

GOVERNOR STIRLING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



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SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 9 SUBJECT 2024 COURSE HANDBOOK



WELCOME TO YEAR 9

SUBJECT INFORMATION

This booklet provides information about all the courses available at Governor Stirling Senior High School for students moving to in Year 9 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 9 students are timetabled into year-long classes. Four hours for English, Mathematics, Science, and Humanities and Social Sciences, 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 these electives this will reduce the number of electives students can choose.

A Year 9 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.



YEAR 9 COMPULSORY LEARNING AREAS

English

Years 7-10 English courses follow the requirements of the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline as mandated by The School Curriculum and Standards Authority.

At Governor Stirling Senior High School, we believe English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and the world around them.

English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society. Although Australia is a linguistically and culturally diverse country, participation in many aspects of Australian life depends on effective communication in Standard Australian English.

The Australian Curriculum: English also helps students to engage imaginatively and critically with literature to expand the scope of their experience. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have contributed to Australian society and its contemporary literature and its literary heritage through their distinctive ways of representing and communicating knowledge, traditions and experience. The Australian Curriculum: English values, respects, and explores this contribution.

The Australian Curriculum is organised into three interrelated strands that support students' growing understanding and use of Standard Australian English (English). Together the three strands focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing. The three strands are:

- Language: knowing about the English language.
- Literature: understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature.
- Literacy: expanding the repertoire of English usage.

Source: www.scsa.wa.edu.au

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Gifted and Talented	Gifted and Talented	ATAR English English Literature General
English Grade A,B	Academic Pathway	ATAR English English Literature General
English Grade C,D	General Pathway	English General
English Grade E	Parent and Student may require a meeting with teacher, HOLA or Coordinator.	

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.

Topics covered in Year 9 include:

Number and Algebra

- Index laws, scientific notation, simple interest
- Distributive law, expansion, factorisation
- Coordinate geometry, linear relations

Measurement and Geometry

- Area, surface area and volume of solids
- Similarity, congruence
- Pythagoras and trigonometry

Statistics and Probability

- Two step chance experiments, the language of probability
- Comparing data representations and summary statistics
- Univariate data analysis

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Gifted and Talented	Gifted and Talented Grade A,B	Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist Mathematics Methods or Mathematics Applications
Mathematics	Academic Pathway Grade A,B	Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist (by invitation) Mathematics Methods or Mathematics Applications
Mathematics	General Pathway Grade C Category 1 or 2 OLNA numeracy	Mathematics Essential Mathematics Foundations

* Methods and Maths specialist attract 10% bonus for ATAR calculation.

Science

Through the Year 9 science course, students explore chemical processes and natural radioactivity in terms of atoms and energy transfers. They also learn to describe examples of important chemical reactions. Student also develop an understanding of wave and particle models to describe energy transfer and then apply these to explain phenomena. Students explore global features and events in terms of geological processes and timescales. They also analyse how biological systems function and respond to external changes and describe ecosystems with reference to interdependencies, energy transfers and flows of matter.

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Gifted and Talented	Gifted and Talented Grade A	ATAR Physics (with suitable Maths grade) ATAR Chemistry
	Grade B,C	ATAR Biology ATAR Human Biology
Science Grade A,B?	Academic Pathway Grade A	ATAR Physics (with suitable Maths grade) ATAR Chemistry
	Grade B,C	ATAR Biology ATAR Human Biology
Science	General Pathway Grade A, B, C	Human Biology General Integrated Science General

Humanities and Social Science

Humanities is a mixture of History, Economics and Business, Geography and Civics. In Humanities students learn about the world they live in and their role as participants. Simultaneously, they develop critical literacy skills to question why things are the way they are. In Year 9 students explore depth studies such as The Industrial Revolution, World War 1, The Australian Economy, Biomes and Food Security, Democratic Rights and the role of the Court System. In Year 10, depth studies include the Interwar Years between WW1 and WW2, Career and Enterprise, Environmental Change and Management, Threats and Safeguards to Australia's Democracy. Humanities is taught through the guided exploration of multiple sources and perspectives, fieldwork, discussion and the inquiry process.

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Gifted and Talented	Gifted and Talented Grade A,B,C	ATAR Geography ATAR Modern History
HASS Grade A,B,C	Academic Pathway Grade A,B	
HASS	General Pathway Grade A,B,C	Geography General Psychology General Modern History General

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

*ATAR Languages attract 10% bonus for ATAR calculation.



HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health

The Health Education Curriculum aims to enhance students' knowledge of health issues and practices. The focus of the curriculum is to empower students in weighing up opportunities and challenges and teaching them how to make personally and socially responsible decisions to enhance their health and well-being. Students will achieve this through investigation of several health topics including drug use, growth and development, resilience and mental health, road safety and lifestyle choices.

Physical Education

Students participate in a general physical education program which supports the development of a healthy lifestyle. Through participation in several team and individual sports, students are provided with opportunities not only to improve and develop physical skills and fitness but also to create an awareness of the importance of self-discipline, self-respect, enthusiasm, leadership and cooperation as essential life skills. Students are required to wear sports uniform to classes and are provided with opportunities in developing skills in the sporting arena through a range of sports.

Outdoor Education

Through interaction with the natural world, Outdoor Education aims to develop an understanding of our relationships with the environment, others and ourselves. The course focuses on outdoor activities in a range of environments including bushwalking, navigation, canoeing (water-based activities), roping, camping skills, safety and survival skills. It provides students with an opportunity to develop a comprehensive understanding of the environment and develop a positive relationship with nature.

Need to be able to Swim 100m Competently and swim in the River.

Specialist Programs AFL

Students are selected for the Specialist Football Program from Year 7 to 12 with a Women's Football team. Students are able to build on their skills & knowledge with four contact hours per week, training and organised match play.

Entry into the Specialist Program is through a selection process. Students can apply to the program by speaking to the football coordinator.

School Based Program Netball

This is an extension of the Special Sports Netball program from Year 7 and 8. Girls are selected to be in the program from application or talent spotting in normal Physical Education lessons. The special coaching and development of specific playing and umpiring skills are designed to further develop the participants in their appreciation for the sport. Match play and reward excursions are part of the development of the whole person in the program.

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Specialist Football	Specialist Football	Certificate II Sport and Rec ATAR Physical Education (Suitable academic achievement required in English/Naplan)
Netball Program	Netball Program	ATAR Physical Education (Suitable academic achievement required in English/Naplan)
Physical Education	Physical Education	General Physical Education ATAR Physical Education
Outdoor Education Grade A, B, C Required Swimming Level	Outdoor Education Grade A, B, C	Outdoor Education General
Health	Health	



ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Electives are subjects that students can choose. They run for two periods a week and are yearlong 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 9, students use visual art language and artistic conventions of greater complexity during their design and production process. They document their ideas applying understanding of compositional structure to create a unique personal response, while representing either a theme/concept or subject matter. Students experience, adapt and manipulate materials, techniques, art styles/processes when producing 2D and/or 3D artwork which communicate artistic intention. Resolved artwork are displayed and appraised, with consideration to personal expression and audience. Students extend their knowledge and use of safe visual arts practice. Students experience a growing awareness of how and why artists, craftspeople and/or designers are influenced by other artists, their environment and the contexts of culture, time and place. They continue to apply knowledge of techniques used by other artists in the production of their own work.

Students are required to critically analyse traditional and contemporary artwork using various analysis frameworks, incorporating appropriate visual art language, art terminology and conventions.

Learning Objectives:

Students should be able to:

- Develop their 2D photo and 3D and 4D digital media abilities.
- Critically analyse traditional and contemporary artwork, in written or oral form, using visual arts terminology.
- Using the elements and principles of design in both written and practical work.
- Evaluate the social, cultural and/or historical contexts of artists.

Strands (WA Curriculum):

- Making: Inquiry, Art Practice, Presentation.

Year 10 students explore film and TV and art making as installation, using motion graphics.

Through the four years in Artsmedia students will explore, Film, Photography, and a range of traditional and Digital Design skills to create multimedia works. The Artsmedia program is designed to ensure our students come out with competitive skills and learning necessary to be top performing university or TAFE students in the Creative or Communications Industries. Artsmedia students complete a Certificate II in Visual Arts as part of their integrated curriculum by the end of year 10.

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.

Theatre Arts

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

In Year 9, students build on the Media fundamentals they have learned in previous years. They begin to extend and refine their skills and processes; creating both fiction and non-fiction media works across film, television, photography, print and online media.

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 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
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 Creative Media Photography
Visual Arts Grade A,B,C	Visual Art Grade A,B,C Visual Art Grade B, C	Visual Art (ATAR) Visual Art (General) Certificate II Creative Media
Media	Media	Certificate II Creative Media Photography
Music	Music	Music (ATAR) Endorsed Program PIMS
Theatre Arts	Theatre Arts	

TECHNOLOGY AND ENTERPRISE

Year 9 Applied Engineering

In this course students will be given opportunities to safely construct projects using a range of materials through practical and theoretical exercises. Students are taught to use a variety of tools and machines throughout this course, students will need to draw and interpret technical drawings. This course is designed to better prepare students to pursue applied engineering in further years of schooling, and to begin preparing students to work in industry by providing them with useful skills and knowledge.

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
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.

Year 9 Digital Technology

This course focus on project management, planning, designing and implementing digital technology solutions to a given challenge. Students will learn to apply suitable technology for intended audience such as mobile development, game development, web design, application development. Students are also asked to consider and discuss the requirements for privacy and copyright amongst programmers and computer users generally.

Year 10 Digital Technology

Areas of Study: This subject includes a study of computer technologies to solve problems and design and make products. Computer technologies includes the use of; internet, email, software, hardware, printers and digital media. This Technology unit specialises in problem-based learning as students construct knowledge by communicating effectively with technologies for a variety of specialised audiences.

This may include:

- Game Development (e.g. design, program and appraise own game).
- Multimedia (e.g. creating and manipulating images, 2D Animation, Video and Sound editing).
- Web Page Design (e.g. A culmination of new and previous learned software including coding components).
- Adobe Suite 2D Animation, Action Scripting etc.

The subject articulates with the senior courses of Applied Information Technology but is not a prerequisite for this future study. It is also a good introduction for students who may be interested in pursuing a Certificate III or IV in Information Technology or considering Computer Science General/ATAR or Applied Information Technology General/ATAR.



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*).

Year 9 Consumer and Financial Literacy

This course offers students the opportunity to learn about the simple interest and financial contexts including cost of credit and interest earned on investments. They investigate Australia's interconnectedness with the world, how citizens are connected globally and how these factors affect financial and work futures. They begin to consider their own personal aspirations and the lifelong learning required for changing future and consider how legal, taxation and political systems affect their wellbeing and obligations as workers and citizens.

Year 10 Consumer and Financial Literacy

Students learn about compound interest and its effect when applied to financial contexts including loans, superannuation and investments. They investigate how economies and democracies remain resilient and responsive to change. They consider their personal aspirations and career opportunities and the lifelong learning required for a changing future. They learn how government policies, including taxation and superannuation, affect their wellbeing and obligations as workers and citizens.

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	SENIOR SCHOOL
Information Technology Grade A,B,C	Information Technology Grade A,B,C	Applied Information Technology (General)
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

Body Works and Babies

This course consists of two foci. Babies looks at many different aspects of caring for children, and students are exposed to a wide range of topics to help prepare them for a future pathway in childcare. Students will be provided with many interactive and practical opportunities to display their knowledge and understanding and further enhance their skills. This course will also look at the nutritional and safety aspects of childcare, and students will have the opportunity to plan and host a children's party. Body works includes activities which will help students acknowledge their talents and recognize ways that can help them achieve and maintain a healthy self-esteem.

Food for Life

Honing up your skills in food production, this course focuses on creating family meals and healthy snacks with food sourced as locally as possible. Students specifically focus on preferred futures, taking into account ethics, legal issues, social values, economic, environmental and social sustainability. Students use creativity, innovation and enterprise skills with increasing confidence, independence and collaboration.

My Fashion

Students will be introduced to skills and techniques involved with producing textile items and garments. In addition, they will learn about various fibres, materials and equipment in order to produce such items. The students make fashionable items for themselves and look at sustainable fashion. Practical tasks include a skills bank, and making fashionable items for themselves such as shorts and a hoodie.

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