



WONTHAGGI

Secondary College



“Achieving success in a caring and creative environment”.

Year 7 Handbook
2017

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Introduction to Year 7

Wonthaggi Secondary College aims to provide students with a wide range of relevant and stimulating academic, cultural and practical experiences.

In Year 7 all students follow a common course of study. The curriculum in Years 7 to 10 had previously been based on AusVELS and is in the process of rolling over to the Victorian Curriculum. The curriculum at WSC is delivered across the eight established Learning Areas: English, Mathematics, Science, Health & Physical Education, Languages, Humanities & Social Sciences, The Arts and Technology.

Year 7 students operate in a Homeroom environment and the year is seen as one of consolidation and transition from primary to secondary school. The transition from primary to secondary school has its own challenges and rewards. To be a member of a larger institution with a greater range of subjects, more teachers, new students and a different culture may be quite an adventure.

There are a number of support structures in place to help students. Year Level Coordinators, Student Welfare Coordinator, Home-group Teachers, Office Staff, Campus Principal and Classroom Teachers provide ongoing assistance. Parents and students are encouraged to seek assistance from these people whenever it is needed.

In Years 8 and 9 "the Middle School" students operate in a Core & Elective structure. This structure allows students to plan a two-year course of study that best caters for their needs across the eight areas of study.

Year 10 consists of a Core of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Industry and Enterprise and one compulsory unit of Physical Education. The remainder of the program is made up of elective subject units chosen from across the remaining Learning Areas.

The Senior School Program is based on the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). It covers the last two or sometimes three years of secondary education. Vocational Education & Training (VET) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) are also offered.

Wonthaggi Secondary College has excellent facilities and resources available for use by students at all levels.

The College Charter sets the school's direction and priorities. A comprehensive set of policies based on the principles of student access and success has been developed and implemented. Decision-making involving parents, teachers and students is also a feature of our college operation.

Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of leadership initiatives. The College is very proud of its Student Leadership Program and values input by students through such forums as the Student Leaders Group, Student Representative Council, Peer Support Program and House Leadership. Student opinion is valued and responsible leadership is seen as an important aspect of the College. Students are given the opportunity to express themselves, give their best effort and strive for personal achievement to the highest level.

Parents are encouraged to become active members of the College Council and/or Parents Association. Please feel free to call the school and make an appointment to tour our campus and discuss how it operates.



Ross Bramley
DUDLEY CAMPUS PRINCIPAL



Key College Contacts

College Principal	Garry Dennis
Assistant College Principal	Gay Findlay
Campus Principal	Ross Bramley
Year 7 Coordinators	Andrew McIntosh & Gemma Dellamina
Student Welfare	Emma Harris

Term Dates 2017

TERM 1:	31 January to 31 March
TERM 2:	18 April to 30 June
TERM 3:	17 July to 22 September
TERM 4:	9 October to 22 December

Bell Times

Staff Briefing	8.50 am*	-	8.55 am*
Home Group Meeting	9.00 am	-	9.10 am*
Unit 1	9.12 am	-	10.00 am*
Unit 2	10.02 am	-	10.50 am*
Recess	10.50 am	-	11.22 am*
Warning Bell for Unit 3	11.17 am*		
Unit 3	11.22 am	-	12.10 pm*
Unit 4	12.12 pm	-	1.00 pm*
Lunch - 1 st half	1.00 pm	-	1.25 pm*
Lunch - 2 nd half	1.25 pm	-	1.52 pm*
Warning Bell for Unit 5	1.45 pm*		
Unit 5	1.52 pm*	-	2.40 pm*
Unit 6	2.42 pm	-	3.30 pm*

**Indicates times when bell will sound*



Assessment Tasks & Homework Hints

One of the most important and at times difficult changes for students to make is the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.

Students in Year 7 are expected to adjust to new subjects, new teachers, new friends and to always work to the best of their ability.

Students need to be able to organize themselves and to manage their time in order to help them cope with the demands and expectations of each subject.

Year 7 homework will consist mainly of:

- Any work not completed in class.
- Independent reading on a daily basis and weekly spelling words in English.
- Weekly Maths homework plus a maximum of one Maths assignment each term.
- Regular revision for Languages (Indonesian or Japanese)
- Research, project and assignment work in Humanities, Science and Health classes.

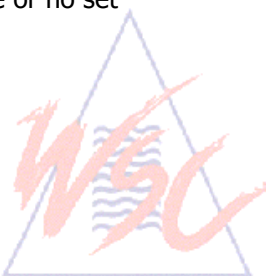
The total homework load per student will generally be between 60 and 90 minutes per week at Year 7, increasing to between 90 and 120 minutes per week at Year 9.

The College has a 'Due Date Policy' which is included in the Dudley Campus Information Booklet. If work is not submitted on the due date, late submissions may be subject to grading reductions. This could lead to an unsatisfactory assessment in the subject. Extensions up to one week may be granted for compelling reasons which have to be discussed with the relevant classroom teacher.

To help you and your child we include the following Homework/Work-Study "hints". If these processes are put into practice students should find the work pressures at secondary school a little easier to handle. Also it will ensure a pleasing and rewarding assessment at the end of the year.

Students need:

- A quiet environment to work, away from family distractions.
- To have a written record of homework, upcoming tests and assignments and when they are due (if applicable) in their Student Planner.
- To be organized: have all equipment and information at hand. ie: pens, paper, eraser.
- To decide what time of day is the most suitable to study.
- To devote equal amounts of time to all subjects but do the more difficult subjects or work tasks first.
- To not spend too much time on the favourite or "easiest" subjects.
- To use study time to revise work, read or organize books and notes when there is little or no set homework.
- To talk your work over with friends and parents so that ideas can be exchanged.



Transition To The Victorian Curriculum

We are now in transition to the Victorian Curriculum, which will be fully implemented in 2017.

In Year 7 all students follow a common course of study and stay in Home Groups for all classes. At Year 8 and 9 we offer a broad program which caters for diverse student needs and interests and encompasses all areas of the Victorian Curriculum.

The Victorian Curriculum incorporates 8 subject areas, 4 main capabilities as shown in the table below.

Learning Areas	4 Capabilities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• English• Mathematics• Science• Health & Physical Education• Languages• Humanities & Social Sciences (History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Business and Economics)• The Arts• Technologies (inc ICT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal and Social• Critical and Creative Thinking• Intercultural• Ethical

The Victorian Curriculum documents outline the curriculum from Prep (Foundation) to Year 10 that all government schools need to use to plan, assess and report to parents from 2017. There is a learning continuum over 11 levels. Subjects are being phased in years but remain similar in many cases.

As with AusVELS a Year 7 student works towards level 7 and a Year 8 student towards level 8 and so on.

For more information contact Gay Findlay - Assistant College Principal and Curriculum Coordinator at either campus.



Time Allocation & Course Summary Of Year 7 Curriculum

Key Learning Area		Unit Allocation
Mathematics		4
English		4
Science		3
Humanities		3
Technology	Computers	5
	Woodwork	
	Metals/Plastics	
	Mechanisms	
	Textiles	
Languages		2
Arts	Art	4
	Drama	
	Music	
	Visual Communication	
Health & Phys Ed	Health & PE	2
	PASE (Physical & Sporting Education)	2
	Home Economics	1
Total number of units per week:		30

Unit Allocation is number of 48 minute lessons per week

Please note that students have six 48 minute lessons per day making a total of 30 units per week.



Special Programs

SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING (SEAL) – formerly known as PAL (Program for Accelerated Learning)

Students in the Year 7 SEAL (Select Entry Accelerated Learning) class will be accelerated through ENGLISH, MATHS, HUMANITIES, JAPANESE and SCIENCE. Entry to this program is by testing and interview. For further information please contact the SEAL Co-ordinator, Mrs Heather Sullivan.

LITERACY ASSISTANCE

Literacy assistance is set up to provide support in developing literacy skills to an independent level. It is a key initiative at Wonthaggi Secondary College and is offered through classroom support and small groups. At Year 7 we offer a Select Entry Literacy Program (SELP) in order to assist students who need extra support with their literacy skills.

PEER SUPPORT

This program trains selected Year 9 students in the area of student support.

Peer Support Leaders are assigned to Year 7 Home Groups to assist with their transition between Primary and Secondary School. Peer Support students work with Year 7 students in classrooms, assist students in the yard and act as a point of contact for new students.

The Peer Support Leaders help with the organisation of events, cross age tutoring in programs such as 'Fantastic Racers' and are valuable role models for students in the areas of leadership and social skills at the school.

The training and skills gained by Peer Support students provide them with a sense of citizenship within our community and in their capacity of school leaders they often represent Wonthaggi Secondary College at community functions.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ SUBJECTS ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Mathematics

The course aims to expand each student's range of mathematical skills and problem solving strategies. This will enable students to make reasoned judgements in everyday situations and at the same time provide them with competence and interest to pursue further studies in Mathematics.

Topics covered are: Whole Numbers, Multiples, Factors & Primes, Angles, Chance, Fractions, Decimals/Money, Shapes, Algebra, Measurement, Statistics/Data and Cartesian Co-ordinates.

Assessment:

Assessment will be made by tests, projects, assignments and homework. Students will be required to complete a weekly homework sheet.



English

The English Program aims to improve student language skills in reading and viewing, writing, speaking and listening. Language skills are taught in context and often overlap. Individual needs and abilities will be taken into account as we seek to develop enjoyment, a sense of quality and the ability to express ideas imaginatively, independently, critically and clearly.

Year 7 English Assessment Tasks

Writing

The student will compile a folio of writing pieces of a negotiated length, chosen from the work done over the year.

The folio will include:

- all drafts and final copies conferenced with the teacher.

The pieces can be chosen from:

- a short story
- a poem
- an article for publication
- an imaginative essay
- a letter
- an autobiographical piece
- an anecdote
- a story in cartoon style
- a journal kept over a period of at least one week.

Literature

The student will respond to at least four texts, one of which will be a non-print text (video, play), while the others may include novels, short stories, poetry or media studies.

RIBIT

The student will maintain a wide reading folder each semester which records titles and authors of books read, including dates finished and their opinion of the book.

Prepare oral presentations

The student will prepare at least two oral presentations for the class or another audience.

Language skills

The student shall participate in basic language skills development sessions. These will include spelling, vocabulary and grammar.

Homework

When no homework is set, the student should complete wide reading.

Assessment

In addition to assessing set tasks, individual achievement will be reported in relation to the Victorian Curriculum.

Most students in Year 7 should be working towards Level 7 unless otherwise engaged in an Alternative Program in class, in Literacy Assistance classes or in the SEAL Program.



Science

The College Science Course emphasises scientific knowledge, the solution of practical problems, the cultural and human context of science and opportunities for personal development.

Introduction to Science

Introduction to division of science into broad areas. Awareness of safety procedures/precautions in science. Familiarize students with use of basic science equipment and reporting. Measurement ties in with length, volume, mass, time and temperature.

Materials of the Universe

A laboratory study of the behaviour of samples of solids, liquids and gases. The formulation of the particle model and its use in explaining and predicting behaviour of these states and changes of states. An examination of common elements and their symbols. An introduction to the idea of atoms; the smallest particle: Molecules and Compounds. A study of common gases, H₂, O₂, CO₂ and their indicators.

Mixing / Separating/Water

A laboratory study of solubility, the separation of undissolved substances by filtration, sedimentation / decanting, sieving and the separation of dissolved substances by evaporation and distillation, miscible and immiscible liquids separation methods. The key role of water in sustaining life and the water cycle will be examined.

Earth and Space

An understanding of how interactions between the earth, moon and sun influence our seasons will be covered. Tides and eclipses will also be examined. Earth's resources both renewable and non- renewable will be looked at.

Animals

An introduction to the wide variety of living things. The dividing of animals into vertebrates and invertebrates. The difference between monotremes, marsupials and placentals, the main classes of invertebrates. Using keys to classify animals into main classes. The interdependence of organisms through food webs will be discussed as will be the impact human activity has on these interactions.

Forces and Motion

The notion of a force is introduced. The role of forces changing the motion of objects will be covered as will the different types of forces. The influence of gravity will be looked at.

Assessment:

Assessment will be by topic tests together with other evidence such as assignment work, practical work, homework and book marks.



Humanities

Humanities is a broad and diverse key learning area that brings together many traditional subject areas including Geography, History, Economics, Business Studies, and Careers. It provides a framework through which students understanding and knowledge is developed in relation to:

- the interaction between people and their environments
- Australia and its place in the world
- the societies of other countries
- local and global environments.

Humanities units of work are designed to:

- extend student knowledge and understanding of society and environment and the interactions between the two
- enhance student understanding of concepts in the disciplines underpinning Humanities
- develop the skills needed to investigate and communicate information related to Humanities
- enable students to develop and justify views about local, national and global issues related to Humanities
- allow students to analyse the values of others and clarify their own
- develop an appreciation of cultures other than their own.

Humanities organises these subjects and perspectives into three strands:

- History
- Geography
- Society and Economy

COURSE CONTENT

The three strands of Humanities will be addressed through the following areas of study:-

Semester 1:- Geography

- Mapping Skills
- Weather and Climate
- Water in the World – Examination of water as an example of a renewable resource using studies from Australia and from around the world.
- Place and Liveability – Examination of the factors that influence liveability and how it is perceived.

Semester 2:- History

- The Ancient World – Investigation of the Ancient past through an examination of the cultural and societal systems of ancient civilizations such as Egypt, Greece or Rome and China or India.

Assessment:

Grading will be based on a combination of set classroom tasks, research, bookwork, homework and tests.



Technology

COMPUTERS

This Information Technology course aims to develop general computing knowledge as well as encouraging the development of problem solving skills to solve common computer related issues. Students will undertake units in word processing, spreadsheeting, the history of computing and the Internet, as well as a unit in basic web page creation using HTML coding.

Assessment will be based on:

- Accuracy of information used in projects.
- Planning tools used in the creation of project work.
- Correct and appropriate use of program functions and tools.
- The efficient use of time in completing projects.

Students will achieve these outcomes through:

- Investigation of tools used in various programs.
- Design of projects using planning tools to achieve final product.
- Production using instruction/processes to achieve a set outcome.
- Evaluation of project to determine all set requirements are met.

WOODWORK

This course aims to encourage students' interest and enjoyment in using wood and to introduce them to basic techniques and tools with an emphasis on safe workshop practices.

Students will be required to design and produce various projects with original decorative features.

Assessment will be based on:

- The quality of construction and finish.
- The efficient use of time.
- Satisfactory completion of written work (eg. design, evaluation).

Students will achieve these outcomes through:

- Investigation into tools, techniques and materials
- Design of model
- Production of construction
- Evaluation of their projects including strengths and difficulties.

METALS AND PLASTICS

This subject aims to develop an appreciation for a wide range of materials and processes and to evaluate the most appropriate method or process for a particular situation. Models will include: Robotman, Key Tag, Plastic Money Box, Candle Holder or Square Scoop if time permits.

Assessment will be based on:

- The quality of construction and finish.
- The efficient use of time.
- Satisfactory completion of written work (eg. design, evaluation).

Students will achieve these outcomes through:

- Investigation into tools, equipment and designs for products
- Design of model before manufacturing
- Production – set and self-designed products
- Evaluation of the product and skill used in the classroom



MECHANISMS

The course in Mechanisms introduces students to a basic understanding in engineering and mechanics. Students gain an understanding in engineering structures and mechanical components. In this introductory course students build basic mechanisms and structures using Lego and projects involving a range of materials from which models will be made. Students develop an understanding of a design brief and will use investigation, design, construction, and evaluation skills developing a range of solutions to set problems. These components will include levers, pulleys, gears and engineering structures.

Assessment will be based on:

- practical results
- written evaluations on design and construction problems and solutions

Students will achieve these outcomes through:

- investigation into structures and mechanical components
- design of various structures
- production of models and structures from the design briefs
- evaluation of solutions to the design briefs

TEXTILES

The aim is to investigate and develop an appreciation of hand and machining skills, construction techniques and to evaluate the practicality of production articles.

Assessment will be based on:

- skill level
- construction techniques
- quality of work

Students will achieve these outcomes through:

- Investigation into various aspects of textiles.
- Design Work
- Production of 2-3 practical articles
- Evaluation of the processes and skills used.



Languages

Students in Year 7 study a foreign language. At Wonthaggi Secondary College we offer either Japanese or Indonesian. One of these languages will be allocated to each Home Group to study for two lessons per week in Year 7.

It is important to realise that it takes more than a year or two to become fluent in a foreign language and a very important part of learning a foreign language is MEMORISING new words and expressions, or in the case of Japanese, a new written script. Students are expected to do 20-30 minutes three times a week covering memory work and possibly completing set tasks. This memorising is vital if the student is to progress.

INDONESIAN

Learning a foreign language can be an exciting and challenging activity. Students will soon learn the expression "Selamat Datang", which means "Welcome". The students will learn to conduct simple conversations in Indonesian, read and act out role-plays, write short conversations, learn songs and much more. This subject also includes a brief study of the Indonesian people, their culture and country.

Topics covered include: greetings, introductions, numbers, describing people, talking about what you are doing, where you are going, birthdays, families, ages, pets, transport, buying things, talking about food, school subjects, classroom objects, leisure time activities and everyday conversation.

Assessment:

In addition to assessing set tasks, individual achievement will be reported in relation to the Victorian Curriculum.

JAPANESE

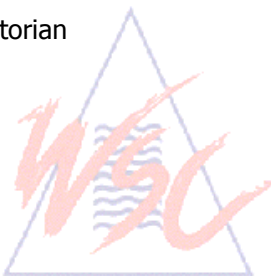
While learning a foreign language is a demanding exercise it can also be very rewarding and quite enjoyable if undertaken seriously. Some students will come to the school with some prior knowledge of the language both spoken and written.

This knowledge will be revised and built upon. Students will continue to learn to conduct simple conversations on a limited range of topics. Written work will be focused on learning to read and write the hiragana script although a small number of kanji (Chinese characters) are also included.

Topics studied are: greetings and farewells, self introductions, some classroom instructions, number 1-100, age, telephone numbers, some animals, animal zodiacs, where people live, everyday useful expressions. The subject also includes learning some songs, games and a general study of the Japanese people, their customs, lifestyle and country.

Assessment:

In addition to assessing set tasks, individual achievement will be reported in relation to the Victorian Curriculum.



VISUAL ARTS

Students will develop their own ideas from set themes and will be encouraged to be original and imaginative. They will have the opportunity to use a range of materials and techniques.

They will complete major artworks. Students will also produce a series of developmental drawings in preparation for each major work.

Students may also be required to present one major artwork.

This can include:

- a written statement
- a short talk
- mounting the artwork for display

Assessment will be based on their ability to generate original, imaginative ideas, quality of finished work and presentation.

DRAMA

Year 7 Drama students are working towards the Victorian Curriculum Level 7 Standards, two units per week for one semester.

They work together to represent, create, develop and communicate familiar and abstract ideas in short performance pieces. Students develop an understanding of the traditional style of mime and explore cultural diversity through Indigenous storytelling and movement.

Units include: Working Together, Movement, Sound & Voice, Improvisation, Role Play, Creating Characters, Reader's Theatre and Working with a Script.

Assessment is based on

- Workshop, performance and drama journal tasks.
- The ability to work individually and cooperatively in groups.
- The quality of dramatic ideas and finished work.



MUSIC

The course aims to introduce students to the basic concepts of music and develop their capabilities as both musical listeners and performers. Areas covered include:

- Music reading - graphic notation
- Student composition
- Student performance in small and large ensembles
- Informal singing
- Analytical listening

Assessment will be based on:

- Practical and written tests
- Group and individual performances
- Group participation
- Student composition
- Assignments

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Instrumental Music Tuition is offered to students of the College at all year levels. The course includes practical and written work. The practical work includes solo, ensemble and band repertoire. Each student follows an individual work program with opportunities for public performances and examinations. The College has a Senior, Intermediate and Junior Concert Band, Stage Band and guitar ensemble. Tuition is offered in Woodwind, Brass, Percussion and Guitar - with some instruments available for hire.

COST: Fees for 2017 have not been set. In 2016 the charges were: Hire of instrument \$120 for the year. Tuition \$230 for the year.

Students are assessed in the following ways: - observation of, and approach to work, attendance at Concert Band and lessons, rate of progress and written and practical tests, both informal and formal.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION (GRAPHICS)

Students will explore and develop ideas using the design elements and various graphic devices: eg. Pictorial and Orthogonal drawing (e.g. house plans), symbols, diagrams and charts and illustration. They will use skills acquired to develop basic techniques and processes including 2D & 3D drawing, oblique and isometric drawing. They will become aware of the various design elements: eg. point, line, plane, shape, texture and colour and utilise appropriate graphic communication language to analyse various illustrations and drawing techniques. They will have the opportunity to compare different advertisements and show an understanding of the way visual communications are made within particular cultural and historical contexts.

Assessment is based on development of drawing and design skills, and the completion of set drawings and visual communication assignments.



Health & Physical Education

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Education aims to

- promote attitudes and behaviours which contribute to personal and community well-being
- develop the ability to make decisions about personal and community health matters and to encourage students to take responsibility for such decisions
- provide accurate information about health and health-related matters
- develop an understanding of factors which influence the quality of life enjoyed by an individual or a community
- promote good health, fitness and a quality lifestyle

TOPICS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Protective Behaviours / Resilience
- Harassment / Bullying : strategies to deal with it
- Being myself: personal values, peer pressure, individual rights and responsibilities, resolving conflict
- Developing essential social skills and improving social interaction
- Health issues related to basic hygiene
- Skin care and skin cancer
- Puberty and basic introduction to reproductive systems
- Fitness: fitness components, healthy active lifestyles
- Personal Health Reflection

Assessment is based upon student co-operation, contribution and responsibility within the group, as well as written work, topic tests, posters, research assignments and ICT based assignments.

In addition to assessing set tasks, individual achievement will be reported in relation to the Victorian Curriculum.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education Program is designed to help each student to become a well-adjusted and co-ordinated person. This is achieved through a varied and challenging program, whereby individual potential is developed in a physical, mental, emotional and social capacity.

The practical activities will include: Fitness Testing, Fundamental Motor Skills, Invasion Games, Striking and Fielding and Gymnastics.

Each student will be assessed according to organisation, attitude, performance, teamwork and progress in practical sessions; and the completion of theory tasks where it may apply.



SPORT EDUCATION (PASE)

The Sport Education Program aims to introduce students to the skills, rules, organisation and administration of a wide range of major sports. The overall aim is to ensure students have the knowledge and confidence to seek involvement in a sport/leisure pursuit within the local community presently and in later life.

The practical activities will include Athletics, Badminton, Softball, Basketball, Cricket, Hockey, Netball, Table Tennis, Volleyball and Soccer.

Assessment:

- Will be determined by minimum 80% attendance and participation rate (unless there are extenuating circumstances).
- Skill Tests/ Improvements
- Knowledge of rules and strategies
- Working within a team

FOODS

FOODS aims to:

- encourage an awareness of safety issues that can affect individuals or others.
- identify major nutritional needs for growth and development.
- analyse a range of influences on personal and family food selection.
- introduce students to the decision making process, including effective use of human and other resources.
- develop practical skills to satisfy individual and family needs.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Personal and food related safety
- Reasons for eating food
- Major nutrients
- 5 food groups
- Healthy diet pyramid
- Basic dietary analysis

Assessment:

1. Observation of skills and approach to practical work
2. Units test
3. Individual and group assignments, development and health
4. Theory journal

COST: We charge a food levy to cover the cost of ingredients for the semesters cooking classes. The 2016 food levy was \$30.





**Wonthaggi Secondary College
Dudley Campus**

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