



Aquinas College

MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SUBJECT BOOKLET 2010

(Version 1)

for

Year 9

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# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS

## THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

### Year 9 – The Choice is Yours

Following the foundation year of study in Year 8, students then begin to select subjects they enjoy in Year 9. Year 9 students study both core subjects and select to study 3 elective subjects per semester.

Core subjects include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education
- Health & Physical Education
- Study of Society and Environment

Elective subjects can be chosen from the areas of:

- Business Studies
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Japanese
- Media Studies
- Music
- Visual Arts

Students may only study an elective once during the year.

#### External Assessments

In 2009, Year 9 students will be involved in QCAR testing and also the National Assessment Program.

QCAR (Queensland Curriculum, Assessment & Reporting) is a tool used by the QSA (Queensland Studies Authority) to inform the school community of student standards. These guidelines support the development of curriculum in the Middle School. By 2010, this will include QCAT tests in English, Mathematics and Science.

The National Assessment Program will assess students in the areas of literacy and numeracy. These tests assess students in the literacy areas of reading, writing, spelling, punctuation and grammar and the numeracy areas of number, measurement, chance and data, space, working mathematically, algebra function and pattern. Following the tests, schools and students will receive a statement of performance in relation to the national benchmarks.

Select Well – Study hard!

#### DISCLAIMER

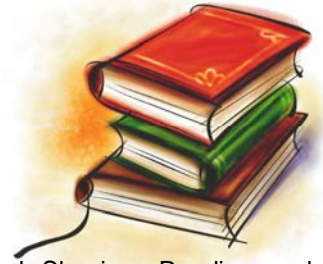
The college must have certain teachers and equipment to run some courses. If the college loses access to these resources, the college will attempt to provide students with alternative opportunities to complete the courses and related qualifications. The college retains the right to cancel a course if it is unable to meet these requirements. Students are not guaranteed to be able to study every subject they select.

**YEAR 9  
CORE  
SUBJECTS**

# ENGLISH

## Year 9

Heroes  
Electives – Choice of 5  
Film  
Literature Circles  
Adolescence



- Major Course Criteria : Speaking and Listening, Writing and Shaping, Reading and Viewing.
- Assessment Plan : Each semester, a student's folio must include:  
- 2 written tasks  
- 1 test under controlled conditions  
- 1 oral task  
QCAR testing will occur as part of the Year 9 course.  
National Testing Literacy will occur as part of the Year 9 course.
- Career Possibilities : English is basic to any career or profession. Currently, students cannot achieve direct access to university without a Sound Achievement in English.
- Head of Department : Mr Stephen Sutherland

# HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## Year 9

- Semester 1 : Health – Sexual Health and Drug Education: Controlling Disease, Making Choices about Drugs, Adolescence and Change, Harm Minimisation.
- : Physical Education – AFL, Softball, Athletic Field Events.
- Semester 2 : Health -Sports Injuries and First Aid: Preventing Injury, and Nutrition.
- : Physical Education - Basketball, Cricket, extension work in individual and team skill acquisition.
- Head of Department : Mr Adam Sammartino



# MATHEMATICS

## Year 9

As a two year program of study, Mathematics in the Middle School seeks to strengthen and develop concepts through study in five different strands: Number, Patterns and Algebra, Measurement, Chance and Data and Space. Due to the structure of the syllabus, topics within the strands are studied at different times to provide an interesting and varied work program.

Assessment Plan : Students will have class tests on the completion of each topic studied (Common Assessment Items) and will sit for a major examination at the end of each term. The emphasis of this examination will be on current work, however, previous concepts will also be tested on a continual review basis. Each assessment item will include problem solving tasks as well as theoretical application. Both National and QCAR testing will occur as part of the Year 9 Mathematics program.



Head of Department : Mr Leo Hanrahan

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Year 9

Religious Education at Aquinas College is an essential component of the academic program for each individual student. The Christian identity and philosophy of the College is normative for its broad based curriculum. Within this thematic approach are four major strands of study, namely *Scripture, Beliefs, Celebration and Prayer, and Morality*. The diversity of beliefs within our multicultural society is deeply respected but critiqued within a Christian and Catholic appreciation of life and spirituality.

Studies in Religious Education include:

- Scripture:
  - Interpreting Scripture
  - Early Church St Paul
- Morality:
  - Moral Issues & Integrity
  - Social Action of the Church
- Celebration & Prayer
  - Sacraments: Initiation, Healing, Commitment
  - Making meaning through Prayer & Ritual
- Beliefs
  - What we believe
  - Jesus: the reason why we believe
  - Our Church: Structures and Practices. Social Justice



Major Course criteria : Scripture, Beliefs, Celebration and Prayer, Morality.

Assessment Plan : Creative and research assignments, class activities.

Head of Department : Mr Bryan Foster

# SCIENCE

## Year 9

Semester 1 – Term 1

Natural & Processed Materials

- Types of reactions
- Rate of reaction
- Compounds

Semester 1 – Term 2

Energy & Change

- Heat
- Light
- Sound
- Electricity

Semester 2 – Term 3

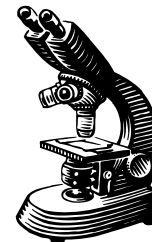
Life & Living

- Systems of the Body
- Survival

Semester 2 – Term 4

Earth & Beyond

- Change on earth
- Plate Tectonics



Major Course Criteria: Students understand that science is a way of thinking and working, and they apply their scientific knowledge to make responsible and informed decisions about real-world issues. They identify problems and issues, design and conduct scientific investigations using specific skills and procedures, and communicate their conclusions, explanations and findings. Students reflect on investigations to propose and justify improvements and evaluate impacts.

Year 9 Science is divided into five broad strands:

- Life & Living
- Energy & Change
- Natural & Processed Materials
- Earth & Beyond
- Science & Society.

Assessment Plan: Each term a Practical Investigation or Research Assignment relating to the topic studied, an exam and various homework tasks will be completed.

Year 9 students may also undertake a QCAR (*Queensland Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Framework*) Assessment Task. The timing of this task is under the direction of QSA (*Queensland Studies Authority*).

Head of Department : Mr David Bailey

# STUDIES OF SOCIETY and ENVIRONMENT

## Year 9

Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE) is the fascinating study of how people interact with their environment. The purpose of SOSE is to give students the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills in a range of topics such as History, Geography, Economics, Culture and Law and Government.

Semester 1	:	Unit 1 : Medieval Europe – Castles and Knights Unit 2 : Renaissance and Reformation Unit 3 : Politics and Law in Action
Semester 2	:	Unit 1 : Restless Earth / Weather / Hazards Unit 2 : Practical Examination Unit 3 : Independent Study Assignment
Major Course Criteria	:	Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE) criteria include: Knowledge and Understanding, Research Skills, Evaluation and Communication.
Assessment Plan	:	Assessment will include examinations in Knowledge and Understanding, the inquiry processes of Research, Evaluation and Communication.
Head of Department	:	Mr Tony Emerson





**YEAR 9  
ELECTIVE  
SUBJECTS**

# BUSINESS STUDIES



## FNS10104 Certificate I in Financial Services

**Subject Overview** : Year 9 Business Studies looks at the different ways businesses in the wider community are able to make money, promote their products and operate internally on an every day basis.

Embedded within the course will be the opportunity to attain the Certificate I in Financial Services. The course is designed to facilitate an understanding of the Australian Financial Service Marketplace.

To attain the Certificate I in Financial Services 5 units of competency must be achieved:

- FNSFLIT201B – Develop and use a personal budget
- FNSFLIT202B – Develop and use a savings plan
- FNSFLIT203B – Develop understanding of debt and consumer credit
- FNSFLIT204B – Develop understanding of superannuation
- FNSFLIT205B – Develop understanding of the Australian financial system and markets

**Assessment** : All assessment tasks have been created to represent real life situations. Students will be expected to complete three tasks over the course.

1. Introduction to Consumer Literacy and Smart Savings
2. Introduction to Financial documents
3. Marketing assignment using the marketing mix

**Pathways** : Students completing this subject will be well placed to enter subjects in year 10 offered in the business department. These include.

1. Business Communications and Technology
2. Tourism
3. Business Organisation and Management
4. Accounting

Please note the certificate component of this subject will be offered pending approval by QSA.

**Head of Department** : Mr Steven Fox



# DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

## Year 9

Semester 1 & 2 : Design Technology encompassing Materials Design Technology & Graphics.

Assessment Plan : Students will be assessed in terms of their:

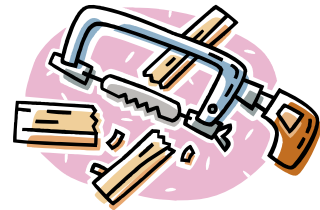
- demonstrated awareness and exercise of safety in the workshop environment
- ability to communicate design ideas and developments
- production of a quality product
- techniques used to transform and transmit information to different audiences

Comment : Students will experience a range of design and construction tasks using a range of materials. Through the production of a variety of projects students will have the opportunity to work with industrial machinery and processes in a workshop environment. They will be expected to support their design ideas through the use of 3D computer modelling and traditional graphic skills.

Head of Department : Mr Brad Pledge

### Special requirements

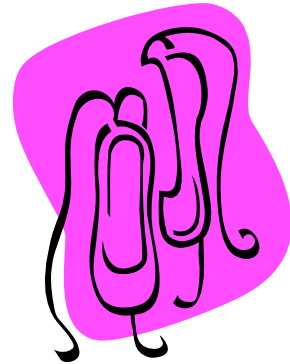
An additional subject fee will apply to cover costs of material used.



# DANCE

## Yr 9

Semester 1 & 2	Students learn the basic skills and components of dance through a range of practical tasks in choreography and performance. Students work both collaboratively and individually to create work for a specific audience and purpose. Students also learn to appreciate dance works by analysing dance components and using appropriate terminology.
Assessment Plan	Dance styles studied: Popular dance (funk, hip/hop), Contemporary and Jazz. Performance - of student and/or teacher choreographed work in a range of dance styles. Choreography - students learn to manipulate the dance components to create dance work for a particular purpose. Appreciation - students analyse the elements of dance from various cultural and historical contexts.
Facilities	Dance classes will occur in the newly built dance studio fully equipped with specially sprung floors, mirrors and barres.
Comment:	A very exciting, physical and challenging course for students with an interest in dance or who wish to further their ability and experience in this art form. Students will also have the opportunity to work with outside, professional artists in dance and attend professional performances within and beyond the Gold Coast community.
Head of Department:	Mr Arthur Henry (Co-ordinated by: Ms Kirsty Sangster)



# DRAMA

## Year 9

Semester 1 & 2	:	Physical Theatre – In small groups, students devise a physical theatre performance from skills learnt in class. Clowning Routine – working with professional entertainers, students devise clowning routines, in pairs, and perform their routines for their peers and primary school students from Guardian Angels Primary School.
Assessment Plan	:	Practical – improvisation, role play, student devised drama, clowning skills and clowning routine.  Written – Clowning assignment.
Resources	:	Drama Centre, Studio, visiting professionals, lighting and sound.
Career Possibilities	:	Drama is an essential subject for any aspiring student in the Performing and Creative Arts. Drama offers what most vocations demand, a high level of personal, group and public communication skills (e.g. law, public relations, politics, advertising, journalism, business management and the entertainment industry).
Comment	:	An exciting and challenging course that focuses on the student's improvisational, voice and movement skills while developing their confidence and interpersonal skills.
Head of Department	:	Mr Arthur Henry



# HOSPITALITY

## Year 9

Hospitality incorporates various skills including the design process and practical skills from Hospitality. Students will study food and nutrition with a practical application for two periods per cycle. They will cook at least once per cycle.

Semester 1	:	The design process continues with direct application to nutrition. The influence of the Hospitality Industry is studied this semester. This includes Year 9 hosting minor functions in the restaurant. Students focus on festivals and celebrations and the design and planning of parties.
Semester 2	:	In the final semester students will use the design process to investigate specific areas of food preparation. This involves the study of international breakfasts, preparation of these foods according to industry trends and visiting establishments offering breakfasts. In the final term "mobile lunches" are investigated using the design process. This includes BBQs and picnics.
Major Course Criteria	:	The Design Process and Practical Skills – the course requires originality, practical skills, knowledge and motivation.
Special Facilities	:	Saniuqa Restaurant and outdoor deck. This fully functional restaurant with Espresso machine seats up to 90 guests. The restaurant is linked to a well-equipped kitchen.
Assessment Plan	:	Teachers choose from a variety of test instruments that are appropriate to the course. Examples that may be chosen include assignments using the design process, class tests and practical assessment.
Comment	:	This is not only a fun, informative subject, but extremely relevant to each student's life. A wide variety of learning experiences are employed, including the use of technology. One excursion is offered in Year 9.
Head of Department	:	Mr Krijn van Gils

### Special requirements

An additional subject fee will apply to cover costs of materials used and excursions.



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### Year 9

In this course students will be prepared for the 21st Century through the study of photographic design, web design and animation

#### Course Outline:



Unit1. Graphic design, capturing and manipulating digital still images.

Unit 2. Web portfolios and building a basic client website.

Unit 3. Enhancing the user experience and digital narratives with Flash animation.

#### Aims and Objectives of the Course:

Students will develop key skills in digital communication and new media.

#### Forms of Assessment:

Assessment will be project work and the completion of practical tasks.

#### Skills and qualities needed to be successful in this subject:

Students need to bring with them a sense of organisation and creativity.

#### Tertiary study and career pathways relevant to this subject:

Careers involving digital media, web design, game design, graphic animators, etc.

Head of Department : Ms Katrina Nicholson

## JAPANESE

### Year 9

Semester 1 : A review of introductory skills in Japanese language.

Semester 2 : Students study topics about positions of objects, wants, counting things, costing things and festivals. It is expected that by the end of Year 9 students have mastered the katakana script and can recognise some familiar kanji.

Major Course Criteria : The course involves the four macro skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. All students are encouraged to develop these skills so that they may be able to communicate in the language and continue their study of Japanese in Year 10.

Assessment Plan : Although the four macro skills are highly important, student achievement levels are assessed according to the LOTE Syllabus, including comprehending and composing. Assessment instruments include anecdotal records, performances, responses and classroom participation.

Text used is Mirai Book 2 which exposes students to vocabulary, grammar and cultural aspects of the language. Mirai Book 1 Workbook should be kept from Year 8.

Head of Department : Mr Wallis Anderson



# MEDIA STUDIES



## MEDIA

Students who study Media will focus on producing and responding to meaning in media texts. Students develop an understanding of five key concepts that are common to communicating through all forms of media: *media languages, technologies, audience, institutions and representations*.

Studying Media deepens students' understanding of the enjoyment provided by the media. This subject develops more active and critical media users who will demand, and could contribute to, a greater diversity of media in the future. Students will become equipped to live in a global community that communicates through various technologies that combine *still and moving images, words and sounds*.

There are **three key** areas in Media:

1. Constructing media : Students engage in experiences through practical activities that create, construct and produce media texts with increasing complexity, using the language and technologies of media. For example, students might *create the front cover of a magazine, interview talent and write a story for a radio news bulletin or produce a television advertisement*.
2. Producing meaning : Students produce meaning for many audiences and contexts through a variety of forms and genres used by the media to communicate, including *newspapers, picture books, radio, television, film and video*, as well as a *vast range of popular cultural forms that students read, view, listen to, wear, buy, swap, collect, play, consume or interact with on a daily basis*.
3. Responding to meanings : Students develop skills in critical appreciation and analysis of representations. Media enables them to respond to the role institutions play in the production of meaning for various purposes and contexts. The contexts may encompass the *cultural, social, historical, political and economic* at the point of production and delivery to audiences.



Head of Department : Mrs Helen Chamberlain

# MUSIC

## Year 9

- Harmony & Arranging : A study of the basic skills of music related to the practical activities of performing and composing. Emphasis will be on working in groups to create Music.
- Jazz : Students will explore genre specific activities in performing and composing reinforced by the analysing of the standard jazz repertoire.
- History of Music : Students will receive an overview of different historical genres of music and deconstruct key musical works from each era.
- Industry Study : (Recording technology)  
Students will learn to use current music technology to produce music and look at industry practise in producing CDs.
- Head of Department : Mr Ray Lawn





## VISUAL ARTS

### Year 9 - ELECTIVE

- Semester 1 : In Visual Arts students explore a variety of media and techniques as they research and analyse the images and objects of artists, designers and craftspeople. Students will complete a number of practical activities based on a selection of learning experiences from a range of units. These experiences will explore media areas that include Drawing, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Printmaking and Mixed Media.
- Semester 2 : Students will complete a number of practical activities. These activities will be different from those completed in semester 1. These experiences will explore media areas that include Drawing, Painting, Photography, Sculpture, Printmaking and Mixed Media.
- Assessment Plan : Practical folios – Drawing, painting, printmaking, set design, photography, sculpting and constructing.  
Written – Essay, visual diary, work books, web activities.  
Oral – analysis of artworks.
- Comment : In Visual Arts students engage in experiences to develop personal expression, aesthetic judgement and critical awareness. Students get satisfaction and enjoyment from making images and objects and displaying them.
- Head of Department : Mrs Helen Chamberlain

### Special requirements

An additional subject fee will apply to cover costs of material used.

