Year 7 is the first year of Middle School. Consequently, it is a transition year. Students study a range of core subjects to give them a broad education and an introduction to subjects which they may choose in other years. However, it is not until Year 8 that students make choices between subjects to study.

**Year 7 ENGLISH – Core Subject**

Students are introduced to a wide range of experiences in English aimed at developing their understanding and enjoyment of the English language and their knowledge of the variety of purposes for which it can be used. Students will undertake some thematic work that is integrated across a number of curriculum areas such as Studies of Society and Environment and Health and Personal Development. Drama will also be introduced with a focus on characterisation and script writing. Students will study shared and independently chosen novels, non-fiction materials, poetry and film texts.

The emphasis will be on developing each student’s ability to interpret and construct a variety of different texts. Students will begin to discuss and analyse texts from a critical point of view, learning how to present reasoned arguments using accurate expression. They will undertake formal spelling and grammar lessons and develop their skills in editing. Proficiency in word processing and the use of technology will be encouraged for publishing and enhancing students’ communication and research skills.

Students will be assessed through a variety of individual and collaborative written and oral presentations. Depending on need, there is also an English Foundation class in Year 7 which will be smaller, with a focus on providing more individual attention and improving the students’ basic literacy skills.

**Year 7 MATHEMATICS – Core Subject**

Students choose one of two options in Year 7; Year 7 Mathematics or Year 7 Essential Mathematics. Essential Mathematics is based on the same content as the Mathematics course but topics are covered more slowly. The three areas of study are Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Developing student’s abilities to communicate their understandings of Mathematics and how it is relevant to the real world is an important objective.

Calculators, geometrical software and statistics software are integral instruments in the learning process. Assessment tasks include tests, assignments, project work and investigations, and end of semester tests.


**Year 7 SCIENCE – Core Subject**

In Year 7, students explore the diversity of life on Earth and continue to develop their understanding of the role of classification in ordering and organising information. They use and develop models such as food chains, food webs and the water cycle to represent and analyse the flow of energy and matter through ecosystems and explore the impact of changing components within these systems. They consider the interaction between multiple forces when explaining changes in an object’s motion. They explore the notion of renewable and non-renewable resources and consider how this classification depends on the timescale considered. They investigate relationships in the Earth, sun, moon system and use models to predict and explain events. Students make accurate measurements and control variables to analyse relationships between system components and explore and explain these relationships through increasingly complex representations.

By the end of Year 7, students pose questions and apply scientific concepts to everyday problems and make general predictions based on their experiences. They plan procedures for investigations that take into account the need for fair testing and use equipment that improves fairness and accuracy. They communicate their observations and data clearly, summarise their data where appropriate, and suggest improvements to their methods.

**Year 7 GEOGRAPHY – One semester – CORE subject**

There are two units of study in the Year 7 Geography curriculum: Water in the world and Place and liveability.

**Water in the world** focuses on water as an example of a renewable environmental resource.

This unit examines the many uses of water, the ways it is perceived and valued, its different forms as a resource, the ways it connects places as it moves through the environment, its varying availability in time and across space, and its scarcity.

Water in the world develops students’ understanding of the concept of environment, including the ideas that the environment is the product of a variety of processes, that it supports and enriches human and other life, that people value the environment in different ways and that the environment has its specific hazards.

Water is investigated using studies drawn from Australia, countries of the Asia region, and countries from West Asia and/or North Africa.

**Place and liveability** focuses on the concept of place through an investigation of liveability.

This unit examines factors that influence liveability and how it is perceived, the idea that places provide us with the services and facilities needed to support and enhance our lives, and that spaces are planned and managed by people.

It develops students’ ability to evaluate the liveability of their own place and to investigate whether it can be improved through planning. The liveability of places is investigated using studies drawn from Australia and Europe.

Students will be assessed through a variety of means including homework, major and minor assignments, oral and written presentations and classroom participation. There will be opportunities for collaborative work using digital learning platforms.

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Year 7 HEALTH AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT – One semester – CORE subject

Health and Personal Development is a core subject in Year 7. The subject explores human emotions, revealing how our actions are products of how we feel. Students study the importance of friendship and what it means to be a good friend. A major component of this program involves a buddy program with our Early Learning Centre children. This teaches compassion, patience and life skills as well as allowing the students to develop connections with our youngest students as they start their educational journey. The importance of a healthy lifestyle is presented with a focus on how to create healthy habits in life. There are opportunities to develop good listening skills and the course emphasises the importance of empathy, respectful behavior and understanding.

Year 7 HISTORY - CORE Subject - One Semester

TITLE: The Ancient World 60 000 BCE – c.650 CE Overview:

The content identifies important features of the period (approximately 60 000 BCE – c.650CE) as part of an expansive chronology that helps students understand broad patterns of historical change. The overview provides the broader context for the depth study content and will be built into various parts of a teaching and learning program. The overview content will give students an introduction to the historical period; to make the links to and between the depth studies; and to consolidate understanding through a review of the period.

Overview content for the ancient world (Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, Greece, Rome, India, China and the Maya) includes the following:

- the theory that people moved out of Africa around 60 000 BCE and migrated to other parts of the world, including Australia
- the evidence for the emergence and establishment of ancient societies (including art, iconography, writing tools and pottery)
- key features of ancient societies (farming, trade, social classes, religion, rule of law)

Depth Studies:

The content in each depth study elective is designed to allow detailed study of specific aspects of this historical period.

1. Investigating the Ancient Past

2. The Mediterranean World: Rome OR Greece OR Egypt

3. The Asian World: India OR China

ASSESSMENT

Assessment will involve homework, classwork, written and oral presentations. The analysis of primary and secondary sources will be emphasised. In addition to a range of ICT skills, Power Point presentation skills and working collaboratively using digital learning platforms will also be further developed. An end of semester test may be undertaken.
Year 7 PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Core Subject

Physical Education will educate students in, through and about physical activity. Students will develop skills and tactical awareness in a range of individual and team sports and fitness activities such as athletics, softball, soccer, netball and badminton. They will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills through Sport Education cricket. They will test their fitness by using the SASI Fitness Test.

Students will be assessed in practical aspects of the course. They will be assessed through a combination of teacher observation, performance checklists and personal organisational skills.

All Year 7 students will study a semester each of the Japanese and Indonesian languages.

Year 7 INDONESIAN – One Semester – Core Subject

This unit is a communicative course focusing on developing student’s confidence in speaking Indonesian. At this level, the emphasis is on realistic and meaningful basic communication in the Indonesian language. Students learn how to ask and give personal information such as name, age and likes and dislikes. They will also learn how to describe people, places and activities and talk about their families and pets.

The four facets of listening, speaking, reading and writing the language will be assessed both formally and informally. During the semester each student’s oral communication development will be assessed through class participation along with a class presentation of a short topical role-play. Student’s written Indonesian skills are assessed through end of unit tests and written assignments such as a poster about themselves and an imaginary diary. This course will be complemented by the use of the student’s slates, with online games, activities and internet research.

Learning about culture is an important part of learning a language and there will be inter-cultural activities such as cooking and Indonesian sports undertaken in the long lessons.

Year 7 JAPANESE – One Semester – Core Subject

The Year 7 Japanese course aims to introduce students to Japanese language, people and culture, giving an insight into what life is like in Japan. Students will begin by learning greetings and introducing themselves, while becoming familiar with related Japanese customs and practices. Students will then learn the Hiragana alphabet with the aim of being able to read and write language learned in Japanese script. The second term of the course is titled “Let’s Go Shopping” and includes vocabulary, sentence patterns and cultural insights into shopping in Japan. It requires the reading and writing of Hiragana and with our Japanese sister school visiting annually students have the opportunity to practice their Japanese in authentic situations.

The emphasis in Japanese at this level is on embracing and appreciating another language and culture. All areas of learning – oral, aural and written skills are covered using a range of learning styles involving the use of their slate to access free apps and the latest educational online tools. Students will grasp the basic skills required to communicate in Japanese and a broad knowledge of differences in culture and customs.

The course can be moderated or accelerated to cater for individual students, with assessment depending on the level of the learner. As some of our students have had some

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background at Junior School level, previous language learnt is kept active, and previous skills and knowledge are taken into account.

**During the year, all Year 7 students will study one term each of Art, Design and Technology, Drama and Music. (Specialist Music is also offered for specific students for the full year.)**

**Year 7 VISUAL ARTS – One Term – Core Subject**

This is a general art program where students will explore aspects from the following practical areas; painting, drawing, sculpture, design, printmaking and computer based art programs.

Students will experience and explore a variety of media and techniques designed to introduce them to the elements of art. Within each area students will be encouraged to experiment and use individual expression. Due emphasis will be placed on the acquisition and refinement of skills.

An introduction to art theory will include learning appropriate terminology and appreciation of art through class discussions relating to each student’s own work and that of their peers.

Both formative and summative assessment tasks will be undertaken.

**Year 7 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY – One Term – Core Subject**

This subject is offered to all students in Year 7 and runs for one term. Students are introduced to various systems, materials and processes. They develop skills in designing and making and are introduced to the concepts of problem solving and critical evaluation.

**Year 7 DRAMA – One Term – Core Subject**

At Year 7, Drama is taught to all students for one term as part of their core program. The main objective of Drama at this level is to provide an overall introduction to theatre and performance skills.

**The key areas studied are:**

- Performance Skills
- Improvisation
- Character Building
- Physical Theatre
- Movement, Mime and Dance
- Play Structure and Script Writing

**Pre-requisites:** There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Year 7 MUSIC – One Term – Core Subject**

At Year 7, Music is taught to all students for one term as part of their core program. The main objective of Music at this level is to provide an overall introduction to theatre and performance skills.

**Pre requisites:** There are no prerequisites for this course.
Content
Students will listen to, compose and perform music which uses concepts involving:
- Grid and conventional music notation
- Garage Band loop sampling
- Percussion instrument performance and techniques
- Melody and ostinato playing
- The basic rock beat on the drum kit
- Simple guitar riffs and chords
- Rap song creation
- Instruments of the orchestra

Skills
- Play and sing pieces in simple time
- Play rhythms on percussion instruments
- Play melodies and chords on the guitar
- Improvise motifs and phrases
- Compose phrases
- Compose group pieces for percussion in simple time
- Recognise simple time signatures
- Critically listen to orchestral instruments
- Notate rhythms from dictation

Assessment
Through observation of student participation, practical and written tests, bookwork, assignments and other appropriate means, students’ achievement and progress will be assessed in:
- Practical performance of music in class
- Rhythmic work
- Composition utilizing Garage Band software
- Improvisation
- Aural identification and knowledge of instruments
- Knowledge of graphic and conventional notation

Year 7 MUSIC EXTENSION CLASS – FULL YEAR
The Year 7 Extension program involves an advanced practical component with an emphasis on performing and creating music within an ensemble.

Pre – requisites. The course is for students with a particular interest in instrumental music who have undertaken instrumental and classroom music lessons for at least two years prior to entering Year 7, or have completed the year 3 string program and year 5 band program at the Junior School. Gifted students who do not fit the above criteria are welcome to apply to enter the course by audition in the first term and should contact the Head of Music, Cinzia Cursaro at cursaro@stiohns.sa.edu.au

Students will participate in the Year 7 Specialist band throughout the Year and will be enhancing their musicality and ensemble performance skills. The Year 7 Extension band will perform music from the jazz, rock and pop genres and have an emphasis on reading and improvising music. This ensemble will ensure students are able to make a smooth transition into the secondary school extra-curricula ensemble program.

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All Year 7 students will study a third of the year each of Information Technology, Philosophy, and Religion and Values Education, changing subjects about every 13 weeks.

**Year 7 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Core Subject**

Students engage in practices that will assist in future learning, life and work. Content is designed to develop an understanding of how to leverage the school network to maximize learning, effectively find and critique information, develop positive online behaviours, create digital artifacts including infographics, podcasts, screencasts, animations and applications, and progress project management skills through collaboration. This is a compulsory 13 week course for all year 7 students.

**Year 7 PHILOSOPHY – Core Subject**

As an introduction to Philosophy, an environment is provided where students are encouraged to think in different ways and at different levels. Students develop their creative and critical thinking by responding to ideas with new alternatives and possibilities. Students are nurtured to value and respect the ideas of others, while at the same time being encouraged to look for reasons for what they think, say and do.

By teaching students to think carefully about ethics, moral questions and philosophical issues, we enable them to make sound judgments based on good reasons.

These skills and values are embedded in a variety of texts and experiences such as stories, poems, films and newspaper articles.

Students are expected to interact and contribute to class discussions with comments that are inquiring, show sound reasoning and are creative. Weekly homework tasks are also assessed.

**Year 7 RELIGIOUS AND VALUES EDUCATION - Core Subject**

Students learn about how the Bible began as stories handed down from one generation to the next before it was written down. The course seeks to answer students’ questions and give an overview of what is in the Bible and how it relates to our questions and understanding of our world and ourselves.

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