College P–9
TIMBARRA
BERWICK

Timbarra P-9 College

2027

Year 9 Handbook

Contents

Key Information	Page Number
Introduction	3
Year 9 Leadership Team	4
The Course Selection Process	4
Year 9 Course Overview	5
Year 9 Academy Information	6 - 7
Pathways to Year 12 Subjects	8
Year 9 Core Subject Descriptions	9-10
The Arts Learning Area: Elective Descriptions	11-12
The Technologies Learning Area: Elective Descriptions	13-15
Health and Physical Education Learning Area: Elective Descriptions	16-17
Humanities Learning Area: Elective Descriptions	18
Science/STEM Learning Area: Elective Descriptions	19

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 (free choice).

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.

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 (2026)
Teaching and Learning Assistant Principal	Rebekah Nicholas
Secondary Teaching and Learning Leading Teacher	Kristen Carr
Secondary Sub-School Leader	Tom Andrews
English Learning Area Leader	Daniel Mastrolembo
Humanities Learning Area Leader	Sarah Karapen
Maths Learning Area Leader	Michelle Hulse
Science Learning Area Leader	Jay Chew
PE/Health Learning Area Leader	Adyn Tocknell
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 31st August.
- Subject selections for all other **Electives due by Friday 18th September 2026.**

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 elective allocations for 2027 should be finalised by Week 4 Term 4 2026. 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 as 2027 charges have not yet been confirmed.**

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

Year 9 2027 - Core Subjects
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

Year 9 2027 – Arts Electives Students will select at least one from this group
Visual Arts: Ceramics
Visual Arts: Visual Art
Visual Arts: Photography
Performing Arts: Music Performance & Production

Year 9 2027 – Technology Electives Students will select at least one from this group
Technology: Digital Technologies
Technology: Hospitality and Food Technology
Technology: Podcasting
Technology: Designing STEM Solutions
Technology: Textiles and Fashion

Year 9 2027 – Other learning area electives
Humanities: Business Futures
Humanities: Horrible Histories
Science: Forensic Science
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 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.

STEM Academy

The STEM Academy provides students with engaging opportunities to explore **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)** through innovative, hands-on learning. Students participate in lessons that integrate technology and develop their problem-solving, design-thinking and creative skills.

Students are challenged to **innovate solutions to real-world problems** through designing, constructing, testing and refining their ideas. They also have opportunities to extend their learning through experiences such as **Casey TECH School programs, incursions and STEM competitions**.

Academy Selection Process

For each Academy, students participate in a selection process held in **late November or early December**.

For the **Sports Academy**, coaches conduct try-out sessions. **Music Academy** applicants participate in an audition, while entry to the **STEM Academy** is based on an interview. As part of the STEM selection process, students will receive a STEM challenge to consider and discuss with the STEM Leader during their interview. This provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their **curiosity, creativity, problem-solving skills and passion for STEM**.

Possible Pathways to Year 12

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

Humanities

In Year 9, the focus of Humanities is to give students the skills and knowledge required so that they can become active 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
Business and Economics	Civics and Citizenship	History	Geography

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	Respectful Relationships	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
Striking and Net Games	Invasion Games (Field)	Invasion Games (Court)	Fitness

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 = $70

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
- Relief printing using lino cuts
- Painting and drawing
- A range of traditional and contemporary artists
- Visual art pathways
- Creating a personal folio of work.

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = $70

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 through live performance and digital music production.

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

Students can expect to:

- Develop their understanding of music theory, notation, scales, chords and intervals.
- Rehearse and perform as part of a band.
- Compose and arrange music using digital audio tools.
- Create drums, bass, chords and melodies within a Digital Audio Workstation.
- Analyse a range of music styles to inform their performance and composition.
- Present assessed band performances and music production projects.

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge

Technologies Learning Area

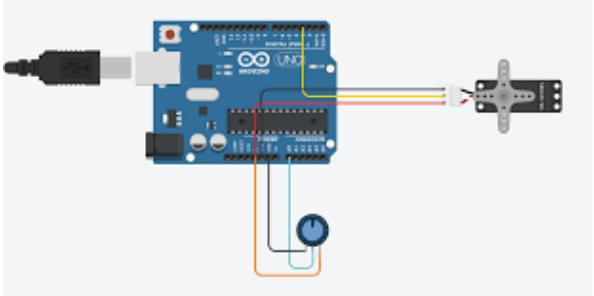
Students will select at least one subject from this area.

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

Technology: Podcasting

In this elective, students learn how to plan, write, record and edit their own podcast series. Students develop practical skills in audio production while exploring how podcasts communicate ideas, stories and opinions to an audience.

Students can expect to:

- Develop their own podcast concept based on a topic of interest.
- Plan and deliver engaging, structured spoken content for a specific audience and purpose.
- Record and edit dialogue, music and sound effects to create a polished podcast.
- Develop confidence and communication skills through speaking, collaboration and production.
- Gain hands on experience using high-quality recording equipment and audio editing software.

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

Technology: Designing STEM Solutions

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

Students can expect to:

- Apply the Design Process to investigate real-world problems, generate and test ideas, develop prototypes, and refine solutions through evaluation and feedback.
- Activate their higher-order thinking skills to solve authentic issues within society.
- 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

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).

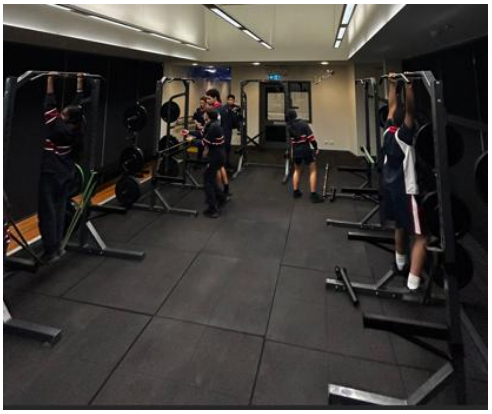
Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge (Costs will be linked to excursions)



Health and Physical Education Learning Area

Health and PE: Sports Science

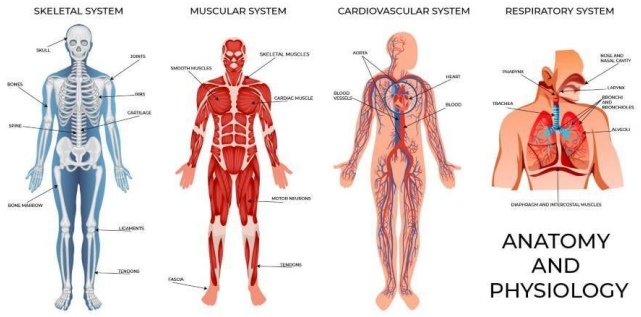
In this elective, students are introduced to the foundations of anatomy and physiology and explore how the body moves and functions during physical activity. Students will investigate energy systems and design their own training programs, connecting classroom theory to practical fitness sessions. With 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 develop practical, work-ready skills to help them prepare for the workforce and explore ways to start earning money while still at school. Students will have the opportunity to explore employment pathways and develop their own small business or "side hustle".

Students can expect to:

- Develop a small business or "start-up" and explore ways to generate income as a teenager.
- Develop practical skills in entrepreneurship, financial management, communication and problem-solving.
- Learn about the world of work and develop skills to prepare for entering the workforce.
- Learn how to search and interview for jobs by developing effective job application skills.

Estimated Curriculum Contribution = No charge

Humanities: Horrible Histories

In this elective, students will explore some of the most fascinating, gruesome and controversial events from history. Students will investigate historical events that have shaped the world and examine their impact on society, both in the past and today.

Students can expect to:

- Investigate the darker, stranger and more controversial aspects of history, while developing their understanding of historical perspectives and interpretations.
- Research and evaluate significant historical events and their impact on the course of history.
- Develop research and communication skills to construct logical historical arguments supported by evidence.
- Explore historical events selected by the class. In the past, students have investigated topics including Dictators, the Rise of Nazism, The Vietnam War, African American Music from Slavery to BLM, 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