



STRATHMORE SECONDARY COLLEGE

YEAR 9 - 2026

CURRICULUM BOOKLET

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Please note: College Council reviews and updates fee schedules annually in September. The fees will be published on the college website shortly afterwards.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

The aim of Year 9 is that students begin to focus on areas that interest them and will extend their learning. Year 9 is a critical year in preparation for senior school pathways so it is important that students select subjects that will engage them and challenge them to achieve their best.

By the middle of Year 9, students will begin making decisions about their Year 10 subjects, VCE pathways, and their Year 10 work experience. It is important that they use their individual program to extend their experience, broaden their skill base and seek support so they are prepared to make these decisions. Some students may wish to consider taking an accelerated VCE subject in Year 10. Students will only be permitted to do this if their performance and approach to learning are of a high standard in the first half of Year 9.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL STUDY IN 2026

Our program for Year 9 students is divided into two parts.

1) The core program that all students will study

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Health & Physical Education, and Sport

2) The individual program units offer students the opportunity to specialise in subjects that suit and challenge their individual abilities, interests, and needs. Students will study three subjects per semester (six per year) within this Individual Program.

- All students will have access to single semester studies in Arts and Technology.
- All students may choose to continue a whole year study in a Language (Greek, Italian and Japanese).
- Music is available as a whole year study for those who play an instrument.
- The Enrichment Program is aimed at extending students who are academically advanced in a particular area and are available in English, Maths, STEAM, and Health & Physical Education.
- Students in need of support will be able to take part in a Learning Support Program for a whole year.

Counsellors will support students in the design of their programs. The full range of subjects available to students in 2026 is shown on page 7.

HOW YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAM WILL BE DEVELOPED

Each class will have a counsellor to assist all students in the process of developing their individual program for 2026. The counsellor will meet with your child's class to fully discuss the program and answer their questions.

A brief description of all subjects in the Individual Program is provided for you and your child to read.

Students must complete a Career Action Plan (CAP) so that they can reflect on their school experience in Year 8 and begin to plan some steps for Year 9 and beyond. They should carefully consider the success they've had in different subject areas, as well as those that they have enjoyed or for which they have found a passion.

Students and families need to enter course preferences into the Edval Choice portal, using "Entering Your Program Preferences" on p.8 of this booklet to guide you.

The online submission to Edval Choice will be completed in Term 3. It's important to ensure that preferences are submitted on time. Late submission will limit the choices in your child's program. Current students and their families are contacted early in Term 3 to advise of the process and due dates.

Once you have entered course preferences on the Edval Choice portal, you may print or email your preferences for your records. If your child has any questions about this process, they should see their counsellor to discuss their individual program.

Please note that once courses are finalised, **changes of subjects will generally not be made**, so it is important that you and your child consider the preferences entered carefully.

If you require more information, please contact:

- Your Team Coordinator
- Mr Rohan Nicholls, Assistant Principal - Teaching & Learning

EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

All Year 9 students will study a set of core subjects, but a part of their course will be designed as an Individual Program.

THE PROGRAM FOR ALL STUDENTS

English	Mathematics	Humanities	Science
Health & Physical Education & Sport	Individual Program Unit	Individual Program Unit	Individual Program Unit

SAMPLE INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

Example 1: A student with a particular interest in Science/Language					
Year 9	Semester 1	Italian		Advanced English	Art 1
	Semester 2	Italian		STEAM Project	Media

Example 2: A student with a particular interest in Art					
Year 9	Semester 1	Digital Technology (The Internet and You)		Art 2	Observational Drawing
	Semester 2	Design & Technology		Visual Communication Design	Digital Technology (Game Development and Design)

Example 3: A student needing Literacy Intervention					
Year 9	Semester 1	Support for Literacy		Music	Food Technology
	Semester 2	Support for Literacy		Music	Drama

HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR CHILD'S INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM

Individual Program units include Arts, Technology, Enrichment Units and other units. To ensure that all students gain a broad range of skills and knowledge, students will be generally expected during Years 8 and 9 to study a minimum of:

- Two units of Languages (compulsory at year 8 unless enrolled in Support for Literacy)
- Two units of Arts [Performing Arts OR Visual Arts]
- Two units of Technology

Students are not permitted to choose more than one Humanities Elective Unit. Students are not permitted to choose more than one of Advanced English or Advanced Maths.

Languages

- Greek
- Italian
- Japanese

Arts and Technology Units

Visual Arts

- Art 1: Street Art
- Art 2: Dreams & Distortions
- Digital Art
- Snap & Sketch
- Visual Communication Design

Performing Arts & Media

- Dance
- Drama
- Performance Project- Theatre Styles
- Theatre Studies
- Music
- Media

Technology

- Design & Technology (Textiles)
- Design & Technology (Timber)
- Design & Technology (3D Printed Design)
- Food Technology
- Digital Technology (The Internet and You)
- Digital Technology (Game Development and Design)

Enrichment Units

- Advanced English
- Advanced Maths
- STEAM Project- SmartSAT: Prevention and Management of Bushfires
- Coaching and Fitness

Literacy Intervention Program

- Support for Literacy
- (Recommendations for Support for Literacy will be given to students by their counsellor.)

Humanities Elective Units

- Commerce
- Infamous History
- Ethics, Politics, and the Law

ENTERING YOUR PROGRAM PREFERENCES

After reading the unit descriptions, please login to Edval Choice using your individual webcode and nominate your course preferences from the drop-down lists provided. All preferences should be entered in your order of preference, with your most favoured selections being entered first.

When constructing your course, Edval will attempt to fulfil your higher-listed preferences first.

The preferences are arranged in Edval Choice as follows:

Preference category	Description
Arts Preference	All students must preference at least one subject from the range of Arts subjects
Technology Preference	All students must preference at least one subject from the range of Technology subjects
Course Preferences 3-6	These should be your next most favoured preferences
Reserve Preferences 1-4	Reserve preferences will be utilised if your higher preferences are not able to be fulfilled.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECTS LANGUAGES

Greek

YEAR-LONG

The year 9 course aims to build students' confidence in the four skills of speaking, writing, listening, and reading through a variety of class activities. Students' vocabulary range will expand as the topics pertaining to their daily lives and interests are covered. Students will also learn about Greece's vibrant popular and traditional culture through classwork and use of audio-visual material. To complement this, and to reinforce their language learning, students will participate in excursions and/or incursions.

Italian

YEAR-LONG

The year 9 course aims to build students' confidence in the four skills of speaking, writing, listening, and reading through a variety of class activities. Students' vocabulary range will expand as the topics pertaining to their daily lives and interests are covered. Students will also learn about Italy's vibrant popular and traditional culture through classwork and use of audio-visual material. To complement this and to reinforce their language learning, students will participate in excursions and/or incursions.

Japanese

YEAR-LONG

The year 9 course aims to build students' confidence in the four skills of speaking, writing, listening, and reading through a variety of class activities. Students' vocabulary range will expand as the topics pertaining to their daily lives and interests are covered. The language will be taught using both hiragana and katakana scripts and students will increase their knowledge of kanji characters. Students will also learn about Japan's vibrant popular and traditional culture through classwork and use of audio-visual material. To complement this and to reinforce their language learning, students will participate in excursions and/or incursions.

VISUAL ARTS

Art 1: Street Art

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This unit explores how artists use public spaces to communicate ideas, challenge social issues, and engage audiences. Students investigate the history and impact of street art, analysing works by artists such as Banksy, Rone, and contemporary Australian practitioners. They consider ethical and legal issues and reflect on how context and audience shape meaning. Students develop practical skills in stencilling, paste-ups, lettering, and print-based methods. They apply these techniques to design a personal artwork on a wooden skateboard deck, using visual conventions to express a chosen idea or theme. Throughout the unit, students use a visual diary to document their creative process, experimenting with materials, refining techniques, and reflecting on their decision-making. They learn to use appropriate visual arts terminology to analyse and evaluate both their own and others' artworks. By the end of the unit, students demonstrate an understanding of how street art can communicate meaning and influence perspectives, and how respectful and informed practices contribute to responsible artmaking.

Art 2: Dreams & Distortions

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students investigate Surrealism as an art movement that explores the unconscious mind, dreams, and unexpected juxtapositions. They examine how artists such as Salvador Dalí, Hannah Höch, and Rona Green use visual conventions to challenge reality and create imaginative, symbolic works. Students develop skills in sculptural construction and reduction lino printing, using these techniques to experiment with surrealist ideas and imagery. They apply visual arts processes to create both a 3D artwork and a print, exploring the relationship between materials, meaning, and personal expression. Students use a visual diary to document their creative process, including idea development, material experimentation, and reflection. They build confidence in using visual arts terminology to analyse and compare a range of artworks and evaluate their own artmaking. By the end of the unit, students demonstrate how visual conventions, materials, and techniques can be manipulated to express surreal and imaginative ideas, while considering the influence of culture, context, and personal perspective.

Digital Art

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students explore how digital media can be used to create and manipulate imagery for artistic expression. Using industry-standard software such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, students learn a range of techniques including image editing, layering, digital drawing, and typography. Students analyse the work of contemporary digital artists and designers, examining how visual conventions and digital processes are used to communicate ideas and respond to cultural, social, or personal themes. They investigate how digital art is shared across platforms and how audience, context, and intent influence artistic choices. Students apply creative thinking and technical skills to develop a series of digitally manipulated artworks. They document their design process in a visual diary, refining ideas through feedback and self-reflection. By the end of the unit, students demonstrate how visual arts processes and materials can be used responsibly and effectively to produce original digital artworks.

Snap & Sketch

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students explore the relationship between observational drawing and photography as powerful tools for seeing and recording the world around them. Beginning with foundational drawing exercises, students build their technical skills by closely observing still life arrangements, natural forms, and the built environment. They explore how line, tone, proportion, and composition can be used to create accurate and expressive drawings. Students then shift their focus to photography, learning how to apply similar principles, such as framing, contrast, and lighting, through the camera lens. They experiment with manual and digital photography techniques to capture dynamic and thoughtful compositions. Throughout the unit, students analyse the work of artists and photographers who document the everyday with detail and intention. They reflect on how both mediums can communicate mood, meaning, and perspective. Final outcomes will include a series of drawings and photographic works that demonstrate technical development and creative thinking, supported by visual diaries documenting their process.

Visual Communication Design

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students are introduced to the role of design in visual communication, learning how designers solve problems and communicate ideas for specific purposes and audiences. They explore key design fields including communication and product design and investigate how visual language is used to influence and inform. Students apply the design process to develop two creative projects: a visual identity (logo design) and a rendered isometric character. They learn to generate, develop, and refine their ideas using both manual and digital methods, building skills in freehand sketching, technical drawing, and Adobe Illustrator. Students explore how to apply the design elements and principles to create strong compositions that communicate meaning clearly and effectively. They document their process in a folio, reflecting on their design thinking, media experimentation, and final solutions. Throughout the unit, students also analyse examples of professional design work to build their understanding of how context, purpose, and audience shape design choices. This unit encourages creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking through real-world design tasks.

PERFORMING ARTS & MEDIA

Dance

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In Dance students explore different dance styles as well as the possibilities of choreography. They use a range of themes, both independently and in groups to create dance sequences. Throughout the unit, there is also a focus on developing their dance technique, coordination, and flexibility. Students perform their dances to an audience as a culmination of their learning in the unit. Students analyse their own and others dance works and write responses to these to complete the Dance Analysis work requirement.

Drama

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject focuses on developing acting skills for the screen and stage. Students make sustained dramatic statements that show an ability to effectively use dramatic elements. During rehearsal students develop skills in vocal expression, movement, and use of space. Students prepare dramatic works for the screen and stage using

a variety of technical equipment and regularly present these to the school community. They analyse and interpret drama from a variety of cultural and historical sources.

Theatre Studies

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject focuses on introducing students to the backstage element of the performing arts, whilst at the same time developing their performance skills. They learn about the technical components that help create performance such as lighting, sound, costume and set design. They use this knowledge of stagecraft to create meaningful performances.

Music

STUDENTS LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT/VOICE AT SCHOOL WILL TAKE THIS UNIT AS A YEAR-LONG STUDY.

This subject explores music through performance, theory and composition. Students aurally and visually analyse works and performances of different styles. They evaluate the use of elements of music and defining characteristics from different musical styles. Students perform works in solo and group contexts from a diverse range of styles and genres.

Students who learn to play an instrument at the school must enrol in this subject. Students who learn instruments outside the school can also further develop their musicianship through this subject.

Students will play in a variety of ensembles and will be required to take part in school concerts. Rehearsals may be held after school and during lunchtime.

The prerequisite for this subject is successful completion of Year 8 Music. Students who did not study Year 8 Music will be required to audition to be considered for entry into Year 9 Music.

Media

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Students explore the creative capabilities of photo, music, and digital video editing software. They use technology as a compositional tool whilst adding music and audio effects to moving and still images. The emphasis is on the manipulation of selected software and hardware to capture, record, edit and refine their creative products. Students form small media production teams to create short films which explore themes relevant to their age group.

TECHNOLOGY

Design & Technology (Textiles)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students use design thinking to produce textile products with a focus on ethical and sustainable practices. They apply enterprise, project management, and practical skills to develop, communicate, and evaluate solutions. Working both collaboratively and independently, students explore material properties and global perspectives to create responsible, functional, and creative design solutions.

Design & Technology (Timber)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students use design thinking to produce timber products using ethical, sustainable, and innovative practices. They apply enterprise skills, project management, and workshop techniques to develop, communicate, and evaluate solutions. Working both collaboratively and independently, students explore material properties, emerging technologies, and global perspectives to create responsible, functional, and creative design solutions.

Design & Technology (3D Printed Design)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students are introduced to new technologies such as 3D printing and use computer-aided design (CAD) software to create designed products. They apply design thinking to solve problems and develop innovative solutions. Working both collaboratively and independently, students explore global perspectives and ethical considerations. They apply enterprise skills, project management, and practical skills to develop, communicate, and evaluate their solutions.

Food Technology

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students continue to develop and refine their practical skills in food preparation and cooking, with a strong emphasis on safe and hygienic practices in the kitchen. Building on their prior knowledge, they explore the functional and sensory properties of food, applying this understanding to produce appealing and nutritious meals. Students investigate the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, with a focus on the cereal and grains food group, and examine the importance of breakfast in maintaining health and wellbeing. Through practical activities and investigative tasks, students also explore the functional properties of sugar. Through a design brief, students analyse the functional and sensory properties of food, considering factors that influence the preparation and presentation of foods using a range of techniques to ensure optimum nutrient content, flavour, texture and visual appeal.

Digital Technology (The Internet and You)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Students explore how digital systems and networks operate, including how to assemble, configure, and secure them. They create and host their own websites using HTML and CSS, and apply the Problem-Solving Methodology to analyse, design, develop, and evaluate their solutions.

This unit introduces key concepts in cybersecurity and user interface design. Students plan and manage projects, use digital tools to communicate interactive content, and evaluate solutions based on user needs and ethical considerations.

Digital Technology (Game Development and Design)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Students build their computational thinking skills while being introduced to a range of programming concepts, including object-oriented methodologies. They analyse existing games and systems, and use the Problem Solving Methodology to design, develop, and evaluate their own games and software.

The unit also introduces algorithm design, flowcharts, and pseudocode. Students explore user interface design, test and debug code, and begin to understand how digital systems manage data.

This unit provides a strong foundation for Applied Computing in Years 10–12.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Advanced English

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This unit is aimed at extending students with high ability and enthusiasm in English. Students research the development of journalism and discuss its influence on society. They investigate the variety of ways in which news is reported and create a wide range of multimedia reports based on an individual topic for investigation and the demands of a real audience. Students consider how to adapt their language choices to suit the purpose, audience, and context of their texts.

Advanced Maths

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject aims to challenge students with high ability and curiosity in mathematics. Students will have the opportunity to engage in exploratory and open-ended tasks that encourage questioning, visualisation, formulating conjectures, articulating explanations, generalisation, and justification. This unit will have a strong focus on peer collaboration, creativity, and reflection to allow a deep exploration into a variety of mathematical concepts. An emphasis on valuing mistakes to cultivate a growth mindset will be at the forefront of all tasks completed. In their final project, students will undertake an in-depth investigation where they will employ numerical, abstract, and visual approaches to problem solving.

STUDENTS MAY NOT CHOOSE BOTH ADVANCED ENGLISH AND ADVANCED MATHS.

STEAM Project - CanSAT: Prevention and Management of Bushfires

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This project is designed to introduce students to the Design Process using the vehicle of Project Based Learning, allowing students to experience the integration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics

(STEAM). Students work collaboratively to design, build and test subsystems in a micro-satellite, CanSat. They will then determine the best way to collect data for analysis and plan for a launch!

Students solidify existing, or are introduced to, skills in many different areas including research skills, critical thinking, computational thinking, design, and resilience. Students are challenged to strive for personal excellence by collaborating with other students with guidance from mentors and experts. When students have completed production and testing, they evaluate their process to reflect and improve. Students will publicly present their final submission to teachers and peers for discussion and critique.

Coaching & Fitness

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Coaching and Fitness is designed to provide students interested in sport and physical activity the opportunity to pursue in greater depth the factors that are important in sports performance for the junior athlete and player.

Students develop effective lesson plans that enable them to teach and coach young athletes at a high level. Key areas include the coach's role in developing athlete's skill, conditioning, and development as well as sports officiating and safety. Energy systems, sports nutrition and hydration are also studied within this subject.

LITERACY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Support for Literacy:

STUDENTS STUDY THIS SUBJECT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Selection is based on assessment by the Learning Needs Coordinator in consultation with the student's Coordinator. This program supports students who require assistance with literacy skills. The teacher collaborates with the student to set personalised learning goals to be achieved each semester. There is regular communication with the student's English teacher to ensure a successful collaborative approach.

Class sizes are small to maximise the program's impact.

HUMANITIES UNITS

NOTE: STUDENTS MAY NOT CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE HUMANITIES ELECTIVE UNIT.

Infamous History

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This unit provides enthusiastic History students the opportunity to take part in interesting, creative and challenging activities based on infamous historical events, people, and ideas. Much of the work will be based around enquiry and students will be expected to ask and to answer their own questions about the past. Students will use their skills in critical thinking and research to draw from a range of primary and secondary sources to make conclusions about historical significance, change and continuity and cause and consequences.

Ethics, Politics, and the Law

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject is composed of three units. In the first unit, Ethics, students consider the moral responsibilities of individuals and societies by applying ethical theories to a range of contemporary case studies and thought experiments. In the Politics unit, students examine the structure of the Australian Government, and the political ideologies present in Australian society. Finally, in the Law unit students explore the structure of Australia's justice system and consider how the law is interpreted and applied in Australian society. This subject can provide students with a foundation of knowledge in the three units covered which will support them in making future elective and VCE subject selections which align with their strengths and interests.

Commerce

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject will introduce students to the basics of accounting, business, and financial skills that are necessary to navigate everyday life. It will use a thematic approach to engage students in researching areas such as personal finance and paying tax. It fosters 'real world' skills through involving students in case studies to position their thinking to experience, as close as possible, the real commercial world. The subject will serve as an introduction to further study in Economics, Accounting and Business Management in Year 10 and VCE.

