

# Year 9 Course Guide 2025



Carrum Downs Secondary College  
*Respect Integrity Effort*

# In This Guide

---

Important Dates  
Introduction  
Making Selections  
Edval Portal  
Year 9 Curriculum Structure  
Financial Support for Parents & Carers  
Elective Subject Descriptions

## IMPORTANT DATES

---

Students Receive Course Guide & Edval Code	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July
Edval Course Selections Open	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July
Students Finalise Course Selections	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> July
Confirmation of Courses	Late Term 3 – Early Term 4

## INTRODUCTION

---

Year 9 at Carrum Downs Secondary College is an exciting opportunity for students to further explore their interests and passions by selecting from a range of elective subjects. It is a time when we encourage students to consider their upcoming years of education and possible future careers.

Carrum Downs Secondary College supports our young people to make informed decisions; setting them up to achieve the most out of their education. This year in Pastoral Care classes, all Year 8 students complete their Career Action Plan and discuss information relating to Year 9 subjects. Parents are actively encouraged to discuss the elective subjects offered with their child to assist the decision-making process.

## MAKING SELECTIONS

---

While the selections allow students to follow an area of interest it is important to maintain balance in the course. Not selecting a particular unit in Year 9 does not exclude further future study in that area but it would be useful to think about units which might link to areas of interest beyond Year 9. It is important students select subjects that are suited to their interests and do not simply pick subjects their friends are picking.

Students submitting their selections late may not get to choose from the full range of elective subjects. Whilst every effort will be made to give all students as many of their first 'choices' as possible, timetable constraints sometimes mean that compromises have to be made. Students with significant timetabling problems will be contacted to discuss these issues.

## EDVAL PORTAL

---

A personalised Edval code is required for students to log on to their Edval portal to make their selections. These codes are accessed through your student's school email address and will be reviewed during Pastoral Care. Students can make their course selections by following the instructions accompanying the code and may be made at school with their pastoral care teacher or at home with their parents.

TWO copies of the Edval summary page should be printed, one being kept for student reference, and one signed by parents and submitted to the student's house office.

# Year 9 Curriculum Structure

## CORE SUBJECTS

---

All students must complete the following core subjects for the entire year:

- English
- Maths
- Humanities
- Science
- Physical Education
- Health
- Pastoral Care

Students will then have the choice of up to **4 additional elective subjects** which can be selected from the list provided in this course guide. **Students must have at least ONE Art or Technology elective** in their final course and the remaining selections are open to personal preference and interests from any elective subject area.

All **elective subjects run for ONE semester** in length, with the exception of LOTE which runs for the entire year. Students selecting LOTE will study just TWO other elective subjects.

## ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

---

- Art
- Basic Forensic Investigation
- Business Management (Economics)
- Café Cooking
- Computing
- Creative Writing
- Digital Photography
- Drama
- Engineering
- Geographical Issues
- Japanese
- Maths & Fantasy Sports
- Media, Film & TV
- Medicine and Disease
- Music Performance
- Outdoor Education
- Politics and the Law (Civics)
- Psychology
- Sport & Fitness
- STEAM
- Visual Communication Design
- War and Conflict (History)
- Women's Health & Fitness
- Wood - Production Design Technology

## TIMETABLE STRUCTURE

---

### *Without LOTE*

SEM 1	ENG	MAT	HUM	SCI	PE	HEA	PC	Elective 1	Elective 2
Periods per fortnight	9	9	7	7	4	2	2	5	5

SEM 2	ENG	MAT	HUM	SCI	PE	HEA	PC	Elective 3	Elective 4
Periods per fortnight	9	9	7	7	4	2	2	5	5

### *With LOTE*

SEM 1	ENG	MAT	HUM	SCI	PE	HEA	PC	LOTE	Elective 1
Periods per fortnight	9	9	7	7	4	2	2	5	5

SEM 2	ENG	MAT	HUM	SCI	PE	HEA	PC	LOTE	Elective 2
Periods per fortnight	9	9	7	7	4	2	2	5	5

# Financial Support

## PARENTS & CARERS

---

Carrum Downs Secondary College understands that some families may experience financial difficulty. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment \$250.00 is available to all families with a Health care card or Pension card.

For a confidential discussion about support for textbooks, uniform or laptop computers, please contact the college on 9788 9100 to make an appointment with Julie Westwood, Business Manager.

Email: [julie.westwood@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:julie.westwood@education.vic.gov.au)

# Elective Descriptions

## English

---

### CREATIVE WRITING

- Study a range of fictional texts including novels, short stories, poems and films.
- Learn the processes involved in the narrative craft e.g. character development / use of literary tropes.
- Learn about different literary genres e.g. gothic fiction and
- Draw inspiration from famous authors when creating their own original compositions.

## Mathematics

---

### MATHS & FANTASY SPORTS

- Compete in online fantasy sports (major focus on AFL)
- Data Analysis
- Graphing
- Making statistical based arguments

## LOTE

---

### JAPANESE (WHOLE YEAR)

- Learn to read, write, listen to and speak Japanese
- Explore Japanese culture; modern and traditional
- Interact with students from our sister school in Hirakata Japan

## Humanities

---

### GEOGRAPHICAL ISSUES (GEOGRAPHY)

- Changes in global environment
- Environmental conservation
- Prevention and management of issues
- Particular focus on Tourism & Natural Hazards

### POLITICS & THE LAW (CIVICS)

- The ism's of politics (Communism, Totalitarianism)
- Extreme governments – North Korea in focus
- Crime and punishment/police powers
- The role of NGOs in the world

### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (ECONOMICS)

- What makes a small business successful?
- Innovation and competition
- Set up a mini business

### WAR & CONFLICT (HISTORY)

- Investigating reasons for war
- Locations of war and conflict
- Impacts of war and conflict
- Change over time
- Famous figures in recent Wars

# Science

---

## BASIC FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

- Crime scene basics
- Eyewitness basics
- Fingerprinting
- Blood and DNA evidence
- Handwriting/chromatography

## PSYCHOLOGY

- What is psychology?
- Research methods
- Mental health
- Vision and perception
- Sports psychology
- Brain and nervous system

## MEDICINE & DISEASE

- Cells and immunity
- Pathogens
- Pharmacology and different classes of drugs/medicine
- Synthesis of aspirin
- Drug addiction
- With aspects of biology and chemistry

# STEAM

---

The STEAM program combines Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics into one subject:

- Develop critical thinking skills to solve real world problems.
- Use investigative skills within the STEAM design process.
- Project-based learning supporting the development of specific skills needed for future careers.

# Health & Physical Education

---

## OUTDOOR EDUCATION\*

**CAMPS & EXCURSIONS SUBJECT COST - \$400.00**

- Team Building and Introduction to Outdoor Education
- Risk and Performance
- Preparing for camp
- Basic first aid

*Trips Taken:*

- Wilson's Promontory camp
- Snorkel Trip to Rickett's Point
- Mountain bike/canoe at Lysterfield Park

(\* Work ethic and attendance will be considered when students select this subject.

## SPORT & FITNESS

- Fitness tests
- Fitness components
- Training methods
- Training programs
- Fitness circuits
- Hybrid sports
- Create your own original sport
- Types of feedback

## WOMEN'S HEALTH & FITNESS

Topics may include:

- Women's health issues
- Hormonal changes in the body and exercises to complete during which stage of your cycle
- Body image
- Women in Sport
- Gender pay gap
- Career opportunities for women in health and fitness
- Strength and conditioning
- Body, hips and thighs
- Pilates/yoga/dance/silks/hoops

# The Arts

Students **MUST** select at least ONE elective subject from Arts or Technology

## ART

- Observational drawing and rendering techniques
- Portraiture
- Working with a variety of media
- Exploring different art movements and styles of different artists

## DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- Production elements of photography
- Camera skills in taking a variety of shots
- Use of Photoshop to manipulate photography
- Study of photography artists

## DRAMA

- Dramatic style and elements of theatre performance
- Whole class and/or small theatre production performances
- Theatre sports competitions

## MUSIC PERFORMANCE\*

- Elements of Music
  - Introduction to GarageBand
  - Theory: Rhythm Values, Treble and Bass Notation
  - Theory and Aural Development
- (\*) Students intending on studying Music subjects at senior levels must select this subject. It is highly recommended that students take private lessons for their preferred instrument.*

## MEDIA, FILM & TV

- Film and TV production techniques
- Short film making e.g., film, stop-motion
- Advertising TV Commercials
- Use of Adobe software

## VISUAL COMMUNICATION & DESIGN

- Environmental design
- Industrial design
- Communication design
- The Design elements and principles

# Technology

Students **MUST** select at least ONE elective subject from Arts or Technology

## COMPUTING

- Programming
- Project 1: Visual basic
- Audience engagement
- Project 2: Game making

## CAFÉ COOKING\*

- Health and safety
- Icing designing
- Cupcake design brief
- Food challenges

*(\*) Students will not be working in the Café in this subject, they will just be cooking and baking food that would be made for a café.*

## ENGINEERING – Civil and Mechatronics

Most lessons include practical builds and testing of those builds against the design parameters.

- Engineering design process
- Tension and compression loads
- Technical drawing
- Beams, Bridges
- Welding
- Gears and powertrain
- CAD/CAM
- Designing and cutting basic shapes
- Laser engraving

## WOOD – PRODUCT DESIGN TECH

- Design principals of wood and other materials
- Project 1: Create a clock
- Design for a client element
- Project 2: Storage Unit

