both programs to ensure our students are getting the most our of these opportunities.

OPTION SUBJECTS

The students will experience teaching and learning across a range of option classes. In Year 7, students will rotate through four classes each week exposing them to an array of opportunities in the Arts, STEM and Technologies. Over the course of each semester, students will learn the knowledge and skills they will need to operate machinery, cook delicious food, create art through clay and drawing amongst many other skills. After the first semester, the students will swap options and experience a new range of subjects. The theory behind this strategy is to expose all students to a range of choices, some of which may pique their interest and spark a passion for that career path later in life.

Students selected into the Specialised Sports Program will not get to experience all options in the first year but will experience all options over the course of Year 7 and Year 8.

THE ARTS

Visual Arts

Lead by an specialist staff member, The Arts are set for an expansion across all strands in 2025. Students will develop their knowledge of the Elements and Principles of Art to produce a variety of 2D and 3D artworks, ranging from drawing, painting, printmaking and clay. Students will be required to demonstrate design work and draft ideas in a Visual Diary and learn more about discussing and responding to the Arts.

Media

Digital Media is an essential component of the digital world students experience. Students will write, perform, film and edit a short film that includes a social issue important to them. Learning how images and short videos are created and how they speak to their audiences is essential knowledge for our students. This knowledge allows students to critique, evaluate the level of persuasion they experience online and encourages them to think critically about the online world.

TECHNOLOGIES

The Technologies learning area comprises of Design and Technologies and Digital Technologies. In Year 7, students have opportunities to learn about technologies in society, at least once, in the following technologies contexts: Engineering principles and systems, Food and fibre production, Food specialisations and Materials and Technologies specialisations. Students are given opportunities to design and produce products, services and environments. This learning area is by far our most popular course. The skills introduced in Year 7 and Year 8 are the foundation of a possible career pathway in the future.

Digital Technologies

Year 7 students will consolidate and develop new skills in various digital technologies, allowing them to select the most appropriate application for the required task. Using software and online applications, students will also learn search strategies for using the internet to develop skills, such as Cyber Safety and Ergonomics, coding and robotics.

Design and Technologies: Woodwork and Metalwork

This is an introductory course to working in an industrial environment. The students start with understanding safe working practices; there is an emphasis on developing hand skills, knowledge of tools, machinery and safe operating practices. As the student's knowledge and skill develop, they are introduced to working from a design brief to develop their problem-solving abilities and become resilient, independent learners. The Design and Technology Centre offers learning in Woodwork and Digital Design & Technical Drawing.

Design and Technologies: Food and Textiles

Students will develop the skill of food production by completing a semester of practical and theoretical work involving various food topics. Students will be introduced to international cuisine, food packaging and labelling, adolescent food choices, catering, and food sharing. The emphasis in this course is placed on both working as an individual and working within small groups to produce a range of foods. In their second year, students are given opportunities to design and produce products using different materials and equipment. Using their design skills, students produce a fabric item, using a sewing machine, manipulating and modifying the design to reflect their creativity.

Design and Technologies: Agriculture

Students will learn about the Agricultural industry. Food and fibre production will be a focus, and students will consider the ways, characteristics and properties of technologies that can be combined to design and produce sustainable solutions. Students also learn the role of animals in agriculture and experience practical care of animals through our Cows Create Careers program.

STEM

Donnybrook District High School offers students a specialised STEM option in Years 7 and 8, providing a semester of academic extension through a combined focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This aspect of the course educates students through problem-solving in the real world. The teaching is based not through textbooks, but through real life STEM concepts. Students will delve into an array of Engineering Challenges, including Solar STEM, solar ovens and Mars Rover exploration.

IMPORTANT NOTE: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The Year 7 timetable will be constructed to provide as many opportunities for students as possible, however constraints such as available staff, class numbers and rooming may mean that adjustments to subjects may need to occur.

Donnybrook District High School

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