GOVERNOR STIRLING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

HONOUR BEFORE HONOURS

GOVERNOR STIRLING
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 8 SUBJECT 2021
COURSE HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO YEAR 8

This booklet provides information about all Elective Course available at Governor Stirling Senior High School for students moving to in Year 8 in the following year. Please read it carefully, so that informed choices are made. If you would like more detailed information about a particular course or subject, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant teacher or Head of Learning Area.

All Year 8 students are timetabled into classes, four hours for English, Mathematics, Science, and Humanities and Social Sciences, two hours of a Language, two hours of Physical Activity and one hour of Health Education.

The remaining time is devoted to a very broad selection of elective subjects. Students studying Specialist Australian Rule Football, Netball program, Specialist Arts Media and Specialist Engineering will continue in theses electives this will reduce the number of electives students can choose.

A Year 8 student's week will be as outlined below:

LEARNING AREA	HOURS PER WEEK	SPECIALIST PROGRAM HOURS PER WEEK	SPECIALIST SPORTS PROGRAM HOURS PER WEEK
English	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4
Humanities and Social Sciences	4	4	4
Science	4	4	4
Physical Activity	2	2	0 (covered by the specialist program)
Health	1	1	1
Specialist Program	0	4	4
Languages	2	Optional	Optional
Electives of 2 Hours each	4 (2 Electives)	2 (1 Elective)	4 (2 Electives)
TOTAL	**25**	**25**	**25**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SCHOOL EXPECTS A $100 DEPOSIT PRIOR TO THE ALLOCATION OF STUDENTS TO HIGH COST ELECTIVE CLASSES.

Academic Success

Student progress is measured by a number of different methods. For reporting to parents, formal reports are issued twice a year – at the end of Semester One and at the end of Semester Two. Progress in all years is measured by the allocation of Grades which have the following descriptors of student achievement:

A	Excellent achievement at the year level
B	High achievement at the year level
C	Satisfactory achievement at the year level
D	Limited achievement at the year level
E	Very low achievement at the year level

The attitude, behaviour and effort (attributes) demonstrated by students is also rated using the following scale: Consistently, Often, Sometimes, Seldom. Achievement below the Satisfactory Level (Grade C and Attribute Often) in a final semester report indicates cause for concern and intervention may be necessary.

Gifted and Talented

The Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance Program will give your child the academic background to pursue a university pathway in senior school.

Our Gifted and Talented program will offer students:

- Delivery of the Western Australian Curriculum by specialist teachers.
- Differentiated extension programs providing every child the opportunity to work and achieve to a high standard.
- Challenging and engaging learning opportunities with like-minded students.
- Small classes enabling individual attention for all students with similar interests.
- Links to tertiary institutions that will develop an understanding of university pathways.
- Excursions, competitions and activities to challenge and engage students in an academic context.

Students have the opportunity to develop their academic ability, in the areas of; Mathematics, Science, English and the Humanities and Social Sciences.

All students enrolled under this program will have the advantage of access into our school's approved Specialist Programs of Engineering, Artsmedia and Football. Students will also have access to our school-based programs of Music and Netball.

Entry to the Gifted and Talented program is ONLY by an external test (ACER). Applications to sit the test are completed online (via Western Australia Education Department Gifted and Talented Unit). The applications open in October and close in February the following year. The testing is done in March and successful students can enter the program in second semester that year.

Science

In Year 8, students compare physical and chemical changes and use the particle model to explain and predict the properties and behaviours of the states of matter. They identify different forms of energy and describe how energy transfers and transformations cause change in simple systems. Students compare the different processes of rock formation. They also describe the relationship between structure and function at cell, organ and body system levels.

English

The focus in Year 8 is to build on the learning that has taken place in Year 7. Students study texts in more depth and breadth to advance their skills and knowledge of writing, reading, listening and speaking. A variety of texts are investigated with a strong focus on family and gender, communication and relationships as well as cultural, historic and social values and attitudes. Stduents also study language skills in a variety of modes and programmes like Cars and Stars, Education Perfect and regular language work in the classroom. Habits of Mind are taught with a particular focus each term. These learning tools will provide Year 8 students with the building blocks to enter Year 9 with the necessary skills to prepare students for their eventual pathways in English.

Mathematics

Learning mathematics creates opportunities for and enriches the lives of all Australians. The Western Australian Curriculum: Mathematics provides students with essential mathematical skills and knowledge in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. It develops the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their personal, work and civic life, and provides the fundamentals on which mathematical specialties and professional applications of mathematics are built.

Humanities and Social Science

Humanities is the study of the world around us and how we fit into it. It includes History, Geography, Economics and Civics. In Year 8 we study topics such as the Medieval World and the Black Death, your rights as a consumer, Natural Hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis and how laws are made in Australia. Humanities is taught through inquiry, fieldwork and the questioning of a range of information sources.

Languages

Two languages are offered at our school, Indonesian and Italian which are mandatory from Year 7 to Year 9 with optional studies in Year 10 and ATAR subjects offered in Year 11 to 12.

Learning a language at Governor Stirling is not just about giving students the opportunity to communicate in a foreign language, it also plays an integral part in improving student's literacy skills. Through learning a language students are able to become more aware of their own language structure. Studies are showing that students learning a second language are also improving and developing skills in their first language. In actual fact learning a foreign language **draws your focus to the mechanics of language:** grammar, conjugations, and sentence structure. This makes you more aware of language, and the ways it can be structured and manipulated. Language speakers also develop a better ear for listening, since they're skilled at distinguishing meaning from discreet sounds. So academically, your child learns about how languages work and their literacy skills are enhanced because a clear link exists between learning another language and literacy development in English.

Benefits

- Your child develops an understanding and respect for other cultures, people, their ideas and ways of thinking. Thus, enriching your child's global connections.
- Excursions, competitions and activities to challenge and engage students in an academic context.
- Extra University credits (10% more) to any student whom successfully completes a Year 12 foreign language ATAR subject.

Learning a new language is a commitment. Knowledge and skills are built up over time and the more time your child spends using the language, the better they will be at it. So, we strongly encourage your child to continue learning a language until at least Year 10. The school is also able to offer year 10 students the experience of hosting a foreign student as well as being part of an exchange program.

YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Italian Grade A,B,C	Italian Grade A,B,C	Italian Grade A, B	ATAR Italian*
		Italian Grade C	
Indonesian Grade A,B,C	Indonesian Grade A,B,C	Indonesian Grade A, B	

*ATAR Languages attract 10% bonus for ATAR calculation.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Electives are subjects that students can choose. They run for two periods a week and are year-long courses. This allows students to begin to develop more complex skills in areas of interest to them. The number of electives students need to select will depend on whether they are students in a Specialist Program.

When choosing courses, students are making a commitment to study those subjects 2 periods per week for the entire year. Our Specialist Arts Media, Engineering and Football programs are 4 hours per week.

Students should select subjects that they find interesting and will lead to a pathway in upper school that prepares them for their chosen career and related study. If there are questions regarding pathway planning, students should visit the career centre (3.19) and speak to the career advisor. Parents are welcome to visit with an appointment.

Once it has been decided which subjects will run, classes will be created according to student preferences. Every effort will be made to place students in their most preferred subjects but as this is not always possible, it is important that ALL choices are ranked in order of choice.

If high cost options have been selected, **a 50% deposit will be required to secure a position** in the class. If this is not received, there is a chance that students will be removed and placed in a lower cost elective.

THE ARTS

Specialist Arts Media

The Artsmedia program at Governor Stirling is for students with a passion for designing, communicating and creating. Students will have the opportunity to work with universities and industry to engage in real projects, competitions and exhibitions. Artsmedia provides students with in-depth industry knowledge and access to the latest technology to develop their skills in Visual Arts, Digital Design, Photography and Film & TV.

In Year 8, students have opportunities to use and apply visual art language and artistic conventions of more complexity in their design and production process. They create 2D and/or 3D artwork with awareness of producing a personal response to given stimuli, through exposure to a variety of techniques. Students are made aware of the need for safe visual arts practices when using tools and media, as well as how to present their artwork for display. Students become familiar with how and why artists, craftspeople or designers realise their ideas. They have opportunities to evaluate the contexts of culture, time and place within artwork. Students apply knowledge of techniques used by other artists and consider audience interpretation in the production of their own artwork. Students are provided with critical analysis frameworks to analyse artwork and use visual art terminology when responding.

Art

In this course students will undertake projects in a range of art media to develop their skills and understanding of Art. This may include drawing, painting, print making and ceramics. Students will engage in visual analysis and research tasks to develop their visual literacy skills and promote meaningful productions.

Drama

Students are provided with the opportunity to explore a combination of drama elements, incorporating both practical and written skills. The performance is a vital component of this course. Studies may include drama forms, genres and styles, theatre practitioners, musical theatre, classical and contemporary playwrights, puppetry, mask work, stage management and design.

Media

Students are given the opportunity to use cameras and editing software in Year 8 to produce a number of creative media works. They are required to work collaboratively to form their own production crews; working within a range of media like film, television, photography, print media and radio.

Music

Students explore the fundamentals of music through classroom music and weekly instrumental lessons. They are given opportunities to apply their music skills and knowledge when performing, composing and listening to music. Students develop skills in musical literacy, composition, arranging, practical, performance and analysis. They learn how to respond to music and are given frameworks and reflective strategies to enable them to evaluate music and their own musical development.

YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Specialist Arts Media Grade A,B,C	Specialist Arts Media Grade A,B,C	Specialist Arts Media (Cert II Visual Arts) Grade A,B,C	Visual Arts (ATAR) Visual Art (General) Certificate II in Creative Industries Media Photography
Visual Arts Grade A,B,C	Visual Arts Grade A,B,C	Visual Art Grade A,B Visual Art Grade B,C	Visual Art (ATAR) Visual Art (General) Certificate II in Creative Industries Media
Media	Media	Media	Certificate II Creative in Industries Media Photography
Music (including IMSS tuitions)	Music (including IMSS tuitions)	Music (including IMSS tuitions)	Music (ATAR) Endorsed Program PIMS
Drama	Theatre Arts	Theatre Arts	

TECHNOLOGY AND ENTERPRISE

Applied Engineering

In this course students will be given opportunities to safely construct projects using a limited range of materials through practical and theoretical exercises. Students are taught to use basic hand tools and machines throughout this course, students will also draw and interpret technical drawings. This course is designed to better prepare students to pursue applied engineering in further years of schooling.

YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Applied Engineering	Applied Engineering Grade A,B,C	Applied Engineering Grade A,B,C	
		Mechanical Workshop	Automotive Engineering General Certificate II Automotive Vocation Preparation
			Building and Construction General

Specialist Engineering

The Engineering Specialist Program provides a foundation for students interested in pursuing a career in the engineering industry and mining related fields. Students have the opportunity to develop skills in structural design, robotics, mechanical and electrical. This program equips students with the in-depth industry knowledge and job ready skills they need to pursue a career in the rapidly expanding engineering sector. Your child will be challenged and inspired to engage in STEM and real life projects, workshops and competitions.

Our Specialist Program in Engineering is also offered as a vocational stream in the later years. This stream provides nationally recognised certification in a range of industries in preparation for future education or training.

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Specialist Engineering Grade A,B,C	Specialist Engineering Grade A,B,C	Auto (General) Physics ATAR Certificate II Automotive Vocation Preparation

Business and Information Technologies

Why Choose Digital Technology?

It is a world of opportunities; it is the present and the future. Technology skills are an essential part of the modern student's survival kit. A sound understanding of basic concepts for business applications like word processing, presentations, spread sheets and databases, along with an appreciation of online technologies, e-commerce, digital and multimedia information will set a student up for life, as he or she will be able to grow and adapt skills as technology changes. No area of life remains untouched by technology and ICT to the current generation and those that follow need the structure that a school provides to complement the skills that they acquire organically as part of their everyday life.

When you study business, digital technology and information technology, you will learn the design, development, installation, implementation of all types of computer information systems and networks. Completing a degree in the future in Information Technology, gives you a sense of personal accomplishment, career satisfaction, and endless possibilities.

What is the difference between ICT and Computing? The practical element of the ICT course involves **the use of application software** such as spread sheets and databases whereas Computing involves the use of programming languages such as Visual Basic and Prolog. ICT theory covers **the applications of ICT and its effect on society.** Computing theory covers the way computers and programs work. ICT provides more of **a user's perspective to technology,** whilst Computing is approached from a developer's perspective.

Applied Information encourages students to acquire a range of important and transferable skills:

- The capacity for thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically;
- The skills to work collaboratively;
- The ability to apply skills, knowledge and understanding of ICT in a range of contexts to solve problems;
- An understanding of the consequences of using ICT on individuals, organisations and society and of social, legal, ethical and other considerations on the use of ICT;
- An awareness of emerging technologies and an appreciation of the potential impact these may have on individuals, organisations and society.

Digital Technology

The course offers an opportunity for students to be creative, to explore and to apply a variety of forms of digital technology applications to further develop their computing skills. This includes game design, computer architecture, networking, basic programming and cyber citizenship.

Why Choose Business & Financial Accounting?

Business graduates are in high demand worldwide, business touches on every aspect of modern life and within society, it is broad, diverse and often very highly paid. Business Studies allows you to develop practical business knowledge, understanding and skills for use, participation and work in a range of business contexts. It will help you to develop the knowledge and skills need in the business sector which is estimated to employ over 2 million Australians and is growing at the rate of approximately 5% per year. Exciting and challenging career opportunities exist in the business sector across a range of business contexts

Is this the right subject for you? If you enjoy:

- Communicating and explaining your ideas;
- Thinking creatively and making decisions;
- Working with basic numbers to solve business problems;
- Learning about the world of business.

Then this is the course for you *(MoneySmart for Teachers)*.

Consumer and Financial Literacy

Students learn about the concept of profit and loss and appreciate the importance for planning for financial success. They investigate why markets are needed and the role that governments play in the economy, including in allocating resources and distributing wealth. They develop an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as consumers and workers and those of businesses, including generating income and paying taxes, complying with legal obligations and taking steps to ensure online security.

YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Digital Technology Grade A,B,C	Digital Technology Grade A,B,C	Digital Technology Grade A,B,C	Applied Information Technology (General)
Consumer and Financial Literacy	Consumer and Financial Literacy	Consumer and Financial Literacy (Grade A and NAPLAN Band 8) Grade B,C	Accounting and Finance (ATAR) Certificate II & III Business School based Traineeships (Public Sector)
			Career and Enterprise

HOME ECONOMICS

Caring for Children

The focus of this course is to assist students learn the skills required to babysit their siblings. They will produce a bag of activities designed to develop their practical skills and ensure that they understand and undertake safe practices with younger children.

Fun with Fabrics

Students will be introduced to skills and techniques involved with producing textile items and garments. Practical tasks include a skills bank including producing Shibori dyed fabric, tie dying and chip packet pencil case.

Food for Govotarians

The focus for this course is Exploring Food. Life skills are explored in the area of food preparation for meeting personal needs. Students learn how to select, use nutritious ingredients to make Pizzas, Muffins, Scones, and Stir-fry. Students investigate the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and understand factors that influence healthy food choices. No matter what your preferred style of eating this course will tempt your taste buds.

	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Food for Govotarians	Food for Life	International Foods/ Café Foods	General Food Science and Technology Pre-apprenticeship course – Certificate II Kitchen Operations
Fun with Fabrics	My Fashion	Creative Fashion	General Materials Design and Technology – Textiles
Caring for Children	Bodyworks and Babies	Children and Family	General Children, Family and the Community School based Traineeships