



CURRICULUM HANDBOOK YEAR 8 – 2023

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

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KEY TERMS

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA)

This is the NSW government body responsible for the curriculum in all schools from Kindergarten to Year 12.

The Department of Education (DoE)

The governing body of all public schools.

Key Learning Areas (KLAs)

These are broad categories of subjects. The Years 7–10 curriculum is organised into eight key learning areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Human Society & Its Environment (HSIE)
- Personal Development, Health & Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA)
- Technological & Applied Studies (TAS)
- Languages

Core Curriculum

The Core Curriculum is the group of subjects studied by all students in a particular year level.

Elective Subject

An elective subject is a subject that a student may choose to study.

Stage

This is a period of learning, typically of two years' duration. Stage 4 refers to Years 7 & 8, Stage 5 refers to Years 9 & 10 and Stage 6 refers to Years 11 & 12.

Record of School Achievement (RoSA)

Certification students receive a RoSA if they leave school prior to completing the HSC.

100 Hour Elective

An elective subject that is studied in Year 9 only.

200 Hour Elective

An elective subject that is studied in both Years 9 & 10.

YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

All students will study the core curriculum subjects of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Human Society & Its Environment
- Personal Development, Health & Physical Education
- Technology and Applied Studies
- Music
- Visual Arts

Year 8 students are also given the opportunity to select a Passion Extension course. This elective allows students to extend upon their experience within a KLA they have particular interest or skills in.

Read the CURRICULUM HANDBOOK carefully with your parent or caregiver and discuss which courses best suit your interests. Talk to your teachers to find out more information about particular courses. Talk to other students about the courses, but remember:

Make your selection based on your interests, not what your friends are doing

Some courses have no fees, but others attract a fee contribution to cover the cost of materials and consumables. These course fees are **mandatory** and **must be paid** by students who wish to undertake these courses. Please take this into consideration when selecting the subjects you wish to participate in.

We will make every effort to ensure that you receive your preferred elective choices, but students are required to give a reserve choice in the event that a course does not have sufficient interest to run.

YEAR 8 ELECTIVES OFFERED IN 2023

PASSION ELECTIVE	KEY LEARNING AREA
Analysing Sport	PDHPE
Art and Design	CAPA
Drama	CAPA
Food, Glorious Food	TAS
Forensic Science	Science
Human Movement	PDHPE
Let's Play	CAPA
Weaving Warriors	TAS
Video Game Creator	TAS
Viva La Viva	Languages
Making it in Wood	TAS
Young Writers	English

ELECTIVE CHOICE PROCEDURE

Newcastle High School uses an online process for students to submit their preferred Electives. Once we receive this data, the elective line is established to meet the needs of the majority of students.

During Term 4, students will receive confirmation of the electives they have been allocated. There will be an opportunity to request changes to electives at that time.

Choosing Electives via Webchoice

1. Students log onto their DET Student Portal.
2. An email will be in the student's account, labelled *Subject Selections*.
3. Open the email and click on the link provided.
4. Choose your preferences using the drop-down menu, then press submit.

ANALYSING SPORT

PDHPE

Students will undertake an in-depth study of their chosen sport. Through research and practical application, students will gain a thorough understanding of the demands and requirements to become a *professional athlete*. Students will discover individual traits and characteristics which may contribute to a long and successful sporting career. They will also learn about the 'off field' responsibilities of sporting representatives such as media appearances, community functions etc. This course comprises approximately 50% practical and 50% theory and follows the inquiry based learning approach.

Students will compile a portfolio of their work to present at the end of the course.

MAIN TOPICS:

- History of the sport.
- Tactics to succeed.
- Physical and psychological demands on the body and mind for consistently high performance levels.
- Planning a training program.
- Off field requirements and responsibilities of the athletes
- Group presentation on findings.



FEES:	NIL, however, additional costs may be associated with any planned excursions throughout the semester.
REQUIREMENTS:	Wear PE uniform for practical lessons
CONTACT:	Mr McCafferty

ART AND DESIGN

CAPA

For whom is this subject intended?

Whether you're a beginner or a more experienced artist, the Art and Design elective has something for everyone. From basic drawing techniques to specialist digital illustration and photography, you are sure to find something to nourish your artistic impulses. The Art and Design elective is fun and relaxing, and will give you the chance to work on projects from real world scenarios like a real artist and designer.

Course Description

In this course you will have the opportunity to create images and graphics that you will use to put together an artistic portfolio. You will take a practical look at illustration before moving onto digital work for your designs, this includes drawing with wacom tablets and using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to create and refine your work. A popular unit in this course is the skateboard design unit. You will receive your very own timber skateboard deck which you will research, design, and apply graphics to, both traditionally and digitally. Wheels can be added to ride if you desire, or you can hang in your room as a piece of art.

Main Topics Covered

- Skateboard Design
- Traditional and Digital Illustration
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe Illustrator
- Photography
- Graphic Design



Course Requirements

Visual Arts Process Diary, felt tip pen, 2B, 4B pencils.

Further Information

Mr Kondov, Mrs Hasler, Ms Carter

Cost

\$40.00 (skateboard deck included)

DRAMA

CAPA

For whom is this subject intended?

If you are energetic, creative and enjoy working with others and having fun at the same time, then Drama is the option for you. This is a practical subject that gets you up and moving. You will have a lot of choice about what you will learn and what you will create in this elective.

Course Description

You will participate in a variety of dramatic activities from the backstage production, to acting on stage to increase your confidence, creativity, and critical thinking. You will have the opportunity to work with your peers to create performances about topics and issues you are in. Even if you do not wish to be an actor, Drama can enhance your skills that you will use in your everyday life.

Main Topics Covered

- Movie Making
- Theatre Games
- Improvisation
- Playbuilding
- Mime/Mask
- Script writing
- Costume Design
- Backstage Production



Course Requirements

Comfortable black clothes for performances

Further Information

Ms Fry

Cost

\$15

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

TAS

For whom is this subject intended?

This subject is full of interesting information and will appeal to any student who loves to prepare food and is interested in developing their skills in this area.

Course Description

In this course students will learn about food hygiene and safety, and the equipment required to perform a range of cooking processes.

They will demonstrate an understanding of the design process and provide designed solutions to a range of design briefs.

Main Topics Covered

Design Brief 1:

Introduces students to the kitchen as a practical workspace and involves students designing their own breakfast out of a given list of ingredients.

Design Brief 2:

Students have to design, make and package their own snack food.

Design Brief 3:

Students will plan and prepare a variety of sweet foods for a number of occasions.

Design Brief 4:

The last unit will focus on event management with student's catering for a function and/or running a coffee shop.



Course Requirements

Students must wear enclosed leather shoes and bring a container to each practical lesson.

Further Information

Mrs Munro

Cost

\$100.00

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Science

For whom is this subject intended? Interested and Talented Science students.

Course Description

Forensic science is a catch-all for many disciplines of science that may be used to help in the determination of a court case, either civil or criminal. In this course, students will apply concepts of biology, organic and inorganic chemistry, physics, genetics, psychology and anthropology.



Main Topics Covered

Students explore techniques used in:



crime scene investigation



microscopy



fibre and document analysis



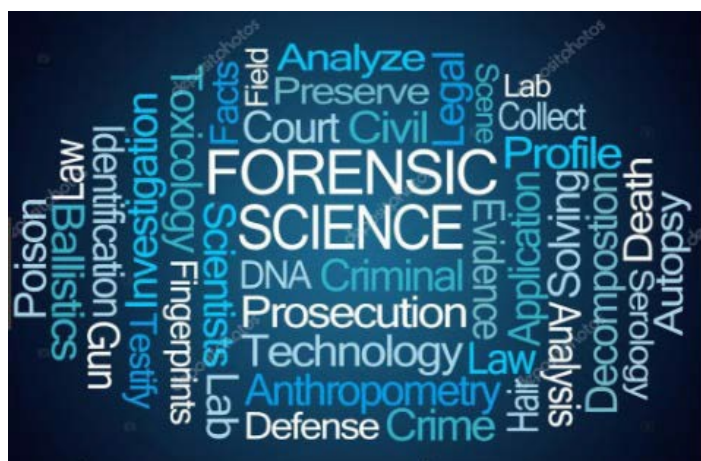
drug analysis and toxicology

pathology and DNA analysis



fingerprinting

Students will learn to observe, collect, examine, and evaluate evidence associated with criminal cases. Through scientific reasoning and critical thinking, students will evaluate the use of scientific principles as they apply to criminalistics and other life situations.



Course Requirements	Book or laptop, consent to learn content with mature themes
Further Information	See Ms Lidden, Mr Smith, Mr Bromfield or your Science teacher
Cost	\$30

HUMAN MOVEMENT

PDHPE

Human movement is a semester course offered through the PDHPE faculty. It is particularly suitable for students who enjoy the activity and theory concepts offered in their mainstream PDHPE lessons and would like to continue to learn more about physical activity and the lifelong benefits associated with it.

Students will participate in a range of individual, team and recreational sports. Through participation, they will gain an understanding of the rules of play, as well as the strategies and skills needed to effectively play the games. Students will learn about the benefits of being fit, the components of fitness and the link between physical activity and improved quality of life and wellbeing. The opportunity to participate in suitable recreational activities outside the school is a feature of the course. The course consists of approximately 50% practical and 50% theory.

The course comprises of modules on:

- Components of fitness
- Planning a fitness program
- Nutrition for sports performance and
- Healthy use of leisure and recreation time



Course Requirements	Wear PE uniform for practical lessons
Further Information	Mr McCafferty
Cost	NIL, however, additional costs may be associated with any planned excursions throughout the year.

LETS PLAY

CAPA

For whom is this subject intended?

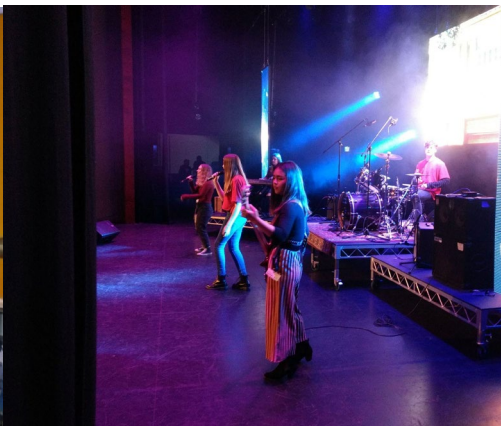
Are you interested in playing music in a group? Did you play a woodwind or brass instrument, percussion or sing in a choir? Have you had your eye on that electric guitar and want to learn how to play it? Have you ever wondered how a music recording is made? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then please consider choosing the *Lets Play* course.

Course Description

You will participate in a variety of activities that will help you develop skills applicable to the music industry. This course will include units that build your understanding of performance skills, writing and arranging songs, rehearsing, performing, and music technology. The course culminates in the creation of a music demo recording, using microphones, audio interfaces and a digital audio workstation. You may take on the role of performer, producer or audio engineer for the final project.

Main Topics Covered

- performance skills
- ensemble technique
- composing and arranging music
- sound reinforcement
- recording technology



Course Requirements

A passion for creating music

Further Information

See Mr. Lewis

Cost

\$20

WEAVING WARRIORS

TAS

For whom is this subject intended?

For creative students who love hands-on practical based learning, have an interest in textiles, art and jewellery making, and would like to know how to produce their own accessories, artworks and homewares.

Course Description:

Over the duration of this course you will have the opportunity to learn a range of traditional and contemporary weaving techniques to create a number of non-apparel and textile art projects including an accessory (e.g. jewellery or bag), an artwork and a homeware piece.

Main Topics Covered

- Traditional Indigenous methods of grass gathering, drying and colouration to create your own material for weaving.
- Raffia weaving techniques (jewellery and homewares).
- Tapestry weaving techniques (textile art).



Course Requirements

Materials for weaving will be supplied by the school. Jewellery findings and some decorative supplies for this project must also be supplied by the student.

Further Information

Mrs Munro

Cost

\$40.00

VIDEO GAME CREATOR

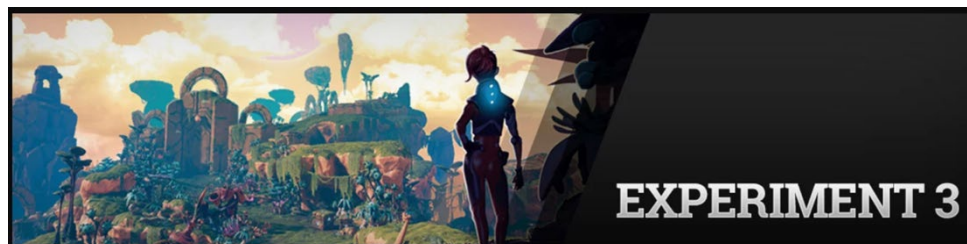
Computing Studies

For whom is this subject intended?

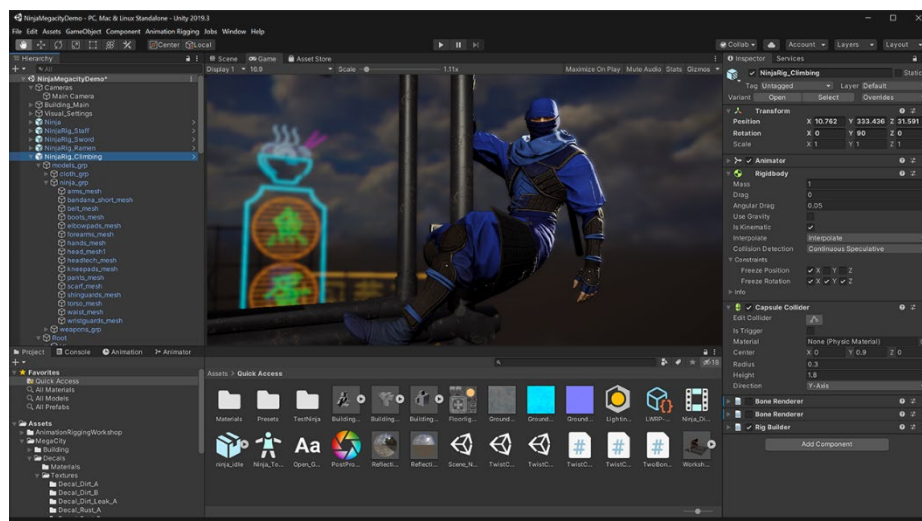
Students who are interested in video game design and creation should consider this course.

Course Description

Like playing on Xbox or Playstation? Maybe on PC? Have you ever tried to create your own video game? Students will learn advanced coding techniques linked to video game design.



Students will be provided the opportunity to enhance their own creations and adapt and modify code and design a game independently. This will allow the software solution to be customised and unique. All work will be conducted at school using the game development engine Unity and you can even export your game to take it with you. Students must have their own device and be capable of installing the necessary software.



Main Topics Covered

Students will be able to build an immense and interactive 3D world and populate it with a race car. You will work through online tutorials to learn new and exciting skills in collision detection, spawning and character creation. All work will be conducted at school using the game development engine Unity and the

coding development environment Visual Studio. You can even export your game to take it with you. Additional skills and character movements will be developed through the C# programming language.

Course Requirements Further Information

Windows Laptop or Apple MacBook

Students must have sufficient device storage and memory to download and install Unity and Visual Studio
See Mr Biddle

Cost

\$20

VIVA ITALIA VIVA LA FRANCE

Languages

For whom is this subject intended?

Students who are interested in world languages and cultures should consider this course.

Course Description

France and Italy are the world's most popular tourist destinations. This course is an introduction to French and Italian customs focusing on both countries rich cultural heritages. This course aims to explore and expand student's knowledge of aspects of Italian and or French culture.

This course will include elements of technology, creativity, independent work and self-reflection as well as the opportunity to work together in a team. The group will engage with adults from our school community with experience in aspects of French or Italian culture and attend excursions to local restaurants and cafes.



The project will culminate in an exhibition, where students will have the opportunity to display and discuss their work with family and members of the school community.

Main Topics Covered

Student will undertake a project based learning approach on a cultural aspect of their choice.

Possible areas of study:

- European sports
- Food
- Tourism
- Travel
- Architecture
- Fashion
- Technology
- Art



Course Requirements	Students will be provided with course materials
Further Information	Mrs Biasiol
Cost	\$20

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY – MAKING IT IN WOOD

TAS

For whom is this subject intended?

This course has been developed for year 8 students who have an interest in building projects from timber. They will develop their knowledge and understanding of materials, processes and techniques involved with wood working. Critical thinking skills are also developed through the engagement of creative practical problem-solving activities.

Course Description:

The purpose of the course is to develop and expand students' knowledge, skills and understanding in timber technologies, as well as to improve their ability to think creatively to produce solutions to practical problems. This will be achieved through safe interaction with tools, materials and processes in the design, planning, management and production of quality projects.

This course is a progression of what students have previously learnt or are learning in the Mixed Materials component of Technology (Mandatory). It will provide opportunities for them to engage in a diverse range of creative and practical experiences, through the design and building of timber products. Students will have the opportunity to operate specialised tools and machinery with the aim to further their knowledge and understanding of woodworking processes.

Main Topics Covered

Students undertake a range of learning opportunities using the following equipment:

- Drill Press
- Disc Sander
- Electric Sanders
- Battery and power Tools
- A wide range of hand tools



Course Requirements	Fees cover the yearly cost of all materials for practical tasks. Wear enclosed leather shoes and individual safety glasses are preferred.
Further Information	Mrs Munro
Cost	\$75

For whom is this subject intended?

Students who love expressing themselves through the written form, reading and engaging in designing and creating a written text of their own.

Course Description

This course will provide students with the opportunity to create and publish a text of their choice and explore the world of literature. The elective is designed for all interests and learners taking you through the five core stages of publishing – planning, drafting, editing, publication and promotion. Individual and workshop approaches to learning will be used to assist students in the development of knowledge and skills required for planning, editing and drafting a range of texts.

Main Topics Covered

- Written texts; poetry, short stories, feature articles, novella
- Visual texts; picture books, manga, comic books, zines
- Auditory texts; spoken word, dramatic texts, podcasts

Students will create their own collection of texts or substantial piece of literature. This process will allow for:

- Research and interviews
- Drafting and workshops
- Editing tips and professional editing strategies

For publication and promotion students will be assisted in setting personal goals that will provide real-world relevance for their writing. This may include: entering official creative writing competitions, publishing their work online, writing submission letters to publications (such as local circulations) and/or performing a reading to local Primary Schools or other public places such as Aged Care Facilities. A focus on social and emotional qualities such as resilience, self-expression, applying feedback and motivation will underpin each workshop.



Course Requirements	Students will need an A4 exercise book and A4 Visual Art diary.
Further Information	Ms Edwards
Cost	NIL



Respect, Responsibility & Participation

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