



# Timbarra P-9 College

# 2026

# Year 9 Handbook

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## Introduction

Year 9 is an important year for all students – it is a year when students can begin to make choices regarding subjects and pathway programs.

As they enter this phase of their school life, students will be expected to take greater responsibility for their own learning. The subject offerings will provide opportunities for students to explore areas of interest, and possibly provide some background for subject selection in later years.

In the Year 9 program, students will undertake the core subjects of:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Humanities
- Health
- Physical Education

In addition to the core subjects, the students will study four elective subjects. There are guidelines in place for this process to ensure that the College meets the curriculum provision requirements of the Department of Education.

### Elective selection guidelines

- Students will select one semester-long elective from **The Arts** learning area.
- Students will select one semester-long elective from the **Technology** learning area.
- Students will select two other semester-long electives from any learning areas.

Every student will be required to list electives in order of their preference. Whilst every attempt is made to secure a student's first preferences, this will not always be possible. The final decision regarding enrolment in electives rests with the Principal and the Secondary Leadership team.

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## Secondary Leadership Team

The following College staff may be of assistance when planning your Year 9 Course. We encourage you to contact any of our staff members, please call the College on 9704 2744.

| Role  | Staff Name         |
|---|--------------------|
| Secondary Teaching and Learning Assistant Principal       | Rebekah Nicholas   |
| Secondary Sub-School Leader                               | Tom Andrews        |
| Careers and Pathways Practitioners                        | Kelsea Steele      |
| English Learning Area Leader                              | Daniel Mastrolembo |
| Humanities Learning Area Leader                           | Matthew Di Nardo   |
| Maths Learning Area Leader                                | Michael Molinia    |
| Science Learning Area Leader                              | Jay Chew           |
| PE/Health Learning Area Leader                            | Kealeigh Brown     |
| Arts and Technology Learning Area Leader                  | Eric Stock         |
| Sports Academy Coordinator                                | Ben Closter        |
| Music Academy Coordinator/ Instrumental Music Coordinator | Eric Stock         |
| STEM Academy Coordinator                                  | Jay Chew           |

## The Course Selection Process

This guide has been developed to support the Year 9 subject selection process for students, parents and guardians. It is a guide only, and not intended to be all encompassing. Students need to be responsible to conduct research in their future career pathway.

### Year 9 Subject Key Dates:

- Year 8 into Year 9 Subject Selection Information Assembly– Week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September.
- Subject selections for all other **Electives due by Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2025.**

These are extremely important dates. It is during this time that Year 8 students will select the course of study they plan to undertake in 2026.

We anticipate that student and subject groupings for 2026 should be finalised by Week 3 Term 4 2025. Parents will be notified of total course costs but should be aware that some courses are more costly due to the activities undertaken and resources used. **Approximate costs for elective subjects are outlined in this handbook.**

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## Year 9 Program

The Year 9 program requires students to attend 50 periods per cycle (the same as from Years 7 and 8). These 50 sessions include a combination of **core** subjects and **elective** subjects.

### Core Subjects

Core subjects run for the full year and provide students with the basic skills and knowledge needed for the world beyond school, as well as preparing students for further study in years 10, 11 and 12.

### Elective Subjects

| <b>Year 9 2026 - Core Subjects</b>        |
|---|
| English - 9 periods                       |
| Maths - 9 periods                         |
| Science - 4 periods                       |
| Humanities - 6 periods                    |
| Physical Education – 5 periods            |
| Health Education - 3 periods              |
| Academy or Skills for Success - 2 periods |

| <b>Year 9 2026 – Arts Electives</b>                      |
|--|
| Students will select <u>at least one</u> from this group |
| Visual Arts: Ceramics                                    |
| Visual Arts: Visual Art                                  |
| Visual Arts: Photography                                 |
| Performing Arts: Music Performance & Production          |

| <b>Year 9 2026 – Technology Electives</b>                |
|--|
| Students will select <u>at least one</u> from this group |
| Technology: Digital Technologies                         |
| Technology: Hospitality and Food Technology              |
| Technology: Podcasting                                   |
| Technology: Textiles and Fashion                         |

| <b>Year 9 2026 – Other learning area electives</b> |
|--|
| Humanities: Business Futures                       |
| Humanities: Horrible Histories                     |
| Science: Forensic Science                          |
| Science: STEM Futures                              |
| Health and PE: Recreation and Sports Coaching      |
| Health and PE: Sports Science                      |

## Year 9 Academy Programs

### Sports Academy

Students selected into the Timbarra College P-9 Sports Academy will train within their chosen sport for 90 minutes each Wednesday afternoon by an external Head Coach and assisted by Timbarra PE staff. Students will also be required to attend two lunchtime fitness sessions a week run by a sports science team, Iron Tribe. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in matches amongst other schools within the South-East region. The following disciplines are offered:

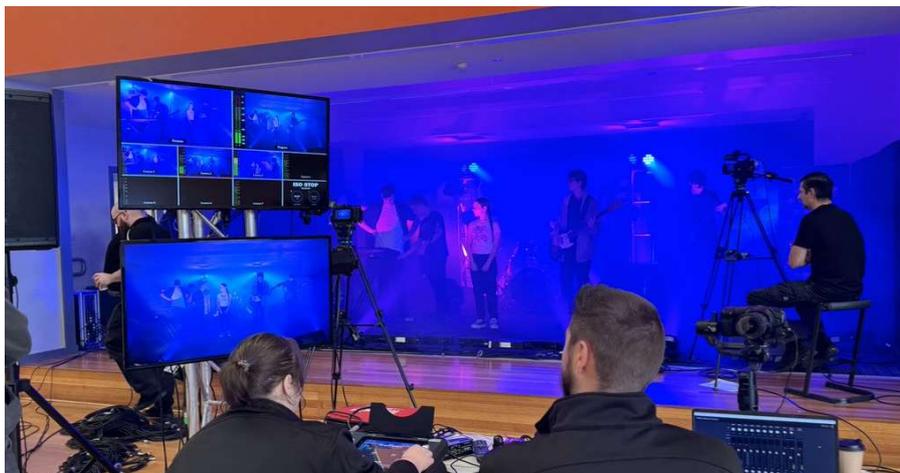
- AFL
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Netball
- Martial Arts



### Music Academy

In the Music Academy bands are formed that gig, tour, record and play professional standard performances from Term 1 each year. Our Timbarra bands will perform regularly at a range of events and venues. The program is an initiative of the Australian Music Association and was created to support the development of live music in Australia.

In addition to Classroom Music and the Secondary Instrumental Music Program, Music Academy students have an additional dedicated band session per week. Students are also required to practice at home. Students in Year 9 can put forward an Expression of Interest to join this program.



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## Possible Pathways to Year 12

| Year 9 Subject     |   | VCE/VCE VM Subjects   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Core Subject       | Elective Subject                                    |   |
| English            | NA  | <b>VCE:</b> English, English Literature, English Language<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Literacy  |
| Maths              | NA  | <b>VCE:</b> Foundation Maths, General Maths, Maths Methods, Specialist Maths, Accounting<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Numeracy   |
| Science            | Forensic Science<br>STEM Futures                    | <b>VCE:</b> Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology, Environmental Science<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Certificate II in Sampling and Measurement, Certificate III in Laboratory Skills |
| Humanities         | Horrible Histories<br>Business Futures              | <b>VCE:</b> History, Geography, Legal Studies, Business Management, Economics, Accounting<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Certificate II in Small Business Operations and Innovation        |
| Health             | Recreation and Sports<br>Coaching                   | <b>VCE:</b> Health and Human Development<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Cert II in Disability Studies, Aged Care, Child Care, Certificate II in Health Support Services                    |
| Physical Education | Recreation and Sports<br>Coaching<br>Sports Science | <b>VCE:</b> Physical Education, Outdoor Education<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Cert II in Sport and Recreation, Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation                                     |
|                    | Visual Art<br>Ceramics                              | <b>VCE:</b> Creative Practice, Making and Exhibiting, Visual Communication Design, Product Design & Technologies<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Certificate II in Visual Arts              |
|                    | Photography<br>Podcasting                           | <b>VCE:</b> Media, Visual Communication Design<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Certificate II in Creative Industries, Certificate III in Screen and Media                                   |
|                    | Music Performance &<br>Production                   | <b>VCE:</b> Music Inquiry, Music Composition, Music Contemporary Performance, Music Repertoire Performance<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Cert II in Music                                 |
|                    | Hospitality & Food<br>Technology                    | <b>VCE:</b> Food Studies, Health and Human Development<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Certificate II in Hospitality, Certificate II in Cookery   |
|                    | Textiles and Fashion                                | <b>VCE:</b> Product Design & Technologies<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Certificate II in Applied Fashion Design and Technology, Certificate II in Apparel, Fashion and Textiles          |
|                    | Digital Technology                                  | <b>VCE:</b> Algorithmics (HESS), Applied Computing<br><b>VCE VM:</b> Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies   |

## Core Subjects

### English

The Year 9 English course is developed from the expectations set in the Victorian Curriculum documents, and focusses on reading, writing, and speaking and listening. Students will work towards expanding their ability to comprehend and analyse a range of literary texts, as well as focus on a number of writing strategies. Lastly, students will be supported to develop stronger presentation and speaking skills, through both oral presentations, and group interpretations of texts.

| Term One                         | Term Two                     | Term Three                        | Term Four       |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Gothic Fiction – Narrative Texts | Issues and Language Analysis | Novel Study: Catching Teller Crow | Film Text Study |

### Maths

Year 9 Mathematics is a continuation of the Victorian Curriculum that is studied in Years 7 and 8. It builds on the skills that have been learnt in past years and helps students to prepare for future mathematical studies in Year 10, VCE or VCAL.

Teachers will cater for students' learning needs throughout the year, within their classes. The allocated learning activities will be based on each student's pre-test learning data and the best outcomes for the students.

| Term One                | Term Two           | Term Three      | Term Four                         |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Real Number Measurement | Algebra Statistics | Geometry Chance | Linear & Non-Linear Relationships |

### Science

From the structure of a tiny atom and the complexity of our diverse ecosystems to the response our bodies have to the world around us, Science provides our students with an awareness of the incredible and ever-changing world around us. The broad range of practical activities aim to nurture a sense of wonder and curiosity in our students as well as provide them with the opportunity to apply laboratory skills, gather scientific data, and to demonstrate the Laws and Principles that underpin Science.

| Term One  | Term Two | Term Three      | Term Four       |
|-----------|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Chemistry | Physics  | Biology Ecology | Biology Ecology |

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## Humanities

In Year 9, the focus of Humanities is to give students the skills and knowledge required so that they can become achieve participants within a global community, prepared for life outside of school. Through the lens of History and Geography studies, students also develop their skills and understanding in Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business.

| Term One                                 | Term Two  | Term Three   | Term Four                      |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>History:</b><br>Industrial Revolution | <b>Geography:</b><br>Food Security<br>Tourism<br>Business & Economics | <b>History:</b><br>Australian History Post<br>European Contact<br>Civics & Citizenship | <b>History:</b><br>World War I |

## Health

In Year 9 Health, students explore factors that influence their identities, relationships, decisions and behaviours. They develop their ability to access and evaluate a range of health information to ensure that they can access reliable health information in the future.

| Term One                            | Term Two                  | Term Three  | Term Four                           |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Personal Identity and Relationships | Mental Health & Wellbeing | Road Safety | Performing Enhancing Drugs in Sport |

## Physical Education

In Year 9 Physical Education, students continue to build on their skill development, while focusing on applying tactics and strategies relevant to the sports and activities in which they were participating.

Students are assessed on their movement skills for each unit and the ability to evaluate movement concepts and strategies for successful outcomes. Students are also assessed on their ability to communicate effectively within a team, plan and run activities for the class.

| Term One               | Term Two      | Term Three                         | Term Four          |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Volleyball & Athletics | Netball & AFL | Touch Rugby, Lacrosse & Basketball | Softball & Cricket |

## Elective Subjects

### The Arts Learning Area

Students will select at least one subject from this area.

#### Visual Arts: Ceramics

This elective will provide a study in methods of sculpture and hand-built clay construction techniques. Students will explore three-dimensional design while developing both useful and sculptural forms.

Students can expect to:

- Develop design plans
- Hand sculpt items using a variety of techniques
- Create a decorative wind chime
- Learn about glazing and decorating pottery.

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = \$60



#### Visual Arts: Visual Art

In this elective, students will explore a variety of art mediums on a journey to developing their own artistic style.

Students can expect to learn about:

- Japanese cartooning (Manga)
- Mixing and blending Copic markers
- Modroc design and modelling
- Relief printing using lino cuts
- Painting and drawing
- Visual art pathways
- Creating a personal folio of work in response to a themed experience.

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = \$75



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## Visual Arts: Photography

In this elective, students will learn how to use a DSLR camera and continue to develop skills in Adobe Photoshop.



Students can expect to:

- Investigate renowned photographers and different styles of photography.
- Create artworks/ photographic productions based on different styles of photography.
- Explore photography pathways

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = \$40

## Performing Arts: Music Performance & Production

*Create, rehearse, perform, and produce music in both band and digital settings.*

In this elective, students will explore both digital music creation and live performance. They will develop practical skills on a chosen instrument, collaborate in a band setting, and use music production software to compose, arrange and produce music.

Students can expect to:

- Develop knowledge of music theory, notation, scales, chords, and intervals.
- Rehearse and perform as part of a band.
- Learn how to compose and arrange music using digital audio tools.
- Build skills in programming drums, bass, chords and melodies within a Digital Audio Workstation.
- Analyse a wide range of music styles to inform their performance and composition.
- Present assessed band performances and music production projects.

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = \$10



## Technologies Learning Area

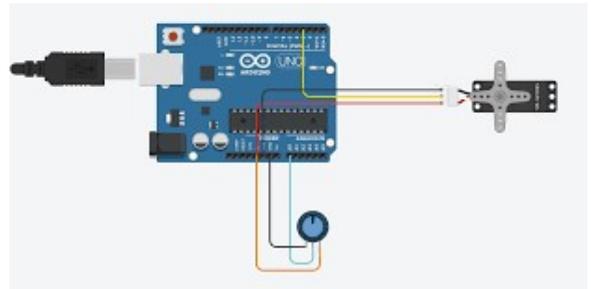
Students will select at least one subject from this area.

### Technology: Digital Technologies

In this elective, students will engage in an exploration of various technologies and software packages that possess tangible real-world applications and offer promising career pathways for the future.

Students will be given the opportunity to engage in several projects, which could include based of student interest levels:

- Exploring AI and its many applications and uses.
- Using both Visual (block) and code (written) forms of programming.
- Using 3D printers to produce detailed models.
- Learn how to create high tech engineering CAD (Computer Aided Design) drawings.
- Using TinkerCAD and Arduino for design and construction of electronic circuits.



Estimated Curriculum Contribution = \$50

### Technology: Hospitality and Food Technology

In Food Technology, students will be engaged in learning experiences related to the topic of Café Cultures, requiring them to:

- Respond to design briefs & create solutions that meet dietary, cultural, sustainability and ethical requirements.
- Develop the knowledge, skills and the capacity to source, prepare, cook and share food in a sustainable manner to promote a healthy and balanced lifestyle.
- Develop an understanding of the personal attributes required to run a successful café, and the factors that govern the operation of cafés.
- Undertake an industry-standard Barista training course and contribute to the operation of the morning Café once a fortnight, serving barista made coffee, developing industry standard skills and competencies.



Estimated Curriculum Contribution = \$100

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## Technology: Podcasting

In this elective, students will learn how to write, record, edit, and distribute a podcast series.

Students can expect to:

- Formulate their own ideas and opinions on a topic of interest to them.
- Discover how to create original music and sound effects.
- Learn to upload and distribute a product online.
- Share their ideas with the world and have their voice heard.
- Gain hands-on experience using high-end industry-standard recording equipment and software.
- Publish and promote your digital products to a global audience.
- Learn powerful life-changing communication tools.



Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge

## Technology: Textiles and Fashion

In the elective, students will develop skills in hand and machine sewing whilst creating a range of small and medium projects.

Students can expect to:

- Explore different processes when working with textiles such as felting, tie dye and macramé.
- Design and create garments for client briefs.
- Develop an understanding of how to read and use patterns to construct various textile productions.

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = \$75



## Health and Physical Education Learning Area

### Health and PE: Recreation and Sports Coaching

In this elective, students will explore recreational activities that support good health and wellbeing. They will also lead sport and recreational activities for Primary School classes during their weekly Sport sessions.



Students can expect to:

- Learn about a range of recreational activities designed for different age groups and abilities.
- Research, plan and participate in a range of recreational activities.
- Create a recreation plan that meets the 'brief' provided.
- Work with a small group to plan warm up drills and modified games for a Primary class.
- Take on a role in running a Primary Year Level sport activity (tournament manager, coach, results coordinator or communications officer).

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge (Costs will be linked to excursions)



## Health and Physical Education Learning Area

### Health and PE: Sports Science

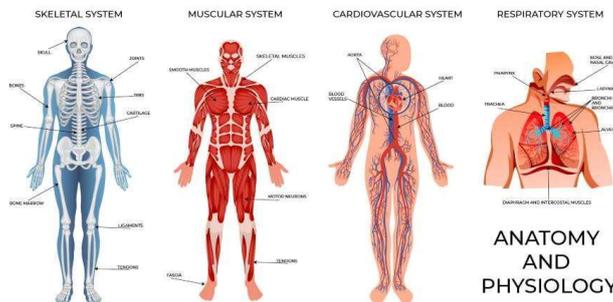
In this elective, students are introduced to the foundations of anatomy and physiology and explore how the body moves and functions during physical activity. Students will investigate energy systems and design their own training programs, connecting classroom theory to practical fitness sessions. With a focus on applying knowledge to real-life training, this subject will build on both understanding and performance in sport and exercise.



Students can expect to:

- Learn about functional anatomy and how our muscles and bones work together to create movement
- Research, plan and participate in exercise programs on the different fitness components
- Create a fitness training plan that meets the 'brief' provided.
- Work with a small group to coach each other through exercises and provide technical corrections and cues

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge (Costs will be linked to excursions)



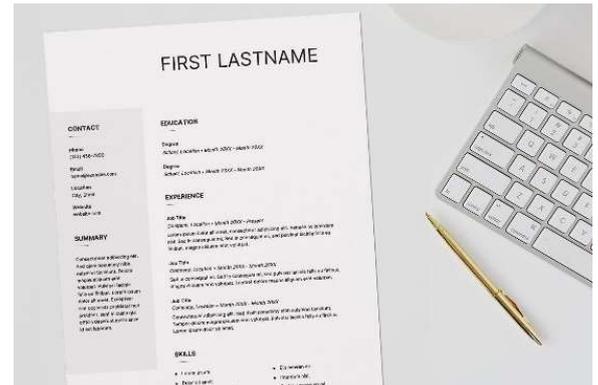
## Humanities Learning Area

### Humanities: Business Futures

In this elective, students will have the opportunity to work in or create a business in order to begin making money before leaving school.

Students can expect to:

- Learn about the nature of working and prepare to enter the workforce.
- Learn how to search and apply for jobs and conduct successful job interviews.
- Create a small business or side hustle to begin earning money as a teenager.
- Understand how to establish, plan for, and manage businesses.



Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge

### Humanities: Horrible Histories

In this elective, students will focus on the events throughout history that you find interesting and gruesome.

Students can expect to:

- Research, analyse, and evaluate the impact of significant historical events on the course of history and the modern world.
- Develop research and communication skills to construct logical historical arguments supported by relevant and reliable evidence.
- Explore historical events selected by the class. In the past, the class has learnt about at *Dictators and Power*, the *Vietnam War* and the *Salem Witch Trials*.

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge



## Science/STEM Learning Area

### Science: Forensic Science

In this elective, students will explore how science is used to solve crimes.



Students can expect to:

- Learn how to match suspects using fingerprints, DNA, footprints, ballistics and more.
- Apply your understanding of Science to identify unknown powders, inks and soil samples, analyze blood splatter, and calculate time of death.
- Explore how insects help us solve crimes! (Entomology)
- Practice questioning suspects and witnesses to solve a murder investigation!



Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge

### Science: STEM Futures

In this elective, students will extend their knowledge and skills in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Students can expect to:

- Activate their higher-order thinking skills to solve authentic issues within society.
- Engage in a range of hands-on STEM projects involving planning, engineering and conducting – endorsing student agency and motivation.
- Use a wide variety of resources to tackle challenges.
- Build skills in design and 3D printing, while developing your knowledge of content areas

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = \$40

