

YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

The Middle School curriculum at Loxton High School incorporates the Australian Curriculum and provides a broad and balanced range of experiences so that students can enjoy their middle years of education, whilst gaining the necessary skills and knowledge to make informed choices of study in their senior years of schooling.

In Year 8, students study most of their subjects in a home group learning community. Home Group teachers build close relationships with their students.

Program Achieve is a key focus of the Year 8 program. Students develop personal and foundation skills for learning through topics including 'Ready Set You Can Do It', 'Organisation', 'Getting Along', 'Resilience', 'Confidence' and 'Persistence'.

The Department of Education and Child Development's Child Protection Curriculum is taught in the Home Group and Health Education program with a focus on:

- The Right to be Safe;
- Relationships;
- Recognising and Reporting Abuse;
- Protective Strategies.

All Year 8 students are taught basic skills in Computer Applications as part of the Australian Curriculum in Digital Technologies.

The Year 8 subjects for all students are:

CURRICULUM AREA	Semesters
English	2
Health and Physical Education	2
Mathematics	2
Science	2
Art & Design	1
Home Economics	1
Humanities and Social Sciences - Geography & History	1
German	1
Specialist Music/Music & Drama	1
Technology	1

YEAR 8 SUBJECT DESCRIPTORS

ENGLISH

Subject Description: This year-long course covers the areas of Language, Literature and Literacy. Students practise and develop their skills in speaking, listening, reading, viewing and writing. They study a shared class text and a film each semester and write for varying purposes and audiences. Reading is supported through the *'I Can Read Anywhere, Anytime, Anything'* (ICRA) program and by participation in the Premier's Reading Challenge. Students also study the Reading Plus Program to master their reading skills. The assessment outline is issued to students at the beginning of each semester.

Additional Costs: Small costs for local theatre excursions and travelling performances. Entry fee to English Competition (strongly encouraged).

MATHEMATICS

Subject Description: Mathematics is a full year of study structured around the strands:

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

Learning in Mathematics is an active process where students acquire and practise skills, whilst developing their understanding, fluency, problem solving and reasoning in the three strands. Learning is enhanced by the use of appropriate technology; scientific and graphic calculators and computer software.

Topics covered in Year 8 include: Numbers; Percentage; Ratio and Rates; Patterns and Algebra; Linear Equations; Linear Graphs; Perimeter and Area; Volume; Time; Geometry; Chance; Statistics.

Mathematics programs may be modified to support and extend Mathematics learning.

Additional Costs: All students need a Scientific Calculator (approx. \$25 from the Book Room). Students are also encouraged to take part in the Australian Mathematics Competition and the UNSW International Mathematics Competition, and other Maths related events as advertised throughout the year.

SCIENCE



Subject Description: Learning in Science is a full year of study structured around the disciplines:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Earth Science

In Science students study the Australian Curriculum where they acquire a knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts whilst exploring how and where they relate to daily life. Students develop their inquiry skills and see how concepts, and related technologies, have been developed by scientists. Practical investigations allow students to discover or test theories by undertaking relevant experiments.

Topics covered in Year 8 Science include:

Laboratory Skills; Working with Scientific Data; Cells; Living Systems; Growth and Reproduction; Using Energy; Physical and Chemical Change; Elements, Compounds and Mixtures; Rocks; Exploring and Mining and Heat.

Additional Costs: Students are encouraged to take part in the ICAS Competition and the RACI Chemistry Competition.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is a compulsory semester-long subject studied in Year 9.



HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (HASS)

GEOGRAPHY



Subject Description: Geography empowers students to shape change for a socially just and sustainable future. Geography inspires curiosity and wonder about the diversity of the world's places, peoples, cultures and environments. Through exploring, analysing and understanding the characteristics of the places that make up our world, Geography enables students to question why the world is the way it is, and reflect on their relationships with and responsibilities for that world.

Topics: Mapping; Landscapes

HISTORY

Subject Description: History covers the Ancient to the Modern World, including Medieval Europe. It gives students the opportunity to make sense of the past and the present by developing historical skills including research, analysis, communication and interpretation of different perspectives.

Topic: Medieval Europe

PERFORMING ARTS

(Incorporating Specialist Music, Music and Drama)



Subject Description: This subject is a one-semester subject and is an introduction to Music and Drama. These two aspects of performing arts are taught concurrently.

Students who are currently playing a musical instrument, or have just undertaken instrumental lessons, may be invited to join a Year 8 Specialist Music class, so that their skills can be extended and advanced at a faster pace. They will still be studying the same Drama units as other Year 8 classes.

The course focuses on introducing students to the basic skills in both Music and Drama, with the following topics:

- *Movement*
- *Mime*
- *Tableaux*
- *Scripted plays & dialogue*
- *Basics of Playing Instruments: percussion, guitar and keyboard*
- *Rhythm & Pitch Theory*
- *Ensemble Playing*
- *Music technology: composing using loops*

Additional Costs: Small costs for possible performances either in school or at the Chaffey Theatre.

Nil for Music, however, students undertaking the Special Music class may have extra costs associated with purchase of own personal music, own instrument or hire fee for instrument from a music rental firm.

VISUAL ART AND DESIGN – ART

Subject Description:

This semester course will allow every student to experience success in Art by introducing students to the basics of:

- **Drawing** (applying tone, texture and colour to create a 3D effect)
- **Painting** (colour theory and painting techniques)
- **Relief Printing** (Photoshop skills, lino-carving and printing techniques)
- **Ceramics** (pinch, coil, slab and hand sculpting techniques)
- **Art Appreciation** (Describing, Analysing, Interpreting and judging works of Art and Artist research)

- **Digital Design** (using Photoshop and Illustrator to create graphic illustration)

We encourage creativity, originality, problem solving, self-confidence and personal growth as we look at a new range of projects each term. By the end of the semester you will feel a sense of achievement and will appreciate that Art is something everyone can **LEARN** to be great at.



LANGUAGES - GERMAN

Subject Description: Students learn to communicate in German, both orally and in writing. Typical **topics** include: introducing yourself; the family; hobbies; animals; colours; and numbers. Basic grammar and some aspects of German culture and geography are also covered.

Additional Information:

Students who continue with German have the opportunity to participate in a student exchange program in Year 10/11.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Subject Description: A full-year course designed to provide students with an exposure to a broad range of physical activities with a strong emphasis on personal and social development.

The Physical Activity component (Movement and Physical Activity) provides students with the opportunity to develop specialised movement skills and understanding in a range of physical activity settings. Through the personal, social and community health strand students develop the skills, knowledge, and understanding to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage satisfying, respectful relationships.

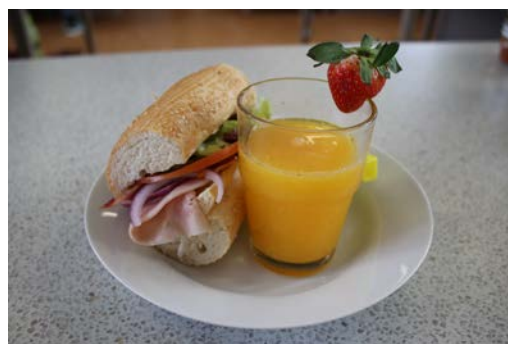
The health component develops knowledge, understanding and skills to enable students to critically engage with a range of health focus areas and issues including; Fitness and Nutrition, Mental Health, Personal development and Relationships and sexual health.

Assessment consists of practical skill assessment, classroom folio work, written assessments (Journal and Issues Analysis) and evaluation of the student's personal involvement in the course.

Additional Costs: Nil



FOOD & TEXTILE PRODUCTION



Subject Description: This is a composite course providing experiences with food and fabric.

In the Food area, students are introduced to healthy eating practices based on the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. Students develop basic food preparation skills and become aware of safe food handling procedures.

In the Fabric area, students investigate the sources and uses of fabrics in their everyday life, assess the properties of fibres and learn how to operate a sewing machine, constructing three textile projects.

Additional Costs:

Food: Students are required to bring simple ingredients for weekly practicals to supplement the cost of recipes e.g. an egg – they are given a list of ingredients they must bring to school at the start of the term, to assist with organisation at home.



Fabric: All fabric, notions and sewing thread are supplied for students.

TECHNOLOGY

Subject Description: Studies in Design and Technology provide students with opportunities to develop technological capabilities, through planning, developing and refining design concepts, selecting appropriate materials, analysing and providing the correct information, carrying designs through systems to completion and appraising the outcome. Students are introduced to construction



techniques in the areas of Plastics, Metalwork, Woodwork and Systems. Students use a computer software package to assist in designing projects. Students focus on basic design and problem solving skills and are assessed on their practical and designing skills. Emphasis is on safe and effective operating procedures. Students will be introduced to the latest production techniques including 3D Printing.

Additional Costs: Nil