



Elective Handbook 2018



We believe that a successful high school program of study will provide a broad platform for further educational and vocational opportunities. At Melrose High School all students will study seven subjects in each of the two semesters in the year. All students study English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Science (HaSS) and Physical Education (PE) for the full school year. Additionally Year 7 & 8 students will study a Language for the full school year.

This elective handbook is designed to assist students in planning their program of study. All elective courses and units of study are described on the following pages. To ensure that the selection process provides the best opportunities and outcomes for each student, we encourage students to contact teaching staff in the various learning areas to obtain further details or to discuss selection options.

In making decisions about units of study, students should:

- Pursue units in which they are interested in and can achieve
- Consider the courses and units they would like to study in the following years at High School and College
- Investigate the requirements for possible career and vocational options.

Unit cost

The School Board allocates government funding for the purchase of new high quality resources such as IT hardware and software, books and equipment. The School Board also asks parents to make a voluntary financial contribution towards the purchase of student consumable items each semester. Items such as paper, internet downloads, cooking ingredients, art and wood supplies, chemicals and subscriptions are used to enhance the range of learning experiences. Some units require additional charges to cover the cost of excursions, programs and memberships.

Recent Changes

The Melrose High School Board has recently approved some changes to the structure of Elective classes in year 7 and 8 from 2018 onwards. These changes include replacing the rotation structure of students moving through 8 electives over the two year time frame. This will not affect the 9 and 10 elective classes. This change has been made to support students in engage in subjects they are interested in and are passionate about. Students in year 7 and 8 will be asked to complete semester long subjects with a minimum of 1 Arts and 1 Technology subjects over the two year time frame.

Elective Selections

Students will select their elective preferences through an online portal call Web Preferences. Through this program, students will need to complete their preferences form, ensuring they follow the instructions and fill in each component. Web Preferences will allocate elective classes to students based on their preferences and works to establish the best outcome for each student. Each student will be sent instructions to their student email address when web preferences becomes available. The information in the email will outline the requirements to complete the preference choices.

BIG PICTURE

The Big Picture programme at MHS has a range of elective options available for students in Years 8, 9 & 10. Big Picture works on passion pursuits, with students determining and devising their own learning programmes. Students in Year 8 may undertake a single elective line of Big Picture, which is a teacher-guided model and a taster for a fuller Big Picture programme in Years 9 & 10. Students who have a keen interest in or passion for an area of study that falls outside their traditional school offerings, may also choose to undertake an elective study in Big Picture in years 9 & 10 to support this passion. There is also a Big Picture Inspired programme running in the Indigenous Studies Centre, based around the 8 Ways of Learning model. Please note that entry in to Big Picture is 'by application' and student selections will be examined on the basis of need and numbers.

LANGUAGES

At Melrose, we offer three choices for language studies, each offering a rich language and cultural experience. Studying another language not only supports further careers choices and assists people with travel, but also broadens students' intercultural understanding. All three language courses include cultural experiences and interactions with native language speakers.

Please note:

- It is compulsory for all students in Years 7 and 8 in the ACT to study a second language.
- As all languages classes are a two-year long course of study, it is important that students carefully consider which language they will choose. Students are not permitted to change languages when starting Year 8.
- Classes cater for students who have studied the language at Primary School and for those with no prior learning experience.

Chinese

China is Australia's biggest trading partner and learning Chinese will provide students with more job opportunities in the future. Chinese is also one of the world's most commonly spoken languages and the language most commonly spoken as a second language in Australia. Chinese lessons are fun and relaxing. Students will engage in role-plays with daily conversations, play language games, sing songs, create artwork, make videos, practise traditional dances and study with ICT tools. Students also have opportunities to participate in ACT Chinese competitions every year and there will be prizes and free excursions for winners and their families. Chinese language students are invited to participate in an overseas excursion, travelling to Taiwan to visit our sister school and immerse themselves in language and culture. Overall, speaking Chinese can not only help you travel overseas, but will also give you a brighter future.

Indonesian

With a population of 250 million people, the fourth largest country in the world, Indonesia is one of our closest neighbours. It is a country full of great contrast and excitement; every single island differs from the next. From the moment they step into the classroom, students are immersed in both the language and culture of Indonesia. A combination of language-based tasks, integrated ICT and hands-on activities

makes learning Indonesian fun and engaging for students. Classroom experiences are enriched further with workshops at the Indonesian Embassy, an Indonesian Assistant, a behind-the-scenes tour at the zoo, restaurant visits and more. A phonetic language and use of the Roman alphabet, makes Indonesian an easily accessible language for all students.

Japanese

In today's world we all need to be skilled language learners, so why not begin with a language you are interested and passionate about? Do you know what Manga & Anime are? Have you developed a passion for the Japanese language and culture in your Primary school? Studying Japanese shows that you have what it takes to be successful in life. You possess determination, patience, and absolutely no fear of challenging yourself. By choosing Japanese at Melrose, students will be immersed into the Japanese language and culture through many different mediums and language opportunities. Japanese students are also given the chance to immerse themselves within the Japanese language in real life opportunities such as the Makubetsu visit in Term 1 and our Japanese overseas excursions every 2 years.

ARTS

Visual Art

In this unit students will explore the elements and principles of art through making and appreciating a variety of artworks. Students will visually express thoughts, ideas and feelings about themselves, others and their environment through a variety of media such as drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking and sculpture. This unit of Visual Art provides the fundamental skills that will be developed further in Year 9 and 10.

Performing Arts

Drama in Years 7 and 8 offers students an introductory semester of the art form. Students will experience working in small groups to learn skills and devise small performances, the basics of stage use, including Tableau rules and sequencing, the basics of improvisation and mime and a chance to critically reflect on their newly acquired skills. Through experiencing this unit students become more confident working in group situations, listening, using voice effectively and performing for an audience.

Dance

In this unit students will have the opportunity to learn about the essential dance elements and how to apply these when creating their own choreography. They will also explore some basic contemporary dance technique and perform a class routine in a genre of their choice. This unit of Dance aims to prepare students for further development in the units of Dance in Year 9 and 10.

Instrumental Music (Yr 7)

This is a specialist class which must be selected at the time of enrolment at Melrose. It generally only runs in first semester, and is only available to Year 7 students.

In the Beginner Band class (Instrumental Music), students elect a Concert Band instrument to learn on, and form a Beginner Concert Band. After completing this course students will be eligible to join the Melrose Concert Band, which rehearses one lunch time per week. This class is also included in the annual music camp, which is a three day camp held at Birrigai.

COST: There are additional costs that may be incurred for instrument hire, band shirts and music camp.

Music (Yr 8)

In this unit students will be given the opportunity to learn basic music theory, including how to read music notation. They will also get an introduction to the guitar and the keyboard, and be able to develop their skills on an instrument of their choice. They will work both individually and in groups to present performances to the class, and to compose their own original music.



TECHNOLOGY

General Information Technology

Students will begin by demonstrating their competency with spreadsheet programs. They will then move on to develop new skills such as manipulating images, working with HTML and programming. Students will then extend on these new skills to develop a research project of their choice. If time permits, students will have the opportunity to do 3D animation and games programming.

Food Studies

Students begin this unit by learning about safety including hygiene, equipment safety and food handling. They will then move on to looking at food and nutrition, including the food groups and how these impact on our body. Through the term students will conduct a number of practical cooking sessions where they learn skills such as cutting and cooking techniques as well as organisation and cleaning skills. There is a focus on healthy choices, recipe modification and the use of fresh food from the school garden.



General Design

This course will offer students the foundations of design, giving students the opportunity to learn the principles of design and apply them to design challenges. Students will develop their knowledge and skills in creative thinking, visual communication, technology, 2D and 3D design and will focus on the investigation and development of design projects. In subsequent years, students will be encouraged to identify and address problems in their chosen areas including interior design, architecture, graphic design, jewellery design and photography.

Wood/ Metal Tech

In this unit students will be introduced to the wood and metal workshops. They will learn about workshop safety. On completion of the safety component the students will be introduced to some of the machines and hand tools available to them. They will get to use these tools (in addition to the laser cutter/engraver) to make a series of projects, which will develop their motor, as well as measuring and planning skills.

Fashion & Design

This course will introduce students to basic design elements used in producing creative prints using fibres, yarns and fabrics. They will examine the production process of the relevant raw material and explore any adverse effect these may have on the environment and possible solutions to this. Students will get the opportunity to design and make projects of their choice using available resources, paying attention to sustainable and ethical choices and be guided by 21st Century Fluencies.

ARTS

Dance

Dance classes aim to increase students' understanding of dance skills, the use of safe techniques and how to utilize choreographic devices and elements to create aesthetically pleasing movement. Performance, choreography and planning skills are developed through dance production, choreographic exercises and improvisation.

Students create group and individual dance works to perform at a variety of school and community events.

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts units are for new or continuing students. Students will be exposed to a range of techniques and skills including miming, script work, character work, improvisation, play building, voice work, monologues, Theatre Sports, Commedia Dell Arte, community performances, issues-based drama, Shakespearian dialogue, stage fighting and soliloquies. Continuing students will be involved in more advanced performance work for an outside audience including children's theatre and teaching drama in primary schools.

Performing Arts will help students improve their confidence, stagecraft and performance skills and as well as develop dedicated work and team habits.

ACE Drama (Yr 10) by application also available.



Visual Art

Students studying visual arts have the opportunity to work in a range of mediums over the course of the year. Emphasis will be on the development of their ideas through their visual arts process diary (VAPD) and to extend their visual literacy. For the study of art history students will explore artists from the past and present, both Australian and International, looking at them both for ideas on technique and for inspiration. Students will look at the various approaches artists have taken throughout art history to enhance their own practice. Opportunities for students to attend various Canberra and state galleries will be presented throughout the semester.

Topics include:

- Painting and drawing
- Printmaking and drawing
- Sculpting and drawing
- Major works and murals

ACE Art by application also available.



Media

Students learn visual literacy skills in regards to moving images. Students will learn the processes and skills involved in bringing a story to life from script through filming and editing to final production and colour grading across a range of tasks.

ARTS

Photography

This course is designed to equip students with practical skills in digital image capture and establishing a digital workflow, and increase student knowledge of, and critical appreciation for, photography as a fine art medium. Students will gain skills in using camera controls effectively; understanding exposure and measuring light; managing the digital darkroom (including skills in RAW file processing, smart object workflow, organising and storing digital files), and image editing using Adobe software (including skills in colour and tonal correction, retouching, working with layers, selections, and layer masks, and basic composition). In both making and studying, students reference, analyse and interpret the practice of relevant photographers and digital artists, to develop their understanding and knowledge.

Graphic Design:

This unit introduces the core graphic design concepts and principles, skills and technology required for graphic designers. Through a mix of research, theory and project work, students engage in a highly practical program of study focused on the development of a fundamental graphic design literacy and competency.

Over the semester, students will discover, design, and deliver a graphic design portfolio, working from individual design briefs. Students will have the opportunity to investigate both the technical and conceptual aspects of design and to debrief about their process.

Music

These are structured music classes expanding on the Year 7/8 unit to increase students' understanding of the concepts of music performance and theory. Students will have the opportunity to complete self-paced practical work aimed at increasing performance skills on their chosen instrument. This is balanced with a range of theory lessons which will develop music-reading skills and composition skills, and students will also learn about and analyse a range of different musical styles as part of this theory component. There are opportunities for students with more musical experience to extend themselves through learning different instruments or extending their existing repertoire. Students are also expected to participate in performances outside the classroom as part of this course.



Yearbook

Yearbook provides year 9 and 10 students with the opportunity to learn and apply design and journalism skills in the production of the school Yearbook. Students will cover all events that happen at the school and work towards producing articles and photos of a high quality culminating in a professionally printed booklet at the end of the year.

LANGUAGES

In years 9 and 10, students can elect to continue the study of a language or begin a new language study. Studying languages can open up countless opportunities for students and help them develop a diverse understanding of culture.

Please note:

- Language studies in years 9 & 10 are not available to native speakers of the target language
- Students cannot transfer into a language course mid-year
- Beginning language courses are for students who have not previously studied the language at a high school level
- Language units 1-4 are for students continuing their language studies from years 7 and 8.

Chinese

Mandarin Chinese is the second most spoken language after English in Australia. China is the second largest economy in the world and Australia's largest trading partner. The advantages and career opportunities involved with Chinese language studies are endless. Students will learn to communicate orally in predictable situations, exchanging information with others spontaneously. Students will learn to read and write simple hanzi characters and selected linked sentences in pinyin, using a variety of sentence structures. Cultural studies include practical application such as cooking Chinese food and dessert and engaging in Chinese arts including visual arts, music and dance. Extensive opportunities in competitions and excursions are available. In addition, students will have the first hand opportunity to put their language skills in practice through the biennial overseas trip to Taiwan.

Japanese

Choosing to study Japanese shows that you have what it takes to be successful in life. You possess determination, patience, and absolutely no fear of challenging yourself. You can develop and demonstrate to all that you have a multicultural perspective that goes beyond the familiar and show a deeper appreciation for a language that is rich in history and culture. You are adventuresome! Whether it is for future job reasons or a simple love of Anime or Manga Japanese is the subject for you. Students will develop their written hiragana and katakana characters whilst also increasing their range of kanji characters. In continuing Japanese, students have Individual Learning Programs set out to personally identify their capabilities and develop their knowledge in all of the language areas. Practical experiences including restaurant visits, cooking, crafts and more are available. In addition, students will have the first hand opportunity to put their language skills into practice through the biennial

overseas trip to Japan and the annual visit of Japanese students from the Makubetsu region.

Indonesian

Indonesia is Australia's closest neighbour and a number one travel destination for many Aussies. Studying Indonesian at Melrose is beneficial for developing strong language skills and diverse cultural experiences. Topics may be negotiated with the students to assist them to explore complex aspects of Indonesian culture and history. Students learn to communicate in familiar situations using both oral and written Indonesian with reading and listening activities based on authentic resources from Indonesia. Classroom experiences are enriched further with workshops at the Indonesian Embassy, an Indonesian Assistant, a behind-the-scenes tour at the zoo, restaurant visits and more. A phonetic language and use of the Roman alphabet, makes Indonesian an easily accessible language for all students.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students MUST select ONE core PE unit. Additionally PE may be selected as an Elective.

In addition to participating in the various activities associated with each of these units, students will participate in the following core topics, which will be integrated into all units throughout the year. Health, Fitness Testing, Cross Country, Social Dance and Athletics.

Physical Education (Core)

This course continues with a similar program experienced during years 7 and 8. The course components are negotiated by the class to cover a range of individual and team sports and activities.

Fit For Life (Core)

This class allows students to visit The Club Lime Gym at Mawson where they will learn to use a variety of aerobic and strength training equipment. Fitness activities are also undertaken at school which will include fitness testing, Mt. Taylor walks, cycling and games for fitness. The course is supplemented with specific theory lessons on the components of fitness and health education.

COST: \$250 Money for this course is paid to the Club Lime Gym and students will have access to this facility for 6 months during class time and outside of class time. Information about payments is provided in a letter home before activities take place.

Walk and Talk (Core)

This class is designed for students who wish to develop their fitness through walking in a non-competitive atmosphere. Most lessons involve walks in the local community. The course includes a theory component on metabolism and fitness and health education.

COST: Bus fare

Racquet Sports (Core)

In this class students will develop and apply skills in game situations in tennis, squash, badminton, table tennis and paddle tennis. The unit is designed to encourage students to participate in these sports as lifelong activities. Students will utilise school and community facilities.

COST: Not exceeding \$32. Money for this course is only paid to the Woden Squash Centre who is providing specific services at a venue off site. Information about payments is provided in a letter home before activities take place.

Team Sports (Core)

In this class students are provided with the opportunity to apply many of the skills they have developed in Years 7 and 8 Physical Education, in a team environment. The unit employs the Sport Education model, which gives students ownership of their learning by adopting an organisational role within the group. The sports undertaken may be selected from the following: basketball, volleyball, soccer, netball, touch, Australian Rules, flag football and European handball.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Femme Fit (Core)

The class is designed for female students who are interested in improving their health and fitness levels in a positive and encouraging environment with others of a similar level of fitness. Activities include walking, personal training, cycling, swimming, canoeing, sessions at the local gym and team sports relevant to the group dynamics. The class also involves theory lessons that address body image issues, healthy eating, and energy intake versus expenditure.

COST: \$10 per gym session

Sports coaching (Elective) Yr 10 ONLY

This class is for students who would like to develop coaching skills and work with younger children. Lessons are held at school and at local primary schools. Students develop skills through peer teaching and then progress to the primary schools later in the semester. Students learn to work together in peer coaching sessions and to work positively in groups with the primary age students.

Elite Sports program (ESP) (Elective)

This program caters for students who have shown a commitment to excellence in one or more sports and have demonstrated an ability to achieve academically. Enrolment in the program is determined on merit by a panel of staff at MHS following consultation with current coaches and parents. The program gives students additional time to work independently on their training and/or academic studies, in-school study lines under the supervision of the ESP teacher, and practical sessions at the local gym and at school.

COST: Approximately \$230.00 - \$330 for 6-12 month gym membership and ESP shirt.

Outdoor Education (Elective)

This unit provides the opportunity for students to participate in a wide range of outdoor activities which vary each semester. During the semester, students will have the opportunity to participate in a number of enrichment excursions. These may include rockclimbing, top belay, absailing, caving, canyoning, ropes rescue, navigation, survival, firstaid, snorkeling, canoeing, surfing and Bronze Medallion.

School based activities will include camp preparation, skill development, related theory and group preparation for the enrichment excursions. It is expected that students selecting this unit will show initiative, self-reliance and fully participate in the preparation and planning of the activities including curriculum excursions with the option of enrichment excursions. It is recommended that students participate in the enrichment excursions. However course learning and assessment can be completed without this but curriculum excursions are assessable.

COST: Various depending on activity. Indicative prices include:

- \$40 curriculum excursions
- \$300 enrichment excursions
- \$60 First Aid
- \$60 Bronze medallion



SCIENCE

Astronomy

Astronomy is the study of the universe and everything it contains. From the creation of black holes to the bizarre worlds being discovered every night, this course will take you on a tour of a cosmos you've never seen. Through a combination of presentations, activities, and Field Nights at Mount Stromlo Observatory, you'll be taken on an adventure through the solar system, out to the star forming regions of the Galaxy, and beyond to the beginning of the universe and the end of time.

Astronomy consists of four, independent one semester units. You can complete one semester as a stand-alone unit, or complete all four semesters over two years for a thorough understanding of the entire science.

Medical Science

This elective is aimed toward students who would like to choose courses leading to the study of nursing, medical laboratory analysis, physiotherapy, paramedic, pharmacy, medical science, health science, dentistry or medicine. The course aims to extend students' knowledge in specific areas of science by the review of scientific and medical evidence and emphasis of the fundamental chemistry and biology that underpins fields of medical science. Students will develop knowledge of the structure and function of the human body from the atomic level and to the coordination of body systems. This elective will improve students' knowledge in medical chemistry and biochemistry, molecular biology including introduction to microbiology and haematology, molecular genetics, physiology, nutrition, pharmacology, toxicology, neuroscience and biotechnology.

Forensic Science

Forensic science is the application of scientific knowledge to questions of civil and criminal law. It is a course rich in exploration and lab investigation which applies many disciplines of scientific study such as Biology/Anatomy, Chemistry, Physics and Maths to solving crimes. This course is a lab-based, hands-on course that will explore what forensic scientists do. Students will learn modern forensic methods and use scientific methods to solve legal problems. The course will focus on collection and analysis of crime scene evidence and explore lab analysis techniques. This semester long unit in which each week will be focussing on a new topic and method of investigation. For example one week students will be learning about trace fibres and the methods that are used to identify them. The final weeks of the semester is intended to be set up as 'crime scene investigation'. A simulated crime scene will be set up and students will be asked to apply their knowledge and skills to solve the crime.



TECHNOLOGY

Woodwork

Students have the opportunity to build on their practical woodworking skills through the construction of various different woodwork joints. They will then be able to either plan and construct a project that harnesses the newly acquired skills or complete one prescribed for them. The difficulty of the joints increases with each unit studied. In their 4th unit they may, under advisement, choose a self directed project which they must plan and construct. Safety is paramount to participation in these areas and will be revised and built upon each unit.

Metalwork

Students will have the opportunity to study metalwork in four semester units where hand and machine tools will be introduced as well as spot, oxy acetylene and Mig welding. Students will have the opportunity to use machinery such as lathes, vertical mills, and bending machines. The skills learnt will be consolidated with the construction of projects that utilise the skills and techniques learnt. Safety is paramount to participation in these areas and will be revised and built upon each unit.

Industrial Design

Students learn about ergonomics, sustainable design, planned obsolescence and the cultural impacts of creating things in a consumerist society. Students will plan and render concepts to solve design problems and prototype their designs with real models using a 3D printer.

Information Technology

ACE IT

Students will be given the opportunity to select and design a project of their own based on their interests and what they want to learn. This could be programming, web design, CAD, Industrial design, architecture, or media. They will need to identify their goal, the process required to meet the goal, a timeline and targets to meet for assessment. Throughout the process the students will be required to keep a journal of their work, reflecting on their progress, challenges and achievements. At the end of the unit students will present the process of their project to their peers. Entry is by application only.

Interior Design

This course will introduce students to the concepts of both residential and non residential Interior design. The focus of the unit is on technical knowledge and, professional practices and aesthetic principles and design process. Curriculum content includes residential and nonresidential interior design, architectural drafting, computer-aided design, and universal design. Also included are basic design, code standards, history of interiors and furnishings, color theory, products, business practices, visual presentations, and sustainable principles.

Architecture

Students learn how to plan and design a house based on block size, orientation, planning requirements, occupant expectations and budget. Students will learn about maximising EER through efficient use of building materials while minimising cost and environmental impact.

TECHNOLOGY

Jewellery Design

This course introduces students to the styles and functions of jewellery from historical times to the present and will provide students with the experience to express their ingenuity, culture, intellectual abilities and skills through designing in three dimensions. Students will explore different digital technologies for creative design and presentation, including CAD and Adobe for 3D printing and laser cutting, and learn to design fashion jewellery and jewellery from alternative and sustainable materials. The emphasis of this course is very much on the creative possibilities and design opportunities these technologies offer your design or art practice. Students will be encouraged to develop their design understanding through personalised projects, exploring the potential of working with CAD towards the production of small scale pieces.

Food studies

There are a range of Food Technology units on offer to cater for students considering a career in the food industry as well as those with a general interest in cooking. Subjects consist of both theory and practical components where students learn healthy planning and hygienic preparation of sweet and savoury meals.

Units of study include:

Entertaining and Hospitality - learn all the practical skills required to operate in the hospitality industry.

Food Studies - examine the changing food needs of individuals through their lives.

International Cooking - travel the globe exploring food culture.

Baking for Beginners - get creative while learning the craft of baking.

COST: Students may be required to provide ingredients to supplement individual projects.

Fashion and Design

Year 9 & 10 Fashion and Design has a range of units to select from, covering such things as Wearable Art, Leisure-Activewear and Fashion & Design. Underpinning these are individually selected, project-based opportunities where students design and devise their own creative outcomes. These might include arts and crafts for sale, sustainable fashion and accessories, or soft furnishings; the choices are only limited by your own imagination. Students will use the 21st Century Fluencies to design, devise and deliver their creative imaginings over the course of their unit of study while also learning safe and sustainable techniques.

COST: Some additional costs may be associated with these units such as purchase of fabric and patterns.

Computer Science and Engineering

In this course, students will learn how to build a custom PC. Students will explore the components and relationships that make up a computer both experientially by pulling apart and reassembling computers, and theoretically by creating an 'ideal' PC build list. Students will begin the course by pulling apart donated PCs and then learn to re-install each part. Once these computers have been reassembled, students will design a parts-list for an ideal computer. They may choose to create a gaming PC, a Photoshop PC, a Virtual Reality PC, whatever captures their interest. Students will then pitch their build-lists 'Shark Tank' style to try to get funding to build their computers.