CHRISTIAN

COLLEGE

GEELONG

ELECTIVE **HANDBOOK**

YEAR 8- 2018

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGHTON CAMPUS

Education at Christian College

Christian College embraces the needs and passions of 21st century learners and our students are blessed to have on offer a vast array of new learning opportunities. Our students are encouraged to become active participants in their own educational journey, as they are given greater autonomy to learn and a voice to direct where that learning might seek relevance.

Christian College is proud of the engaging subjects and pathway programs that we offer our Middle School students, with specialisation and experiential learning being implemented from Year 5.

This course selection handbook provides an overview of the studies available in 2018.

The core and elective offerings are part of the learning landscape at Christian College that aims to support each student to identify their passion for learning, their ability to think, solve problems and to manage their individual learning.

We want our students to become well rounded positive contributors through the way that they make global connections and seek to connect with others to make a positive difference. At the end of their journey at Christian College, our students will be ready to make a positive difference to the lives of others, through 'good work' that is excellent, ethical and engaged in local, national and global contexts.

Our students are being prepared for a world that requires them to be active participants in their learning with a capacity to learn beyond just facts and skills. They will need to collaborate, think critically, use technology and communicate effectively to be equipped for the challenges that lie ahead.

As you consider the many options for your child for next year, we encourage you talk with them about their passions for the future and to discuss the broader benefits of 21st century learning for them with their respective teachers.

Yours faithfully,

Glen McKeeman
Principal

Year 8 Electives – Content

Christian Education – Community Service

Digital Technologies – Design IT

Drama – The Actor's Tools

English – Writers' Workshop

Food Studies

Humanities – Work / Life

Indonesian

Marine Science

Mathematics – Apps: Money, Art and Design

Media Arts

Music Elective

Photography

Product Design – Materials (wood, metal, plastics)

Product Design – Textiles

Sport – Interschool Sport (Semester One)

Sport – Interschool (Semester Two)

Studio Arts

Systems Engineering (Robotics / Electronics)

Visual Communication Design

Christian Education - Community Service

Christian College encourages students to develop a strong sense of compassion for others and a desire to actively contribute to both local and global communities. In this elective, students will have the opportunity to serve in a local community organisation of their choice, such as a kindergarten, primary school, day care or opportunity shop. Through such community interactions, students will hopefully gain an awareness of servanthood and live out the words in Luke 6:35, to do good to others without expecting anything in return. They also have the opportunity to develop a range of personal skills including self-confidence, organisation, self-reflection, collaboration and empathy. Students also benefit from listening to speakers share about their personal circumstances and/or the organisation they support.

Digital Technologies - Design IT

Every new piece of digital technology we use relies on programmers to help create it. This course will help develop students' digital literacy and computer modelling skills. In the 21st century, computer coding lies behind much of the world we interact with. By developing important critical thinking skills in the context of computing, a budding programmer learns to break down big problems into smaller parts, think of creative solutions, and communicate them clearly. In this elective, students will build their understanding of the fundamental skills and development tools that can be used across all programming languages. Students will explore the computer code that underlies all web pages and investigate how data can be manipulated and sent across a variety of digital platforms. With this grounding, students will select and design their own web development project to showcase their growing capabilities.

Drama – The Actor's Tools

In this drama elective, students focus on the 'Actor's Tools' and explore vocal and physical expression on stage. They develop non-verbal communication skills through the disciplines of mime and Commedia dell'arte and learn various vocal conventions such as chorus and soundscape. Students will be introduced to the idea of 'the mask' and the way actors use masks to portray characters. They will learn how to use their bodies expressively to convey both character and emotion. Students work collaboratively to translate a picture book through to performance, making use of non-naturalistic performance conventions. They will learn to analyse the meaning conveyed through images and text in the stories and use their acting tools to interpret and translate the stories into performance.

English - Writers' Workshop

This subject provides students who love writing with an opportunity to explore and develop their skills in this area. The course is dynamic in nature, allowing students to have a level of choice in the subjects they write about and the forms they produce.

Students will receive regular feedback from both their teacher and peers, with an emphasis on refinement and development through the writing process. Students will be challenged through a variety of stimuli, audiences and purposes, in order to extend their creative thinking and writing capacity.

Food Studies

The ability to safely prepare healthy and nutritious food options for yourself and others is an essential skill. In Food Studies, students increase their understanding of safe procedures and hygienic work practices in the kitchen whilst developing more complex processes. Students demonstrate their knowledge about diet and nutrition to enable them to evaluate their own diets and make wise food choices for optimum health, both now and in the future. They examine and critique food labelling so that they are able to make informed consumer choices and they continue to develop skills and experiences in practical cookery, which may be translated into 'real life' contexts. Students design and develop a variety of meal and snack options for themselves and others. They develop criteria for success, including sustainability considerations of food production in local and global contexts, and use these to judge the suitability of their ideas and designed solutions and processes.

Humanities – Work / Life

Work / Life is designed to introduce students to the skills, knowledge and capabilities necessary for lifelong learning and fulfilment in their future working life. They will develop their awareness and understanding of education, training and employment options using resources tailored to suit students at the lower secondary level. Students will use a range of activities to discover their strengths and interests to develop a positive self-image that provides the foundation for optimistic pathway planning. They will explore and start to plan their career learning goals and acquire basic skills in the process of job application - cover letters, résumés and interview techniques. Through such practical experiences, students gain confidence in their presentation and communication skills, equipping them for future opportunities to gain casual, part-time and, eventually, full-time employment.

Indonesian

Students studying Indonesian at Christian College are becoming increasingly aware of the role they play in a global society. Learning "Bahasa Indonesia" provides students with an enhanced intercultural understanding and the ability to communicate in 'Bahasa Indonesia', a widely spoken language in countries of South East Asia. Opportunities exist for Indonesian language students to host a visiting exchange student from SMAN2 Mataram and participate in a study tour and/or long-term exchange to Lombok during the Senior School years. Students will further develop their confidence in communicating on personal and practical everyday topics, such as family and self, food and going places, through relevant and engaging language activities. They will also gain knowledge of Australia's relationship with Indonesia and its variety of culture and lifestyles.

Marine Science

Students studying Marine Science will be introduced to marine environments, practical snorkelling skills and species adaptations. Students will be immersed in field base experimental learning to engage them in understanding the Structural, Behavioural, Reproductive, and Physiological adaptations that assist in the survival of the species. During these sessions the students will also focus on their practical snorkelling skills and basic safety within the marine environment. Lab based experimentation and project work will complement the practical elements and help the students investigate questions developed during their hands-on experiences. This will includes scientific enquiry methods used in the study of unique flora and fauna. The focus of this will be on Survival skills and the word 'Adaptation' with reference to different species.

Mathematics - Apps: Money, Art and Design

This elective aims to stimulate, enthuse and utilise the existing skills of students in mathematics. Emphasis is placed on independent learning, problem solving, and applications of Mathematics to the real world, communication of mathematics and group interaction. Often teachers are asked the question by students in their Mathematics class, "When am I ever going to use this?" This elective will challenge this question by encouraging and engaging students to look at common, everyday aspects of life. In this subject, the focus will be on applications relating to finance and managing money as well as the broad area of art and design. Our hope is that students will finish their semester of study in this elective with a greater appreciation and understanding of the important way that mathematics interacts with many everyday life situations.

Media Arts

Media Arts provides students with a series of enjoyable, creative opportunities to develop digital artworks which may express what they see, know, feel, and/or imagine. The world in which we live is increasingly becoming a digital society with a rich and wide variety of digital mediums. Students develop skills in using computers, digital equipment, materials and techniques. These are developed during the unit through problem solving and experimentation. Students are also encouraged to expand their knowledge of digital still and moving images, sound and editing digital mediums. This could be through a variety of media from photography, web site development, animation, filmmaking, game design etc.

Music Elective

Students in this subject will participate in regular instrumental playing, rehearsal and performance in solo and group contexts, aural activities to develop their 'musical ear', and composition/arranging projects utilising various techniques and technology. The Music Elective offers a broad range of opportunities for students to develop their interests in Music. The course meets students at their entry level and its design gives beginner instrumentalists and vocalists, through to advanced musicians an enriching experience. The core work centers around the development of instrumental playing; ensemble rehearsal and performance; developing an aural awareness and an appreciation for various musical genres. An exploration of the 'groove' laden traditional Latin American styles and the development of popular music styles assist to inform the students' performances of contemporary popular music.

Photography

A picture tells a thousand words, and capturing an audience through a single image is essential, as we all communicate through visual mediums and it is core to contemporary information, be it through social media, journalism marketing, and advertising or as a beautiful emotive expression. Students are provided with an overview of the medium of photography. They analyse connections between visual conventions, practices and viewpoints that represent their own and others' ideas and learn to identify elements and principles integral to the construction of well composed images that help convey a purpose or meaning. Students explore a range of techniques and processes to develop and refine ideas and subject matter in their artworks. They create their own photographs and undertake a process of reflection, selection and refinement to develop a portfolio of their own finished work.

Product Design – Materials (wood, metal, plastics)

Product Designers invent, visualise and prototype design solutions to problems in the form of new products. Product Design and Technology (Materials) challenges students with the task of developing increasingly complex approaches to product development, utilising a range of materials and basic electrical components such as low voltage lighting. Students will utilise the design process to create solutions based on an evaluation of needs or opportunities. They develop criteria for success, including sustainability considerations, and use these to judge the suitability of their ideas and designed solutions and processes. They communicate their ideas through a design folio. This forms the basis for the refinement and evaluation of projects and designs. Safe work practices in the handling of tools and equipment are reinforced within the workshop setting.

Product Design – Textiles

Textiles are a major component of our material culture. They may be viewed as the products of technology, as cultural symbols, as works of art, or as items of trade. Students apply creative and practical techniques to develop both hand and machine sewing skills through the production of textile items. Students utilise the design process to create solutions based on an evaluation of needs or opportunities. Using a range of textile technologies including a variety of graphical representation techniques to communicate, students generate and clarify ideas through sketching and annotated concept sketches. They develop plans to manage design tasks, including safe and responsible use of materials and tools, to successfully complete design tasks. Students establish safety procedures that minimise risk and manage a project with safety and efficiency in mind when making designed solutions.

Sport - Interschool Sport (Semester One)

The Interschool Sport elective involves students playing or competing for the school in Netball, Soccer or AFL. The program continues to build on the sporting knowledge and understanding the students have, in addition to developing the skills required for their respective sport. In Term 1, students will plan for and run a SEPEP unit in their chosen sport. During Term 2, students will compete in a round robin competition against other Geelong based Independent Schools.

Sport - Interschool (Semester Two)

A wide range of sports is offered in Interschool Sport (Semester Two). In Term 3, students will have the opportunity to trial for Basketball teams that will compete at the Geelong Independent Schools Sports Association (GISSA) competition, or they can choose to be involved in AFL Umpiring, Girls AFL, Dragon Boat rowing or an intra-school competition of European Handball and Gaelic Football. In Term 4, students will compete against other Geelong based Independent Schools in either Cricket, Tennis, Volleyball, Softball or Water Polo.

Studio Arts

The Visual Arts is a critical way in which we communicate and express meaning in the world around us. In this elective students build on their awareness of how and why visual artists realise their ideas through different visual representations, practices, processes and viewpoints, they extend their thinking, understanding and use of perceptual and conceptual skills. Students consider the qualities and properties of materials, techniques, technologies and processes and combine these to create and produce solutions to their artworks. Students document the process of conceptualising, creating and evaluating visual solutions to selected themes through a variety of visual art forms, styles, techniques and processes as they make and respond to visual artworks. They develop an informed opinion about artworks based on their research on selected artists and examine their own culture and develop a deeper understanding of their practices as an artist who holds individual views about the world. They exhibit their artworks, basing the selection on a concept or theme.

Systems Engineering (Robotics/Electronics)

Robotics, Engineering and controlling integrated mechanical, electrical and digital systems is an integral part of our modern society. In this elective students will demonstrate an emerging understanding of the design & evaluation process and analyse how motion, force and energy are used to manipulate and control electromechanical systems. Utilising Lego Mindstorms with basic input sensors students will develop and code an autonomous robot that will negotiate a course, the robot could encounter obstacles, bridges and short cut opportunities that will challenge the most intrepid programmer. Students will also explore, manipulate and build basic electronic circuits including electrical switching and electronic components and apply practical skills to produce an integrated systems project. Students apply project management skills to document and manage production processes. They independently and safely produce effective designed solutions for the intended purpose demonstrating lateral thinking, developing new skills related to the correct use of tools, equipment and construction, techniques.

Visual Communication Design

The way people consume their information is changing dramatically each and every day. With branding, marketing, packaging, promotional material, architectural and product design, and the rise in visual mediums such as blogging, live-tweeting, and print media, the way you connect with and reach an audience is ever changing. Visual Communication Design examines the way visual language can be used to convey ideas, information and messages. Students develop the skills to manipulate and organise design elements, design principles, in selected media and materials. Creative, critical and reflective thinking supports students to progress through and focus on the design process. Visual Communication Design relies on drawing as the primary component of visual language to support the conception and visualisation of ideas. Students generate and represent original ideas in two and three-dimensional representations using a range of technical skills. They produce illustrated, and rendered views, and use graphic visualisation software to produce dynamic visual communication design solutions.