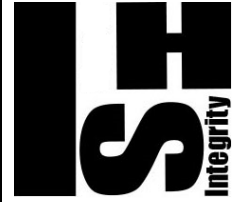




**STAGE 4 – YEAR 8  
COURSE  
INFORMATION HANDBOOK  
2025**



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## **Course Information:**

The courses you study in Year 8 will provide you with:

- Stage 5 requirements for your Record of School Achievement (issued if you leave school after completing Year 10 but before completing your HSC).
- Experiences from which to make informed choices for Year 9.
- A grounding in some skills needed for further study of Stage 5 courses.

In 2025, you will study the courses set out in the course pattern below. You will also choose two additional subjects.

## **Course Pattern for Year 8, 2025:**

English  
Mathematics  
Science  
HSIE  
PDHPE  
Elective Course Sem 1  
Elective Course Sem 2  
Technology Mandatory  
Sport  
Music/Art Rotation

## **Additional Subject Choices:**

Students will study two additional courses from the following list:

Agricultural Technology  
Dance  
Drama  
Food Technology  
Industrial Technology Metal  
Industrial Technology Timber  
Music  
Physical Activity and Sports Studies  
Textiles Technology  
Visual Arts

Satisfactory completion of these two courses is a requirement for the award of your Record of School Achievement if you leave school before completing your HSC in the future.

Each course will be studied for one semester (two terms). The aim of this pattern of studies is to enable you to have a range of experiences before making your Stage 5 course selections for Year 9.

You are therefore required to select six other course choices, because it may not be possible to meet all your first preferences for your electives.

You will find an outline of each of these subjects in the main section of this booklet.

### **A word of advice on making your choices:**

At this stage, it is too early for students to specialise in or expect vocational training. The object of school from Years 7 to 10 is to develop general, course and employment skills in basic areas (such as research skills; writing skills; speaking skills; experimental skills; teamwork; etc), and to provide a breadth of educational experiences to develop informed members of the community.

Don't Select subjects because:

- your friends are doing them! You could find yourself stuck in an elective you don't really like!
- you want to have, or to avoid, a particular teacher. You won't know who is taking classes until fourth term! All teachers can teach you if you give them the chance!
- you have heard they are "easy options". All courses require work and effort to complete satisfactorily.
- You have heard they have an excursion. Two terms is a long time to be in a course for the sake of a day or two of excursions.

Do select subjects which:

- you are or might be good at.
- you are interested in.
- you may need to develop skills in for later study.

**Head Teacher: Miss Peters**

**Cost: \$25**

### **Course Description:**

The study of Agricultural Technology develops knowledge, understanding and skills in the management of plant and animal enterprises and the technology associated with these enterprises. The course develops students' ability to solve problems; research, collect and organise information; plan and conduct practical activities; work as a member of a team and communicate information to a variety of audiences. Skills and interests that are developed can be used in students' everyday life.

Irrawang High School has a new Agricultural Technology Learning Centre. It also has a well-equipped school farm, with a range of plant and animal enterprises, that caters for a diverse variety of interests. Students undertake a range of practical 'hands on' experiences in lessons on the school farm, to complement work done in the classroom. Such practical activities occupy at least 50% of course time. A range of excursions is also offered to assist students to better understand class work.

### **Areas of Study:**

Students must complete a minimum of four agricultural enterprises by the end of Year 10. Agricultural enterprises may focus on plants or animals or integrated plant/animal systems. Both intensive and extensive enterprises are incorporated in the course.

Enterprises that could be studied include:

Vegetable Growing	Sheep
Poultry	Dairy Cattle
Pastures	Beef Cattle
Growing Native Trees	Aquaculture
Horticulture	Sweet Corn Production

### **Additional Requirements:**

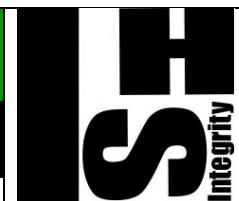
- Students must undertake a range of practical activities to satisfy syllabus requirements (minimum of 50% of course time). To ensure this is achieved students must demonstrate cooperative and safe work practices, including wearing covered leather shoes.
- Assessment techniques may include examinations, written or practical tests, research assignments, oral presentations, experimental work, practical work, peer assessment and self-assessment.
- Book requirements - one medium sized exercise book (preferably A4).

A contribution of \$25.00 is requested to help cover the cost of materials used in the course.

Maximum class size: 20 students

# DANCE

## FACULTY - CAPA



**Head Teacher: Ms Robinson**

**Cost: \$20**

### **Course Description:**

Year 8 Dance incorporates the practical and theoretical study of Dance. Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills about dance as an artform through dance performance, dance composition and dance appreciation. Students will have opportunities to perform in school at school assemblies and Showcase, and away at events beyond school such as Starstruck and Hunter Dance Festival.

### **Areas of Study:**

**Dance Performance:** Students will learn dance technique studying a range of dance styles through which students develop strength, flexibility, coordination, endurance and skill.

**Dance Composition:** Students will learn to create and structure movement to express and communicate ideas through the use of choreographic devices and the elements of dance (space, time and dynamics).

**Dance Appreciation:** Students will learn about what makes dance safe, the history of dance, and to analyse and describe dance performances through the elements of dance.

### **Additional Requirements:**

A contribution of \$20.00 is requested to cover the cost of materials used in this course.

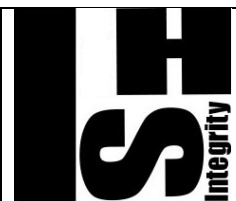
Maximum class size: 30 students

# DRAMA

## FACULTY - CAPA

**Head Teacher: Ms Robinson**

**Cost: \$20**



### **Course Description:**

In Year 8 students are introduced to the skills required when making, performing and appreciating drama. Drama encourages in students the development of self-confidence, problem solving techniques and leadership skills. Students will engage in lively practical activities to explore the elements of drama through a range of dramatic forms, performance styles and their dramatic conventions.

### **Areas of Study:**

Students will learn, individually and collaboratively, about:

- The Elements of Drama
- Creative Movement and Mime
- Improvisation
- Scene Structures

### **Additional Requirements:**

A contribution of \$20.00 is requested to cover the cost of materials used in this course.

Maximum class size: 30 students



### **Course Description:**

Food Technology equips students (both boys and girls) with the knowledge and skills necessary to make educated decisions related to everyday living. The course aims to promote an understanding of food processing, preparation, nutrition, and consumption. Students also experience a wide range of International dishes while studying the influence of Multiculturalism on Australia.

### **Areas of Study:**

- Nutrition and food preparation techniques
- International cookery
- Food service and catering

This course gives students the skills to ensure success in Years 9 and 10 Food Technology.

### **Additional Requirements:**

Approximately three quarters of lesson time is devoted to food-related practical tasks. Students will be required to:

- Wear enclosed leather shoes
- Wear appropriate apron (supplied by faculty)
- Supply appropriate table decoration
- Supply an A4 display folder

A contribution of \$50.00 is requested to cover the cost of materials used in this course.

Maximum class size: 24 students

### **Course Description:**

This course introduces students (both boys and girls) to a broad range of skills in the metal field. It allows students to work with a range of different metals, machinery and hand tools.

### **Areas of Study:**

Students will gain experience in practical design, and develop a range of skills using; marking out and bench tools, the use of the drill press and the use of specialized jigs and tooling to create a high standard of projects. They will also be exposed to Oxy-Acetylene equipment, showing them brazing/welding techniques.

This course will give students confidence in their abilities to construct projects with metal. Industrial Technology Metal is a preferred subject for the study of Industrial Technology - Metal in Years 9 and 10. Continuing onto Industrial Technology – Metals and Engineering in years 11 & 12.

Projects to be completed in this course will be a Set of Garden Tools.

### **Additional Requirements:**

A contribution of \$50.00 is requested to cover the cost of materials used in this course.

Students are required to:

- Wear solid enclosed leather shoes. Students who fail to do so will not be permitted to participate in practical lessons under WHS requirements.
- Supply an A4 exercise book for recording information.
- Supply a suitable hair restraint when using machinery if hair is long

Maximum class size: 20 students

### **Course Description:**

This course is an introductory technology lobe which will offer an elementary introduction to the Cabinetwork and Wood Machining courses available in Years 9 and 10. It is suitable for both boys and girls.

### **Areas of Study:**

Students will develop experience and techniques in both hand crafts and wood machining such as:

- drill press.
- disc sander.
- cordless drill
- jigs and templates
- all hand tools associated with wood working - planes, hammers, chisels, gauges, saws, marking out and checking tools.

### **Additional Requirements:**

A contribution of \$50.00 is required to cover the cost of materials used.

Approximately 75% of lesson time is devoted to practical tasks  
Students are required to:

- Wear solid enclosed leather shoes. Students who fail to do so will not be permitted to participate in practical lessons under WHS requirements.
- Supply an A4 display folder
- Supply a suitable hair restraint when using machinery if hair is long

Maximum class size: 20 students

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed for students who have a strong interest in developing their skills in the area of music. Students will be required to: develop a number of live performances, develop their listening skills, submit a research task and a composition based on a topic studied.

### **Areas of Study:**

Students will study a variety of music styles including;

- Rock Music
- Pop Music
- Theatre Music

The course is aimed at music for enjoyment as well as developing further skills that would assist in Stage 5 music and beyond.

### **Additional Requirements:**

A contribution of \$20 will be required to cover the cost of materials used in this course.

Maximum class size: 30 students

### **Course Description:**

This course helps students to identify the influence of sport and fitness in society today, and to assess and better understand their own physical capabilities. It will help develop a positive attitude towards increased participation in sport and assist talented athletes to improve their sporting performance.

Students will be involved in both theory and practical aspects of sport, exercise and fitness.

### **Areas of Study:**

#### **Theory:**

- Body system related to sport.
- Factors contributing to fitness.
- Principles of training.
- Outdoor recreation.

#### **Practical:**

- Analysis of human movement.
- Selected sports

At the conclusion of the course, we hope to have developed a commitment in students to realising their movement potential, and a respect for the values and attitudes of others. This course can then lead to Physical Activity & Sports Studies in Years 9 & 10, and to 2 Unit PD/Health/PE in Years 11 & 12.

### **Additional Requirements:**

Maximum class size: 30 students

### **Course Description:**

Textiles is an innovative course for both boys and girls. It broadens knowledge of and skills in the design, construction and manufacture of textiles. It develops competence in the manipulation of fibres, yarns and fabrics and develops expertise in the use of various technologies commonly found in practical textiles study.

### **Areas of Study:**

The course is divided into three main areas:

- Textile Structures and Properties: a simple introduction to various commonly used fibres, yarns and fabrics.
- Design and Construction: the design process, colour and elements of design: selection and use of equipment as well as construction techniques used in relation to manufacture.
- Textile Art: Looking at sources of inspiration, fabric decoration techniques, construction of a range of items.

### **Additional Requirements:**

Approximately three quarters of lesson time is devoted to practical work with various methods of assessment being used, including practical construction skills, research and design, assignments and examinations.

Students are required to:

- Wear solid, enclosed leather shoes. Students who fail to do so will not be permitted to participate in practical lessons under WHS requirements.
- Supply an A4 display folder.

A contribution of \$50.00 is required to cover material costs.

Maximum class size: 24 students

### **Course Description:**

Year 8 Visual Arts creates opportunities for students to experience the practice of printmaking, drawing and ceramics looking at various focus artists. Students will use unique style of patterns, geometric and organic shapes, and symmetry to explore tasks that lead into a Lino cut design and clay project. Visual Arts as a subject encourages the self-confidence, perseverance, creative problem-solving techniques, communication and collaboration skills with other students.

### **Areas of Study:**

**Artmaking:** Students will learn various drawing, printmaking and ceramic techniques with a focus on the Elements and Principles of Art. They will examine the practice of printmaking and ceramics in which they will develop their own unique designs and style.

**Critical and Historical Studies:** students will learn to investigate various printmaking artists with a focus on and complete a self-directed research tasks on these artists.

### **Additional Requirements:**

An interest in creativity and a desire to learn are required for this subject.

Maximum class size: 20 students

# Subject Equipment Requirements

Year 8 2025



Below is a list of equipment students will need per subject

Subject	Requirements
All subjects	Pencil case, black, blue and red pens, lead pencil, eraser, sharpener, ruler, highlighters, glue stick, scissors, coloured pencils, textas.
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 1 x 192 page A4 exercise books</li><li>➤ Display or document folders for projects</li><li>➤ Post-it-notes</li></ul>
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 128 page A4 exercise book</li><li>➤ Scientific Calculator (available front office)</li></ul>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 96 page A4 exercise book</li></ul>
HSIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 2 x 90 page A4 exercise books (1 for History and 1 for Geography)</li></ul>
PDHPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Correct practical attire</li></ul>
CAPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ 96 page A4 exercise book (Dance)</li><li>➤ 96 page A4 exercise book (Drama)</li><li>➤ 96 page A4 exercise book (Music)</li><li>➤ Plastic A4 Document Envelope (Music)</li><li>➤ A3 Visual Arts Process Diary (Visual Arts)</li></ul>
TAS (All Industrial Technology Courses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Leather Footwear</li><li>➤ 2 or 4 ring binder</li><li>➤ 96 page A4 exercise book Hat and sunscreen (Agriculture)</li><li>➤ Food container minimum 1 litre (Food Technology)</li></ul>





<b>Courses</b>	<b>Preferences</b>
Agricultural Technology	
Dance	
Drama	
Food Technology	
Industrial Technology – Metal	
Industrial Technology – Timber	
Music	
Physical Activity and Sports Studies	
Textiles Technology – Fashion and Design	
Visual Arts	

