



YEAR 9 HANDBOOK

2025

YEAR 9 @ MARIBYRNONG COLLEGE

Year 9 is an exciting year! For the first time, students get to select subjects that best suit their skills and interests.

At Maribyrnong College, students complete six electives across the year (three per semester), spending approximately a third of their periods each week in elective classes. The College offers a range of electives, with students encouraged to select a program that provides a breadth of experience and learning opportunities.

Students may be required to complete 'Essential English' or 'Essential Maths' as part of their program. Entry into these subjects is based on Year 8 results and teacher recommendation.

Students hoping to study Pre-Methods in Year 10 (leading to Maths Methods in VCE) may complete 'Algebra for Methods' in second semester. This subject supports aspirant students, preparing them for the rigours of advanced mathematics in Year 10. Entry into this subject is determined at the end of Semester One of Year 9, but interested students are encouraged to select it as part of the elective selection process.

STANDARD ELECTIVE PROGRAM			
SEM1	Elective 1	Elective 3	Elective 5
SEM2	Elective 2	Elective 4	Elective 6

Students completing the standard elective program must complete:

- At least one Arts elective (Visual Arts or Performing Arts)
- At least one Technology elective
- Four 'free choice' electives

MSA ELECTIVE PROGRAM			
SEM1	Elective 1	HPP	HPP
SEM2	Elective 2	HPP	HPP

Students completing the MSA elective program must complete:

- Four units of HPP
- One* Arts elective (Visual Arts or Performing Arts)
- One* Technology elective

**Unless Essential English or Essential Maths are recommended.*

ADVANCED MSA ELECTIVE PROGRAM			
SEM1	Elective 1 or HPPX	HPP	HPP
SEM2	HPPX or Elective 1	HPP	HPP

HPPX is only available to select students who have been recommended. Read more about this advanced athlete support elective on page 7. Students completing HPPX must complete one Arts or Technology elective.

The following pages list the Year 9 elective subjects students can choose from. While every attempt will be made to accommodate student preferences, students may miss out due to timetable restrictions. Students are therefore asked to select back-up electives too.

FOOD STUDIES

Students will build further on the theoretical and practical skills learnt previously in Food Studies, including:

- Safety and hygiene in the kitchen.
- The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.
- Sustainability in the production of food products
- The science of food.
- The Design Process: investigate, design, produce and evaluate food products.

Great for students who:

- Deal with food allergies and intolerances in their everyday life.
- Want to gain more understanding of how to fuel their body for maximum performance.
- Love to cook!



MULTICULTURAL FOOD

Students will investigate, taste and develop food products with a focus on the importance of food as part of culture and expression of cultural identity, including:

- Exposure to foods from a vast array of cultures.
- The Design Process: investigate, design, produce and evaluate food from different cultures.
- Indigenous Australian foods.
- Sustainable food practices.

Great for students who:

- Enjoy trying food from all over the world.
- Have a strong connection to the cuisine of their own culture.
- Love to cook!



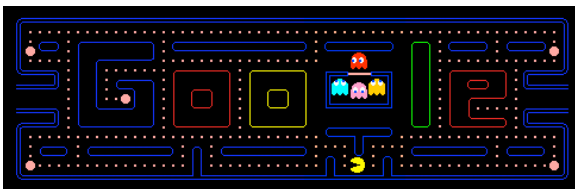
CODING THROUGH GAMING

Students will gain an understanding of how to use code to produce games. This will include:

- Using Visual Basic to write code to produce games.
- Using Game Maker to develop games such as Pong, Pac Man and Space Invaders.

Great for students who:

- Enjoy playing computers games.
- Are interested coding.



SYSTEMS

Students will learn about safety, tools, sustainable energy, circuits, gear ratios and electrical fundamentals. They will use this information to design and make different projects. Students will construct various electronic and mechanical projects including:

- Battery power.
- Gear-driven race cars.
- Electricity generating windmills.
- Remote-controlled vehicles.

Great for students who:

- Enjoy reaping the reward of their attention to detail.
- Love finding creative solutions.
- Like working with their hands.
- Have an interest in electronics or a trade pathway.

COMPUTING / INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

This subject offers a dynamic journey through Digital Technologies, including:

- Python programming.
- Web design.
- AI model generation.
- Cyber security.
- Advanced programming.

Great for students who:

- Want to learn how to code or extend their current coding skills.
- Want to develop highly desirable skills for a tech-driven world.



WOOD TECHNOLOGY

Students in Wood Technology explore woodworking techniques, learn how to use tools safely, and construct a piece of their own creation. The subject includes a focus on:

- Measuring, cutting and assembling.
- Painting and decorating.
- The Design Process: investigate, design, build and evaluate a major product.



Great for students who:

- Love working with their hands!
- Want to put their measurement skills into action.
- Enjoy working at a longer project spanning multiple weeks.
- Are able to work semi-independently and manage their own time effectively.

LANGUAGES ELECTIVES

ITALIAN

FULL YEAR: SEMESTER 1 & 2

Italian will focus on the language and culture of Italy and its people. Students will:

- Continue to develop skills in basic Italian and grammar with the focus on communication.
- Explore aspects of the culture, migration and history of Italy through film text and visiting Lygon St, Carlton and the Italian Museum.

Great for students who:

- Have a love of languages.
- Want to be bilingual.
- Are interested in studying Italian in VCE.

Students wishing to study Italian must choose it for two of the elective blocks.



STUDIO ARTS PHOTO / DIGITAL

Students will learn how to use software such as Adobe Photoshop to enhance, manipulate and arrange digital photographs. They will also create imagery using Adobe Illustrator. This includes:

- Studying art elements, principles and composition strategies.
- Applying their understanding to a range of subject matter.
- Learning basic camera functions in order to better control the light and focus of their images.
- Exploring the work of art photographers.

Great for students who:

- Want to learn how to use Photoshop.
- Love taking photos of people, places and things.



STUDIO ARTS 3D

Focusing on sculpture, students will study how and why artists make artworks and develop suitable vocabulary in order to self-evaluate and appreciate the art of others. This includes:

- Experimenting with ideas and media.
- Using a Visual Diary to explore, develop and record ideas.

Great for students who:

- Enjoy making sculptures and models.
- Want to expand their technical art skills.
- Enjoy working at a longer project spanning multiple weeks.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

Students use the design process to respond to a variety of tasks related to real world needs. Processes of observation, research, exploring ideas and developing design solutions encourage students to problem solve.

Students will:

- Develop a range of freehand and instrumental drawing skills.
- Learn to effectively present designs to suit the given purpose, audience and context.

Great for students who:

- Have an interest in graphic design.
- Enjoy using technology to create art.

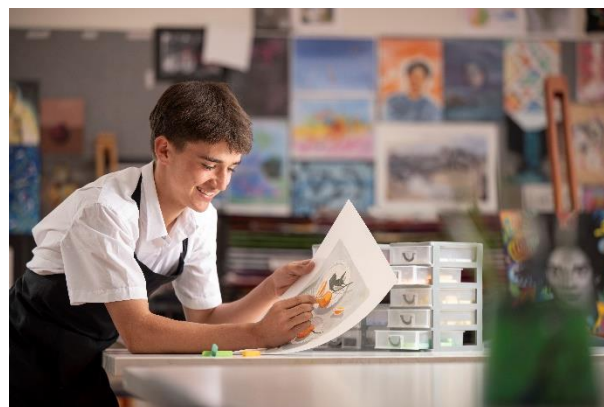
STUDIO ARTS 2D

In this subject students will focus on drawing, printmaking and painting, including:

- Using watercolours and acrylic paints, grey lead and coloured pencils.
- Developing lino printing techniques.
- Studying how and why artists make artworks and develop suitable vocabulary in order to self-evaluate and appreciate the art of others.
- Using a Visual Diary to explore, develop and record ideas.

Great for students who:

- Love to draw and/or paint.
- Want to expand their technical art skills.



MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Students will explore music as a live performer by working on improving their skills on a chosen instrument and their knowledge of relevant musical theory, including:

- Performing in small groups and exploring rehearsal techniques.
- Developing written and aural theory skills to inform their playing.
- Having performance opportunities in and outside of class.
- The chance to see some live local music.

Great for students who:

- Play a musical instrument and have regular lessons.
- Love making music with others!

Students intending to pursue music in VCE are encouraged to select both Music Performance and Music Technology.



TAKE THE STAGE

In this drama-based subject, students will explore the dramatic elements to create engaging and entertaining performances. This includes:

- Creating and performing original scripts.
- Working behind the scenes in stage management, lighting and sound to enhance performances.
- Analysing actors and performances.
- Having many performance opportunities and potential excursions to see plays and musicals.

Great for students who:

- Enjoy working in a team.
- Have an interest in stage-based OR back-of-house roles in the theatre.
- Love plays and musicals!

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

Students will explore music software and technology to create and manipulate music, including:

- Learning how to use digital recording software to mix and compose music.
- Recreating audio for an animated clip with the use of their own music and sound effects.
- Creating a mix of several pieces of music to publish online.

Great for students who:

- Love music but may not play an instrument.
- Have an interest in making their own music.
- Are tech-savvy!

Students intending to pursue music in VCE are encouraged to select both Music Technology and Music Performance.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

In this drama and media-based subject, students will explore film making both as an actor and as a cinematographer and editor, including:

- Exploring film genre to recreate short scenes from film and television.
- Exploring acting techniques
- Writing, creating and performing scripts
- Filming scenes and using editing software to create short films.

Great for students who:

- Enjoy acting and being dramatic.
- Have an interest in creating short films.
- Love being creative in front of or behind a camera.



SPEAKING UP

Students will be encouraged to engage in current political issues and find a voice to express their opinions and inspire others. It includes:

- Presenting through a variety of methods, including traditional public speaking and debating.
- Utilising modern trends in communication like talking to camera and elements of journalism and interviewing.
- Build a host of real-world skills in this subject.

Great for students who:

- Want to improve their public speaking skills.
- Have an interest in politics.



CLASSICS RELOADED

We have all heard of the so-called ‘classics’ in English literature, but what does that actually mean? What makes a text a classic? Who decides? Whose voices and experiences are included and who is left out?

This subject includes:

- Exploring the works of various ‘classic’ authors, including Shakespeare, Dickens, Austen and the Brontes.
- Modern film and TV adaptations of classic texts.
- Challenging and questioning long held beliefs and values.

Great for students who:

- Love to read!
- Want to approach ‘old’ books in a fresh way.
- Have an appetite for making connections between the classics and contemporary literature, tv and film.



PAGE TO STAGE

Students will study how literary works have been adapted for film and stage.

In studying these adaptations, students will:

- Be introduced to a variety of genres including Australiana, Gothic, Fantasy, Science Fiction and Magical Realism.
- Analyse a variety of media styles such as live action adaptations, animation and stage shows.
- Analyse filmic and stage elements to understand why some aspects of the original written text were altered or enhanced.

Great for students who:

- Love books, movies and stage productions.

GET CREATIVE

Students will experience writing and creating for different audiences through the exploration of multi-modal texts.

Students will:

- Learn the features of a variety of text types including, blogs, vlogs, short films, animations, graphic novels, claymation, writing for children, writing playscripts and slam poetry.
- Experiment with their own text creation.

Great for students who:

- Have an active imagination
- Love to write

This is an elective for writers and creators!

HPP

High Performance Preparation (HPP) is a continuation of the program from Year 7+8.

Student-athletes:

- Complete strength and conditioning (S+C) training, under the guidance of highly qualified coaches
- Receive athlete education from our dietician, performance psychologist, S+C coaches and HPP teachers
- Work with rehabilitation coordinators (where required) to ensure safe return to sport with enhanced sports performance and injury prevention

All MSA students must select HPP as part of their elective program.



HPPX

HPPX is an invite-only Year 9 elective for student-athletes who show exceptional dedication and performance in their sport, and leadership skills.



An individually tailored program will be designed to meet the needs of each student-athlete. This program is designed to support the student, athlete and whole person, including development of leadership potential. Students who take up the invitation will undertake a combination of:

- Leadership training
- Time to complete homework / study / revision, including study techniques
- Recovery techniques for athletes with high training loads
- Additional strength and conditioning training
- Injury rehabilitation exercises where required

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

The focus of this subject is to provide additional support to students to improve their reading, writing and communication skills. Text study is designed to equip students with reading strategies to improve literacy skills. Writing activities cover a range of forms and explicitly focus on generic conventions. Students also develop grammatical, structural, vocabulary and spelling skills through a range of exercises and activities.



ESSENTIAL MATHS

SEMESTER 1 ONLY

Essential Maths has, as its core focus, the building of numeracy skills for students who have struggled in mathematics throughout their schooling. Skill focuses will include: real life numeracy skills (pre-algebra content), measurement, business maths (reading bills, payslips, budgeting) and a NAPLAN focus (analysing and breaking down questions).

ALGEBRA FOR METHODS

SEMESTER 2 ONLY

The core focus of Algebra Support will be to develop and strengthen the algebraic skills of students who are thinking about studying Mathematical Methods in the VCE. This subject will bridge and develop algebraic skills required in the lead up to the subject Pre-Methods in Year 10 and VCE Mathematical Methods. Skill focuses will include: building algebraic skills, factorising and solving algebraic expressions, graphing of functions (quadratics) and develop algebraic problem-solving skills.

Note: Year 9 teachers will identify suitable students in late Semester 1, who are thinking about completing Pre-Methods in Year 10 and Maths Methods in their VCE and are deemed in need of algebra support. Student preference will also be considered for this subject, therefore please indicate on your elective subject electronic form whether this is a subject you might be interested in undertaking.

