

How Teaching and Learning Works at Warrnambool College

Years 7 and 8 Overview

Warrnambool College aims to provide students with a wide range of relevant and stimulating academic, cultural and practical experiences. The subjects you study may vary more than in primary school and for each subject you may have a different teacher. In Years 7 and 8 all students follow a common course of study and have a strong emphasis on the core subjects - English, Maths, Science, LOTE, Humanities (History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship and Economics) and Health & Physical Education. Students will also be given a taste of the broad range of subjects available from the Technology and Art learning areas.



These courses will expand your Year 7 and 8 experiences and provide an insight into studies in Years 9 and 10 and beyond.

Year 7 Core Course Information

The aim of Warrnambool College's curriculum at Year 7 is to provide students with a balanced, broad education and to assist them in making a smooth transition from Primary to Secondary school. The school year is divided into two semesters, with subjects organised in accordance with the table on the following page.

Year 8 Core Course Information

The aim of the Year 8 curriculum is to continue to offer a broad range of subjects, allowing students the opportunity to experience all key learning areas and enabling them to make informed choices in later years. Again, the school year is divided into two semesters, with subjects organised in accordance with the table on the following page.

Years 7 and 8 SEAL Course Information

The aim of Warrnambool College's Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) program is to enable gifted students to explore depth and breadth in their learning, working alongside others who are also gifted. Challenging learning experiences are offered that are tailored to the needs of talented learners. There is a greater emphasis on higher order thinking and independent learning and research. Course content is compacted so that a normal Year 7--10 program is covered in three years to allow for breadth of subject selection in VCE (which is completed over a three year period).

Years 7 and 8 Sport Pathway Program Information

The aim of the select entry Sport Pathway Program (SPP) is to enable students to develop their physical talents whilst focussing on their academic studies. The program focuses on using selected students' aspirations in sport and transfers such rigour into the classroom to achieve likewise academic success at school. There will be expectations placed on students with respect to their attitude and effort displayed in all subjects in order to remain in the program. Students will participate in a 4-period per week classroom and fieldwork athletic program. Additionally students will train before and after school in their chosen sport, selected from sports such as Football, Netball, Basketball, Hockey, Tennis, Soccer, Triathlon & Cycling, Table Tennis and possibly even more (sports that run will be dependent on student numbers).

How Teaching and Learning Works at Warrnambool College (cont)

YEAR 7		YEAR 7 SEAL PROGRAM		YEAR 7 SPP PROGRAM	
Subject	Weekly Time Allocation	Subject	Weekly Time Allocation	Subject	Weekly Time Allocation
Maths	3 periods	Maths	3 periods	Maths	3 periods
English	3 periods	English	3 periods	English	3 periods
Science	2 periods	Science (including iLearn)	3 periods	Science	2 periods
Humanities	2 periods	Humanities	2 periods	Humanities	2 periods
PE	2 periods	PE	2 periods	Indonesian/French	2 periods (one language per semester)
Health	1 period	Health	1 period	Food Technology	3 periods (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)
Indonesian / French	2 periods (one language per semester)	Indonesian / French	2 periods (one language / semester)	Visual Art	3 periods (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)
Food technology	3 periods (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	Food technology	3 periods (either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	Electronics	1 period (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)
Visual Art	3 periods (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	Visual Art	3 periods (either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	Music/Drama	1 period (per term for 1 semester)
Electronics	1 period (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	Music	1 period (either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	SPP	4 periods (includes PE and Health)
Music/Drama	1 period (per term for 1 semester)	Electronics	1 period (either 1 st or 2 nd semester)		
iLearn	1 period				
YEAR 8		YEAR 8 SEAL PROGRAM		YEAR 8 SPP PROGRAM	
Subject	Weekly Time Allocation	Subject	Weekly Time Allocation	Subject	Weekly Time Allocation
English	3 periods	English	3 periods	English	3 periods
Maths	3 periods	Maths	3 periods	Maths	3 periods
Science	3 periods	Science	3 periods	Science	3 periods
Humanities	3 periods	Humanities	3 periods	Humanities	3 periods
PE	2 periods	PE	2 periods	Indonesian/French	2 periods (continuous with the language chosen towards the end of year 7)
Health	1 period	Health	1 period	Product Design	2 periods (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)
Indonesian OR French	2 periods (continues with the language chosen towards the end of Year 7)	Indonesian OR French	2 periods (continues with the language chosen towards the end of year 7; with year 9 classes)	Visual Art	2 periods (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)
Product Design	2 periods (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	Product Design	2 periods (either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	SPP	4 periods (includes PE and Health)
Visual Art	2 periods (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	Visual Art	2 periods (either 1 st or 2 nd semester)		
Music/Drama	1 period (per term for 1 semester)	Drama	1 period (either 1 st or 2 nd semester)		
Robotics	1 period (in either 1 st or 2 nd semester)	Robotics	1 period (either 1 st or 2 nd semester)		

How Teaching and Learning Works (cont)

ENGLISH

English allows students to make sense of the human experience by examining ideas expressed in text types and written comments. English develops students' ability to:

- communicate orally and in writing with confidence and sophistication
- critically analyse the role of the media in shaping and influencing society
- understand the dynamic nature of the English language



The study of English involves students reading, viewing, listening, writing, creating, researching and talking about different text types, from those dealing with straight forward information to increasingly complex and abstract issues and ideas. Students are encouraged to explore the meaning of texts and how that meaning is conveyed, to develop critical and analytical thinking.

Years 7 and 8

All students undertake a common course in English. Students learn to analyse a range of texts including plays, short stories, non-fiction, poetry and film. They build a foundation of analytical skills and a critical understanding about the ways writers and speakers control language to influence their listeners, readers and viewers. Skills built include text study, narrative writing, language analysis and media analysis.

MATHEMATICS



The Mathematics teaching and learning program at Warrnambool College aims to develop and enhance students' capacity to engage with the world by representing it in a logical and structured way. It provides both a framework for thinking and a powerful means of symbolic communication that is logical, concise, universal and unambiguous. The program is designed to provide access to worthwhile and challenging mathematical learning in a way which accommodates the needs and aspirations of all students. It focuses on developing students' mathematical understanding,

fluency, reasoning, analytical thought and problem-solving skills. These capabilities enable students to respond in an increasingly sophisticated and refined way by employing mathematical strategies to analyse, evaluate, interpret and synthesize meaning in a variety of different contexts.

Years 7 and 8

In Years 7 and 8, the Mathematics program focuses on the key dimensions of Space, Number, Measurement, Chance and Data, Structure, Working Mathematically and non-discipline dimensions of ICT for visualising thinking and Managing Personal Learning. Students have access to the maths online tutor software Manga High that allows for differentiated learning.

How Teaching and Learning Works (cont)

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and Physical Education contributes significantly to the cognitive, physical, social and emotional development of students. It provides opportunities for students to learn about, and practise, ways of adopting and maintaining a healthy, productive and active life. It also involves students learning through movement, experiences that are both challenging and enjoyable, and improving their capacity to move with skill and confidence in a variety of contexts.

It aims to promote the value of physical activity in their lives. Throughout the course, students will develop skills in communicating, decision-making, interacting, planning and problem solving.



Years 7 and 8

The areas of Health, Physical Education and Sport are all covered in Years 7 and 8 to give students the basic understanding and skills within each discipline. Health focuses on physical health and development, nutrition, problem solving and making informed decisions about personal health. Physical Education develops motor skills, strategic thinking and tactical knowledge through the introduction of games, athletics and fitness. Students learn to identify factors that influence their motivation to be physically active. Sport Education aims to deliver extensive opportunities for all students to experience a wide variety of sporting and recreational activities.



SCIENCE

Science is a dynamic, collaborative and creative human endeavour arising from our desire to make sense of our world through exploring the unknown, investigating universal mysteries, making predictions and solving problems. Science aims to understand a large number of observations in terms of a much smaller number of broad principles. Science knowledge is contestable and is revised, refined and extended as new evidence arises. The Science teaching and learning program at Warrnambool College aims to develop and enhance students' capacity to question, imagine and explain by transforming the way students observe and investigate their world.

Years 7 and 8

The Science course in Years 7 and 8 introduces students to basic scientific concepts and practices. In Year 7 student's study being a scientist, mixing and separating, water as a resource, ecosystems and classification, force and space. In Year 8, students study topics which include consumer science, cells of life, systems for survival, matter, chemical reactions, geology and renewable and non-renewable energy.

LANGUAGES

An introductory course in each of French and Indonesian is taught in Year 7. At the end of Year 7, students are required to choose one language for study – French or Indonesian – which is compulsory until the end of Year 8.



Years 7 and 8

At Warrnambool College we use a communicative approach to language study, combining listening, speaking, reading and writing skills that focus on everyday life situations. The focus is students developing meaning and understanding both the culture and the language.

How Teaching and Learning Works (cont)

Year 7 topics covered in Indonesian and French include basic greetings, numbers, family, colours, food, culture and introductory grammar. In Year 8 students build on these foundation skills and improve their language proficiency.

HUMANITIES



Humanities at Warrnambool College introduces students to a deeper understanding of our historical heritage from ancient to modern times, the place of humans in the physical world and their impact on it, our civil and economic life and the working of institutions that support this. The Humanities encourage the use of research skills and inquiry processes. Students learn to plan an investigation and ask key questions to guide their learning. They question and analyse a range of data and sources including artefacts, photographs, maps, stories, special events, interviews, site visits and electronic media.

Humanities incorporate the four disciplines of History, Geography, Economics and Civics and Citizenship. The disciplines are introduced and explored through various topics. Students are encouraged and guided to develop their understanding of each discipline and how they are interconnected.

Years 7 and 8

In Year 7 students start to question different views of history before they look in-depth at the ancient civilizations of Egypt and China. Students investigate endangered species, build mapping skills, reflect on the importance of water for humanity's survival, and investigate why people choose to live where they do. In Year 8, students investigate the development of democracy in Australia, explore Medieval society and Feudal Japan, and examine the Aztecs in South America. Students revisit geospatial skills, learn how landforms and landscapes are formed and explore how these impact on the places we live.

iLEARN (Year 7 only)

The aim of iLearn is to ensure students develop the necessary skills to use digital technology efficiently, effectively and responsibly across all learning areas. These are essential skills for success in the 21st century.

Topics covered include: cyber safety, personal learning styles and multiple intelligences, effectively using technology for learning and reflective writing for authentic audiences.

VISUAL ARTS

The Arts at Warrnambool College provide students with the opportunity to express themselves creatively. Through the performing arts and visual arts, students challenge themselves to respond to new ideas and develop knowledge of other people, places and time periods. They learn critical thinking skills through the analysis and interpretation of their own and other's ideas, engaging their minds to sort out their own reactions to new and innovative ideas, techniques and mediums. The Arts allows students to express and explore creative concepts, develop communication skills for the modern age, and build confidence in themselves and their ideas.



How Teaching and Learning Works (cont)

MUSIC and DRAMA



The aim of the Music course in Years 7 and 8 is to develop an understanding of the concepts of music and to develop skills for creating, performing and listening to music. The above areas are addressed through practical work involving ensemble activities and aural development.

Participation in co-curricular activities is encouraged, providing vocal and instrumental opportunities that are unavailable in the classroom setting.

The Drama program allows students to express and explore creative concepts, develop communication skills for the modern age, and build confidence in themselves and their ideas.

Years 7 and 8

As part of their core subjects in Years 7 and 8, students take three arts-related subjects: Art, Drama and Music. Students also have the option of studying Instrumental Music. These subjects expose students to diverse creative opportunities and enable personal expression and build confidence. Students who find a passion for these subjects have the opportunity to pursue this passion throughout their schooling experience and explore further options available.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology provides students with the opportunity to be actively engaged in authentic, relevant learning tasks. Through the elective subjects offered they learn to break large projects into manageable tasks, follow processes, solve problems, record and share information, to manipulate their environment and take on new technologies as well as retaining the old in developing their project. In a variety of ways, students will learn to manipulate, create, innovate and communicate ideas they have. Through their exposure to the subjects offered in Technology, students will improve their lives by thinking and engaging in real life situations and learning the skills required to live in today's world.



Years 7 and 8

Students in Year 7 are taught Food Technology for a semester, wherein they are introduced to the basics of nutrition and food preparation. Food Technology gives students an insight into their own personal health and the choices they make as well as valuable life skills. The other semester introduces students to the wonderful world of Electronics. From the components they use, to how they are powered and work, and everything in between. Students then have the opportunity to put this into practice by developing their own working models to demonstrate skills and knowledge.

How Teaching and Learning Works (cont)

In Year 8 students undertake Product Design Technology (Wood) and Robotics as semester length units. These subjects are designed to engage students with interesting and creative activities and introduce skills for decision-making and construction. In Product Design, students use a range of tools, equipment and techniques in order to process materials into products, and must consider ecological and environmental factors.



Reporting at Warrnambool College

The ability to provide feedback to Parents/Guardians and students on learning progress in a timely manner is imperative to ensure that student's learn from their mistakes and demonstrate improvement. As a result, reports will be completed **SIX** times per year and will be accessible in the Compass online learning management system. In these reports teachers will utilise set rubrics to assess students' 'Attitude and Effort' and 'Academic 'achievement across all subjects enabling comparisons to be made between subjects and cycles. At Warrnambool College we believe that by emphasising the value of a students' Attitude and Effort towards their learning, we are able to improve their academic outcome.