

2024

Year 9 Elective Handbook



Stage 5 Elective

Handbook

2024



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INTRODUCTION

Dear students, parents and carers,

Year 9 is the beginning of a new phase in a student's high school career. As they enter Stage 5, they are given the first opportunity to select some of the subjects they study.

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has determined the pattern of study and subject requirements for Stage 5 students to achieve their Record of Student Achievement (RoSA) at the end of Year 10. All students must study English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and PDHPE. In addition, students at Macksville High School can choose three elective subjects from the wide range available.

I encourage everyone to read this booklet carefully to make an informed elective choice. A description of the elective subjects we are offering is outlined in this booklet, as well as a teacher to contact for further information. The elective courses offered cover a broad range of disciplines and are intended to provide for student interest and give them opportunities to experience areas that may lead to career pathways. It is important to note that Year 9 electives are not a pre-requisite for further study in Years 11 and 12.

In some subjects, students will have to do 200 hours or 2 years to meet requirements in that subject. In others, students may only need to do 100 hours or 1 year to achieve this. No matter what elective subjects are chosen, students must complete one full year.

When choosing elective subjects, students and parents should consider their interest and abilities in the subject and any course requirements, such as fees and equipment that will be necessary to complete the course. As most courses run over two years, it is important that choices shouldn't be based simply on what a student's friends are doing.

The subject selection process will take place during weeks 8-9 and will be completely on-line. Macksville High School proudly provides a broad curriculum. Please note that classes will be formed where an effective number of students have selected that subject, and staffing allocations can support that. Therefore, please be aware that not all subjects that have been offered will necessarily run.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of this process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Sheree Burnham

Principal

ELECTIVE SUBJECT FEES

Subject fees reflect the extra costs of materials and other resources required to complete projects in elective subjects. These fees are compulsory and are invoiced twice per year. There are elective options available which do not attract a fee. If parents are experiencing difficulty in paying the fees there are student assistance options available including paying by instalments, or a modified program of practical work.

<i>YEARS 9 and 10 ~ 2024</i>	\$
Agricultural Technology	15.00
Drama	20.00
Electronics Technology	70.00
Engineering Technology	50.00
Food Technology	50.00
Games, Animation & Digital Media	Nil
International Studies	Nil
Metal Technology	60.00
Music	15.00
Outdoor Education	20.00
PASS (Physical Activity and Sports Studies)	20.00
Photography /Video / Film & Multimedia	30.00
Textiles Technology	20.00
Timber Technology	75.00
Visual Arts	30.00

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

COURSE CONTACT:	Mrs Conway
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$15.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Enclosed shoes A4 120 page exercise book

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In Agriculture, students learn about the care of plants and animals used for food and fibre, along with other materials needed by people. Students will study the care and use of farm machinery, how to drive and use a tractor, practical vegetable growing and general husbandry involving the school farm animals. The course involves both hands on activities and written work. Some units specialise in areas such as poultry, vegetables, cattle and soils.

DRAMA

COURSE CONTACT:	Ms Dykes
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$20.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Drama Logbook

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In Drama, students will learn stagecraft skills. These will include practical experience in movement and vocal work explored through different types of theatre and styles of acting. Students will develop an understanding of the roles of the actor, director and audience, performing both individually and collaboratively in group performances. The course will allow students to experience and develop skills in improvisation, writing, rehearsing and performing their own scripts in a variety of different genres. Students will gain experience in specialised units such as comedy, children's theatre, filmmaking and production.

ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY

COURSE CONTACT:	Mrs Alchin
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$70.00 (includes kits)
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Sturdy enclosed shoes Apron Approved safety glasses

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Electronics course provides an opportunity for students who are interested in electronic circuits, transmitters and other systems. Students will learn to interpret schematic and layout drawings.

Workshop safety is of the utmost importance and students will be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. This subject has direct links to industry and is carried out in a workshop environment.

Projects include amplifiers, transmitters, timing circuits and computer programmable boards (Arduino). This is a practical course and the projects reflect the nature of the Electronics-related technologies.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

COURSE CONTACT:	Mrs Alchin
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$50.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Sturdy enclosed shoes Apron Approved safety glasses

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Engineering course promotes problem solving, innovative thinking and the production of design solutions using a range of technology and materials.

The course has a significant practical focus and students will complete projects related to Structures, Mechanisms, Control Systems and Alternative Energy.

Typical projects include; bottle rockets, bridges and towers, catapults, aeroplanes, hydraulic lifting devices, robotic Lego, construction of electronics control circuits to make a remote control vehicle, use of the 3D printer and Laser cutter.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

COURSE CONTACT:	Mrs Alchin
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$50.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Sturdy enclosed shoes Apron

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Food Technology provides the opportunity for students to build on their skills and knowledge in food preparation and presentation.

Students will engage in both theory and practical activities, researching and preparing a range of dishes with relation to Australian traditional and native foods, nutrition and consumption, food trends, food photography and presentation as well as celebration foods. Students will undertake research tasks as well as practical experiences.

GAMES, ANIMATION & DIGITAL MEDIA

COURSE CONTACT:	Mr Driver
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	Nil
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Nil

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Games, animation and digital Media play a significant role in the curriculum by providing specialised learning opportunities. They enable students to understand and explore the nature of games, animation and digital media as an important field of artistic practice, conceptual knowledge and technological procedures.

The broad areas of games, animation and digital media as print, interactive and moving forms are extremely relevant and of fundamental interest to students. Much of their knowledge of the world and their notions of cultural and self-identity come from the digital images that permeate the visual arts and design, television, film, video, internet, mass media and multimedia.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

COURSE CONTACT:	Ms Collits
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	Nil
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Nil

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

International studies provides students with an opportunity to explore and recognise their own cultures and appreciate the richness of multicultural Australia and the world. The course enables understanding of cultures from different perspectives and develops skills to engage harmoniously in the interconnected world.

METAL TECHNOLOGY

COURSE CONTACT:	Mrs Alchin
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$60.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Sturdy enclosed shoes Apron Approved safety glasses

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Metal Technology is suitable for students who are interested in developing basic metals and engineering techniques. Students will gain knowledge on how to interpret working diagrams, mark out and fabricate materials.

Workshop safety is of the utmost importance and students will be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. This subject has direct links to industry and is carried out in a workshop environment. Students will learn to operate a range of machinery including; milling machines, centre lathes, plasma cutters, MIG welders. Design projects will involve welding, cutting and shaping various metals and may include; Portable BBQ, Tool box, Centre punch, Portable fire bucket, Smaller welding and forging projects.

MUSIC

COURSE CONTACT:	Ms Dykes
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$15.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Nil

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In Music, students will have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to participate and enjoy performing, composing and listening to music. Students will develop knowledge and skills in each of the individual areas of performing, composing and listening, as well as understanding the concepts of music in differing musical contexts. The nature of musical study also allows students to develop their capacity to work individually, collaboratively and engage in activity that reflects the real world practice of performers, composers and audience. Within the course students will evaluate the role that music plays in the social, cultural, aesthetic and spiritual lives of people as well as considering music as a medium of personal expression.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

COURSE CONTACT:	Mr Driver
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$20.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Appropriate footwear & sports clothes A4 120 page exercise book

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Outdoor Education Course for Year 9 students is a sanctioned Stage 5 elective within the NSW Department of Education curriculum. Rooted in experiential learning, the course facilitates a profound grasp of the environment. Through active engagement in diverse outdoor activities, students acquire skills in risk assessment, emergency response, and environmental conservation, while also incorporating Aboriginal perspectives. Aligned with the PDHPE curriculum, the course provides a strong foundation for understanding the natural world.

The content is structured in modules that reflect five key focus areas:

- Outdoor activity and exploration skills
- Environmental awareness, conservation, and sustainability
- Personal and social skills, growth, and development
- Connecting with the natural environment
- Health, safety, and wellbeing in the outdoors

The core module, "Experiencing the outdoors" forms the foundation of the curriculum and an introduction to the immersive nature of the course. There are also a variety of option modules available for students to explore, including bushcraft and navigation, first aid, survival skills, environmental conservation, building connections, mental and physical preparation, expedition planning and participation in various outdoor sports activities such as climbing, kayaking, canoeing, and more.

PASS (Physical Activity and Sports Studies)

COURSE CONTACT:	Mr Driver
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$20.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Appropriate footwear & sports clothes A4 120 page exercise book

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) aims to enhance student's capacity to participate effectively in physical activity and sport, leading to improved quality of life for themselves and others. Physical Activity and Sports Studies represents a broad view of physical activity and the many possible contexts in which individuals can build activity into their lifestyle.

Students engage in a wide range of physical activities in order to develop key understandings about the how and why we move and how to enhance quality and enjoyment of movement. The course involves both a theory and practical component.

Due to the nature of this course PASS students are expected to participate in the Athletics and Swimming Carnivals and Cross Country. Additionally, the PASS elective will include a variety of excursions and supplementary activities. These may include, but are not exclusive to, going to the Macksville Memorial Aquatic and Fitness Centre, participating in surfing, tennis and bowls. The participation in these activities is beyond the mandatory PDHPE program and a subject contract will be signed by each student.

PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEO / FILM & MULTIMEDIA

COURSE CONTACT:	Mrs Alchin
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$30.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Apron for dark room

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Photography / Video / Film and Multimedia course is designed to introduce students to photography; film, video and multimedia techniques utilising virtual reality and artificial intelligence. Incorporating digital cameras, Adobe Photoshop / Premiere Pro / iMovie / Capture and After Effects, students will also use black and white film cameras and the darkroom.

As a result of this course, students should be able to effectively use digital cameras and film cameras, have developed quality black and white photographs; utilise Adobe Photoshop in the enhancement and manipulation of digital images; plan, film and edit a short story video sequence; produce photographs suitable for entry into competitions; develop skills in the presentation of photographic installations and documented forms.

TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY

COURSE CONTACT:	Mrs Alchin
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$20.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Materials for personal design projects

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Textiles Technology provides students with the knowledge of textiles in which fibres, yarns, fabrics and colouration are included. Students experience the properties of textiles with use in project work and making use of technology to design, produce and document their work.

Students will develop skills and confidence in the use of a range of textiles materials, equipment and techniques to complete projects. Design projects will give the opportunity to be creative, independent, and encourage decision-making, expression of ideas and opinions. Students will gain an understanding of the historical and cultural uses of textiles and how these influence contemporary designers.

The course will incorporate the study of Design, Properties and Performance of Textiles, Textiles and Society. Activities include designing and producing practical items with supporting documentation of this work. Design areas include apparel, furnishings, costume, textile art and non-apparel.

TIMBER TECHNOLOGY

COURSE CONTACT:	Mrs Alchin
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$75.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	Sturdy enclosed shoes Apron Approved safety glasses

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Timber Technology provides opportunities for students to build on the knowledge and skills acquired in the Technology Mandatory course. Students will be required to read and interpret workshop drawings, prepare, measure, mark up and cut timber.

Workshop safety is of the utmost importance and students will be required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times. This subject has direct links to industry and is carried out in a workshop environment. Students will learn to operate a range of fixed machinery and hand tools including; pedestal drill, disc sander and various electric power tools such as sanders, biscuit and domino joiner.

Design projects may include a foot stool, jewellery box and potentially a dart board cabinet. As a result of this course, students should be able to; Interpret working drawings to make timber projects, show awareness of Workplace Health and Safety, combine hand and machine skills to make projects.

VISUAL ARTS

COURSE CONTACT:	Ms Dykes
COURSE FEES PER YEAR:	\$30.00
COURSE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED:	A3 Visual Art Process Diary

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students in Visual Arts will explore the visual qualities, techniques, scale and forms of a variety of mediums such as drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. Students will also explore the ways in which artists, in both historical and contemporary contexts, have communicated their ideas and feelings through art making.

They will develop the language of art, using this to critically analyse and evaluate the art making of others and their own work. Students will work towards being able to design and create art works, which reflect their own ideas and feelings, in a medium of their choice.

This course can incorporate a range of Visual Arts activities including, drawing using a range of materials including charcoal, oil pastels, chalk pastels, lead/coloured pencils and sharpies, as well as a range of painting tasks using watercolours and acrylic.

ELECTIVE LINES

The current elective lines that students will be making their choices from are shown on the next page. They are referred to as X, Y and Z lines.

The number of subjects on each line varies because some classes run as combined Year 9 & 10 classes.

Students will be asked to make three selections on each line in order of preference, selecting their most preferred option first.

X	
No Cost	GAMES ANIMATIONS AND DIGITAL MEDIA
\$50	ENGINEERING
\$20	PASS (PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORTS STUDIES)
\$75	TIMBER
\$30	VISUAL ARTS

Y	
\$15	AGRICULTURE
\$20	DRAMA
\$50	FOOD TECHNOLOGY
\$60	METAL
\$20	OUTDOOR EDUCATION
\$30	PHOTOGRAPHY

Z	
\$50	ENGINEERING
\$70	ELECTRONICS
No Cost	INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
\$15	MUSIC
\$20	PASS (PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORTS STUDIES)
\$20	TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY
\$30	VISUAL ARTS