

*STAWELL SECONDARY
COLLEGE*



**YEAR 8 HANDBOOK
2009**

STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE

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Principal	Peter Hilbig
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VISION

The fundamental purpose of Stawell Secondary College is to enable every student to reach his or her full academic, social and physical potential.

CORE VALUES

Stawell Secondary College upholds the following core values. We believe that the acceptance of these values is vital if each member of the community is to realise their potential. We also understand that the acceptance of these values will promote each individual's general well being and therefore make our community a safer, more dynamic and better place.

- Good work habits and a positive attitude to learning
- Respect for others
- Co-operation and community spirit
- Respect for property and the environment
- Having a healthy lifestyle

The Year 8 Program at Stawell Secondary College

Year 8 is the final year of the Middle Years of schooling and at Stawell Secondary College we aim to offer students a breath of curriculum to assist them with their choices in later years. In year 8 students choose between Chinese and German as their second language and cover all the other VELS Domains. The College will endeavour to assist each student to achieve their full potential whilst encouraging him/her to grow as an independent learner.

WELCOME TO YEAR 8





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Year 8 Program - 2009

Victorian Essential Learning Standards

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS), introduced to all Victorian Government Schools in 2005, describe what is essential for all students to achieve at each level from Prep to Year 10. Years 7 and 8 are the final two years of the Middle Years Stage. By Year 8 young people are becoming more mature. The move to secondary school is often linked to a stronger sense of identity. Their approach to learning is more often linked to what they consider as important for their own personal goals.

Stawell Secondary College has developed a varied curriculum in line with VELS which meets the Learning Standards, as well as catering for individual needs.

Years 7 and 8			Victorian Essential Learning Standards		
Physical, Personal and Social Learning	Discipline-based Learning	Interdisciplinary Learning			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health and Physical Education ● Interpersonal Development ● Personal Learning ● Civics and Citizenship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Arts ● English ● The Humanities – Geography ● The Humanities – History ● Languages Other Than English ● Mathematics ● Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communication ● Design, Creativity and Technology ● Information and Communications Technology ● Thinking Processes 			

Year 8 Organisation

In Year 8 students are exposed to a wide range of subjects which cover all the learning domains. The aim of Stawell Secondary College is to ensure that all students have experience in a diverse range of subjects and continue their learning as broadly as possible. For this reason, Year 8 is largely core subjects ensuring students do not confine their learning too narrowly, too early. Year 8 students remain in their form groupings for all subjects except language, where they have a choice between German and Chinese.

CORE SUBJECTS	PERIODS
ENGLISH	4
MATHS	4
SCIENCE	3
PE	3
HUMANITIES	4
LOTE- (Chinese or German)	3
HEALTH (1 SEMESTER)	3
IT (1 SEMESTER)	3
THE ARTS offering a taste of all the arts (1 SEMESTER)	6
TECHNOLOGY offering a taste of all technology (1 SEMESTER)	6
TOTAL	30

SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

English at Year 8 encourages students to take a positive interest in reading, writing, thinking, listening and speaking. Students are encouraged to attempt a wide range of reading and writing tasks, particularly on topics of their own personal interest. Themes and issues arising from texts are discussed and students respond to these in a variety of written formats. Students develop their skills in imaginative, factual, informative and opinionative writing and extend and develop their vocabulary. Students have opportunities to develop their oral expression through reading aloud, class discussions, speeches, drama and other oral tasks.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment continues throughout each semester and centres on Writing, Reading (texts and comprehension) and Oral (listening and speaking) work.

FURTHER STUDIES:

Year 9 English

MATHEMATICS

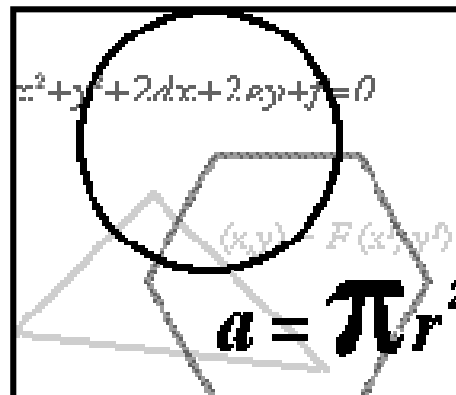
In Year 8 Mathematics students work through a number of topics including number, space, measurement, chance and data, working mathematically and structure. Students are encouraged to respond positively to new formal challenges in Mathematics, revise and consolidate previous work, develop problem solving skills, confidence and self reliance and begin to communicate mathematically. The efficient use of both calculators and computers is encouraged where appropriate.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment continues throughout each semester using a variety of methods such as unit tests, problem solving, project investigation reports, work samples, homework sheets and observation of class activities.

FURTHER STUDIES:

Year 9 Mathematics



SCIENCE

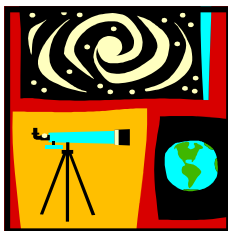
In Year 8 Science students work through a number of topics including, Chemical Science, Physical Science, Earth and Space Science and Biological Sciences. Students are encouraged to enjoy learning about science and their environment and develop an appreciation of science and its relevance to everyday life. Science also aims to develop in students an understanding of our environment and the way we affect and/or alter it.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment continues throughout each semester using a variety of methods such as topic tests, assignments, bookwork, homework, practical work and projects.

FURTHER STUDIES:

Year 9 Science



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In Year 8 Information Technology, students use a range of ICT tools to improve their visual thinking and decision making skills. They use a range of data types, including sound and both still and moving images, to record decisions made and actions taken when solving problems. Students will also learn to apply a range of processing skills, functions and equipment to solve problems and create products. Becoming a responsible digital citizen is also addressed in this course and students learn to judge the integrity of their Internet information based on its credibility, accuracy, reliability and comprehensiveness.

The ICT applications studied will include:

- Word
- Excel
- Publisher
- Works Database
- WebPainter3
- Image Composer
- Arcsoft Panorama
- Inspiration
- PowerPoint
- Kahootz
- Windows Movie Maker

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment continues throughout each semester using a variety of exercises including text processing, number processing, image processing and integrated projects.

FURTHER STUDIES:

Year 9 Information Technology.

HUMANITIES

GEOGRAPHY

In Year 8 Geography the course centres around the human and natural characteristics of the countries of the Asia-Pacific region. Students study Geography for one semester and the course aims to build on the skills and knowledge developed at Year 7. It also aims to extend student understanding and appreciation of the variety of environments, peoples and processes that occur within the region. Geography also fosters the notion of being a 'global citizen' and aims to improve students' geographic skills and concepts.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment continues throughout the semester using a variety of methods such as topic tests, projects, practical work and fieldwork

FURTHER STUDIES

Year 9 Geography



HISTORY

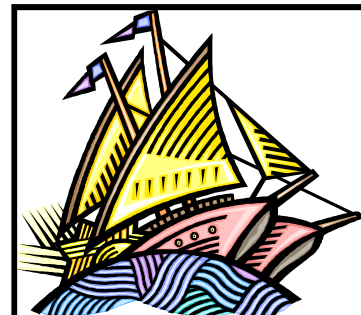
In Year 8 History students work towards developing an understanding about medieval societies. These could include England, Europe and Asia. Students explore the legacies of medieval societies in contemporary societies. Students study History for one semester and are likely to study the Vikings, medieval life, castles/witches of the medieval times and new ideas and discoveries of the Middle Ages.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment continues throughout the semester using a variety of methods such as topic tests, essays, research projects document studies and work books.

FURTHER STUDIES

Year 9 History



HEALTH AND HUMAN RELATIONS

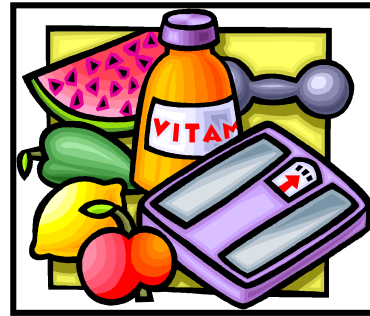
In Year 8 Health and Human Relations students learn to identify the health concerns of young people and the strategies that are designed to improve their health. They learn about food and nutrition for health and the influences of family food selection. Students also complete a unit on Drug Education which includes harm minimisation strategies and safety in relation to drugs. Students also develop an understanding of the changes that occur during puberty and adolescence.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment may include short exercises, assignments, practical skills and unit tests.

FURTHER STUDIES

Year 9 Health, Family Meals and Entertaining.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

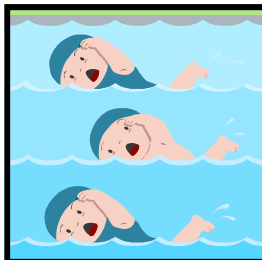
In Year 8 Physical Education students are given the opportunity to experience playing, umpiring, coaching and organizing sporting competitions and to analyse and evaluate their level of involvement in physical activity by reflecting on their experiences. Students are encouraged to combine motor skills, strategic thinking and tactical knowledge to improve individual and team performance. Students are encouraged to evaluate their personal fitness and level of physical activity and identify factors that influence motivation to be physically active. Year 8 PE also encourages students to develop socially acceptable attitudes and interpersonal skills in the areas of: working in teams, sportsmanship, cooperation, tolerance, respect and responsibility. The skills and sports taught will include: swimming and resuscitation, athletics, basketball, cricket, gymnastics, social dance, soft lacrosse, hockey, tennis and personal fitness testing and evaluation.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on participation, skill development, knowledge and understanding, peer and individual skills analysis, attitude, sportsmanship, personal activity level, fitness evaluation and awareness and performance in games and working in teams.

FURTHER STUDIES

Year 9 Physical Education



LOTE

CHINESE

In Year 8 Chinese, students work to expand their vocabulary for conversational and written Chinese language. Their skills will build on the foundation they established in Year 7.

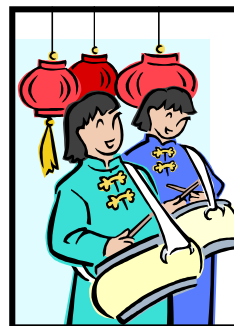
They will have opportunities to work closely with Chinese students at the College to enhance their Chinese language skills. Students will be assessed on the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will participate in excursions to cultural activities, Chinese language competitions and culture days with students from other Victorian schools. The school organises school trips and exchange programs to China and students will be encouraged to participate in these programs to improve their learning of Chinese language.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on class participation and on small reading, writing, speaking or listening tasks involving communicating at a simple level.

FURTHER STUDIES

Year 10 Chinese



GERMAN

In Year 8 German students consolidate their language skills developed in Year 7. The course aims to develop the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. This will be done through the exploration of topics such as school, clothing, food, drink, animals, jobs and illness. An understanding of German culture, history and lifestyle and that of other German speaking countries will also be an aspect of this course. Students also have the opportunity to apply for an exchange to Germany in Years 9 and 10.

ASSESSMENT

Students will be assessed on class participation and on assignments and assessment tasks in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

FURTHER STUDIES

Year 9 German



THE ARTS

In Year 8 all students will have the opportunity to sample the Arts, including Art, Ceramics, Music and Visual Communication and Design. The Arts is allocated 6 periods for one semester and students will work through a range of activities in each of the Arts areas. In later years students choose to specialise in certain subject but at Year 8 students need to be exposed to a broad and engaging curriculum. By sampling all choices in Year 8 students will be able to make more informed choices in later years.



TECHNOLOGY

Like the Arts, in Year 8 students have the opportunity to sample the Technology subjects on offer at Stawell Secondary College. Technology is allocated 6 periods for one semester and students will work through a range of activities in each of the Technology areas, including Engineering Workshop, Sheetmetal, Textiles and Woodwork. By sampling all choices in Year 8 students will be able to make more informed choices in later years.

