



Matthew Flinders
Girls Secondary
College



YEAR 9

**CURRICULUM
HANDBOOK**



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Curriculum Introduction: Years 7-10

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 is the curriculum for Victorian schools and is the basis for the learning in Years 7-10 at MFG. It incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian standards and priorities. The curriculum is accessed from the [*Victorian Curriculum F-10 website*](#), and this booklet provides a brief overview of the focus of learning in the Year 9 subjects at MFG.

Standards and levels

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 is structured as a continuum across levels of learning achievement not years of schooling. This enables the development of targeted learning programs for all of our students, where the curriculum is used to plan in relation to the actual learning level of each student rather than their assumed level of learning based on age.

Our curriculum is separated into two stages and reflects the Victorian Curriculum priorities:

- **Breadth stage (Years 7–8)**

You have the opportunity to fully engage with all learning areas and capabilities, with a focus on English, Mathematics and Science. These years provide you with an opportunity to explore a 'breadth' of subjects as your pathways and career options start to develop.

- **Pathways stage (Years 9–10)**

You will engage in a broad education and begin to plan your later years program of study.

All students from Year 9 study:







- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| • English | • HAPE |
| • Mathematics, Real World Maths | • The Arts |
| • Science | • Technology |
| • Humanities (History, Geography, Economics and Business, Civics and Citizenship, Religion and Society) | • Languages (Indonesian or French) |

In Year 9 students choose from a range of electives within these Learning Areas.



Year 9 Curriculum Structure

YEAR 9

 MATHS 5 periods per week all year	 ENGLISH 5 periods per week all year	ELECTIVES Students choose 4 electives. Electives run for 3 periods per week for one semester <div> <div> TECHNOLOGY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digital Technology - Environmental Technology - Food Technology - Textiles </div> <div> THE ARTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drama - Media - Music - Visual Art - Visual Communication Design </div> <div> HEALTH & PE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gym Junkies - Outdoor Adventures </div> <div> MATHS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Real World Maths </div> </div>
 SCIENCE 3 periods per week all year	 HUMANITIES 5 periods per week all year	
 LANGUAGES INDONESIAN or FRENCH LANGUAGE or FRENCH CULTURE 3 periods per week all year	 HEALTH & PE 3 periods per week all year	



Year 9 Mathematics

YEAR 9 MATHEMATICS

In Year 9 Mathematics you will investigate how maths relates to everyday life. By linking knowledge you develop in class to real life scenarios such as calculating percentage discounts, mark-ups and best buys, salaries, wages and commissions. You will be equipped with the skills to be successful in ways you never thought possible.

Along the way you will have the opportunity to continually build on your problem solving, modelling and inquiry skills. You will also be exposed to ideas and processes that lead to a variety of pathways beyond secondary school.

This subject is a good preparation for and leads to further study in the following subjects: Year 10 Maths / Year 10 Real World Maths.

YEAR 9 MATHEMATICS (SEALP)

You will be exposed to maths in everyday life and develop your confidence in making effective use of mathematical ideas, techniques and processes. You will also be exposed to ideas and processes that lead to a variety of pathways beyond secondary school. You will be given opportunities to participate in worthwhile and challenging mathematical learning.

You will experience new areas of Mathematics that you may have heard about but have yet to dive into and investigate. You will learn how to solve equations with two unknowns, to use index laws, work with irrational numbers, sketch parabolas, solve quadratic equations and model with quadratic equations. You will use the CAS (Computer Algebra Systems) calculator as a learning tool to enhance your understanding.

This subject is a good preparation for and leads to further study in the following subjects: Year 10 Mathematics, VCE Unit 1 & 2 Specialist Mathematics, VCE Unit 1 & 2 Mathematical Methods, and, VCE Unit 1 & 2 General Mathematics.



Year 9 Science

YEAR 9 SCIENCE

During Semester 1, you will study the ecology of the Barwon River by looking closely at the history of the area, river uses, flora and fauna, and environmental impacts. In Term 2, you will investigate various forensic science techniques used to solve crimes, and the chemistry behind them. You will then be required to think carefully and apply these techniques to solve a crime committed in the classroom.

Semester 2 will focus on Physics and the study of electrical circuits and magnetism. This will culminate with you being involved in designing a sustainable to-scale model town. We will follow this with a unit on space and finish the year with a sequence of STEAM based challenges.

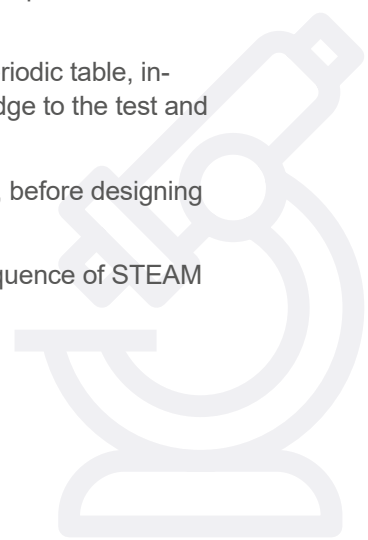
YEAR 9 SCIENCE (SEALP)

This year you will begin your science journey with Ecology. You will use the Barwon River as a focal point for your studies of biodiversity and environmental impacts, before extending your knowledge into energy transfers that occur through photosynthesis and respiration. In Biology you will focus on the stimulus response model and investigate how reaction times and the involuntary actions that occur in your body.

For Chemistry you will continue to extend your knowledge of the atomic structure and the periodic table, including a deeper exploration of chemical bonding and reactions. Before putting your knowledge to the test and solving a forensic science crime puzzle.

You will then focus on the area of Physics and the study of electrical circuits and magnetism, before designing a sustainable to-scale model town.

To finish the year, we will explore space before putting all your knowledge to the test in a sequence of STEAM based challenges.





Year 9 Humanities

YEAR 9 HUMANITIES

Humanities is a subject that combines the study of History, Geography, Economics, Commerce and Civics and Citizenship. Through a range of different issues, your learning in this subject centres on developing understandings, knowledge and skills that are relevant to your life. Your learning in this subject focuses on the period between 1750 and 1914.

One of the themes in Year 9 Humanities is 'continuity and change' and you will be able to identify and evaluate patterns of continuity and change in the development of the modern world and Australia. You will go back to Australia's early history - the first settlement of Australia, the life of the convicts and the impact of colonisation on our indigenous peoples. You will then learn about the concept of a 'world-view' and explore the 'geographies of interconnection'. You will develop your understanding of the concept of 'place' and why people develop a connection to particular places.

You will also study the period historians call 'The Industrial Revolution' (1760-1840) and examine how the developments and social changes during this time influenced our lives today. You will learn about the factors that led to the Industrial Revolution, and other conditions and ideas that influenced the industrialisation of Britain and Australia and some of the global changes in landscapes, movements of people, development and influence of ideas, political and social reforms.

You will study a Unit on tourism including the different kinds of tourism - wilderness, ecotourism, recreational and historical - and our impact on different environments. You then turn your attention to a focus on Civics and Citizenship and the Australian legal system including government, democracy and the role of the citizen, Australia's political system and political parties, and elections.



Year 9 Humanities

YEAR 9 HUMANITIES (SEALP)

Humanities is a subject that combines the study of History, Geography, Economics, Commerce and Civics and Citizenship to provide you with a learning experience that focuses on developing skills and investigating issues that are relevant to your life.

You will study the period historians call 'The Industrial Revolution' (1760-1840) and examine how the developments and social changes during this time influenced our lives today. You will learn about the factors that led to the Industrial Revolution, and other conditions and ideas that influenced the industrialisation of Britain and Australia and some of the global changes in landscapes, movements of people, development and influence of ideas, political and social reforms.

You will deepen your understanding of the past, contemporary global issues and the impact of human activities on the natural environment. topics will include the 'black armband' and 'white blindfold' view of history, the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, 'Geographies of Wellbeing' and Geographical Interconnectedness, Human Rights, World War I and its impact on the life and culture of Australia.





Year 9 English

YEAR 9 ENGLISH

Each semester of work will involve the core English learnings of Speaking and Listening, Reading, and Writing. You will read and create a range of texts in a range of forms. You will analyse literary texts that explore themes and issues related to your own life, and create written and oral responses to the texts.

In addition to the units of work, you will also complete a Writing Folio showcasing your learning related to several writing styles, including reports, diary entries, opinion pieces, persuasive pieces, poetry, essays, and creative writing.

YEAR 9 ENGLISH (SEALP)

In Year 9 SEALP English you will closely examine the critical and cultural dimensions of language. The course is also designed to equip and prepare you for later years study.

You will be introduced to the formal study of literature and explore analytical and thinking skills to extend yourself within an open-ended tasks. You will learn to write appropriately in a range of genres and according to different writing forms, particularly writing about literature, writing formal text response essays, crafting creative writing, and developing strategies for effective argumentative and persuasive writing. You will also develop a critical understanding of mass media and analyse how writers use language to persuade. You will also learn oral presentation skills and speaking techniques appropriate to formal situations and take into consideration audience and purpose.





Year 9 Languages

YEAR 9 FRENCH: LANGUAGE

French: Language in Year 9 is a fun-packed course, which will prepare you for further language study in Year 10. You will begin the year learning about the weather and social activities, household chores, clothing and fashion and you will get to design your own fashion label! Semester Two involves learning how to describe your home, rooms and furniture, sports, leisure activities and the amazing topic of French food!

You will further develop your listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in French through a range of different activities including playing games, reading cartoon stories, listening to songs, performing sketches, designing a dream home and attending a French breakfast. You will also learn about the cultural and linguistic differences between French and English and might even have the opportunity to visit France and Reunion Island to see the incredible sights, participate in a home stay program and visit our sister-school.

YEAR 9 FRENCH: CULTURE

French: Culture in Year 9 is a fantastic course, which will help you broaden your understanding of French culture and current issues in the world today. This is an English-based course, designed to deepen your understanding of all things 'French' (landmarks, food, fashion, and ways of life).

You will learn not only about French communities across the world, but also strengthen your awareness of your own culture and others and see how this awareness is needed to overcome divisions and create inclusive communities. You might even have the opportunity to visit France and Reunion Island to see the incredible sights, participate in a homestay program and visit our sister-school

YEAR 9 INDONESIAN

Year 9 Indonesian is a fun, hands-on course, exploring a range of fun and relevant topics, which will prepare you for further language study in Year 10. You begin the year learning about the fascinating range of traditional house designs in Indonesia. For example: why do the Minangkabau people have roofs shaped like buffalo horns? What role do women play in that society? You also learn about the daily routine of life in an Indonesian household. You might put this knowledge into practice if you participate in the Lombok sister school exchange program and stay with an Indonesian family! You will then progress into an investigation of the main reasons for studying another language and culture – food. This semester will include learning about food, trying food and you even will cook authentic Indonesian dishes.

Semester Two involves learning about animals. Our big question is: is it inevitable that some wildlife species will become extinct in order for human development to progress? You will investigate current issues and take some action on an environmental issue. You will also learn how to write about a range of animals. You then progress to learning about weather and you will produce an animated weather forecast. You might have the opportunity to put this knowledge to good use if you visit Lombok (and Java or Sumatra) with our study-tour.



Year 9 Health & Physical Education

YEAR 9 HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HAPE)

Year 9 HAPE consists of one health-based theory lesson and two practical lessons per week. Year 9 HAPE is an opportunity for you to engage in a wide range of sports and activities, some of which you may never have tried, or even heard of.

In Physical Education classes, you will have the opportunity to learn the skills, tactics and rules of Volleyball, Table Tennis and Netball. Additionally you will complete a unit called 'Games from Around the world'. This unit first involves participating in a number of games that originate from different nations around the world. At the completion of this unit you will work in a small group to create, present and teach the class your own game, drawing on ideas, rules and equipment from the games you have learnt throughout the unit. Finally, you will also be involved in a unit titled 'Back Off'. This self-defense unit, includes some classes ran by a qualified instructor and aims to develop confidence as well as valuable life skills.

In health, you will spend one term developing a 'First Aid' booklet and are introduced to new First Aid topics each week. In term 2, you will learn about sexual health issues, exploring topics such as contraception options and Sexually Transmitted Infections. In semester Two, you will explore the issue of illicit drug use in Australia and learn about the types of drugs that exist and the short and long term health risks associated with these. You will participate in a program called 'The Sexual Assault Prevention Program for Secondary Schools'

(SAPPSS) that is run in conjunction with Geelong's Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA).





Year 9 Electives

YEAR 9 REAL WORLD MATHS (ELECTIVE)

'Real world Maths' is an elective that will run for 3 periods per week for one semester. If you have an interest in Maths, and are keen to be challenged, this subject provides you with an opportunity to develop your skills and enjoy solving real life problems in their own environment. You will answer five "Big" questions for the semester. The themes include designing and making garden chairs, investigating shark movements and working out if it could snow in Hawaii.

YEAR 9 GYM JUNKIES (ELECTIVE)

In "Gym Junkies", each session will provide you with lots of exciting new ways to improve or maintain your current fitness levels. Some of the classes you will be enjoying throughout the semester are: Body Jam, Body Pump, Spin, Body Balance, Zumba, Aqua Aerobics, Strength and conditioning circuits, Boxercise, Body Combat, Body Step, and Pilates. Sessions will be run by qualified instructors and will be held at local gyms as well as at MFG. This elective aims to improve your overall health, fitness and confidence levels.

YEAR 9 OUTDOOR ADVENTURES (ELECTIVE)

This subject is for students who want to personally grow, challenge themselves and have fun in the outdoors. This action-packed elective requires organisation, perseverance and environmental citizenship. Weekly activities include canoing, boneseed weeding, bike riding, surfing, snorkeling, indoor rock climbing, riverside walking and the exploration of Geelong's exciting outdoor environments.

The learning in this subject culminates in an overnight Mountain Biking Camp that will test your skills as well as your ability to work in a team. Students stay in explore on bikes, sleep in tents and cook on trangias.

Please note that you will need to complete a swimming test in order for staff to assess your competency in aquatic environments.



Year 9 Electives

YEAR 9 FOOD TECHNOLOGY (ELECTIVE)

Year 9 Food Technology is an elective and scheduled for three periods per week for one semester. There is a double session, and this is usually for food preparation activities and a single lesson, which is usually for theory and demonstrations. Year 9 Food Technology advances the skills and understandings developed in Year seven. Food safety is reinforced, and there is a continued emphasis on creating healthy meals.

You will focus on the physical, sensory and chemical properties of food and develop an understanding of the role of ingredients in cooking and various methods of cooking. You will be making some mouth-watering dishes such as baked potato, apple strudel, focaccia, bakewell tarts, vegetable lasagne, minestrone and a range of other enticing meals. You will have the opportunity to design your own meals based on creating food solutions for healthy eating.

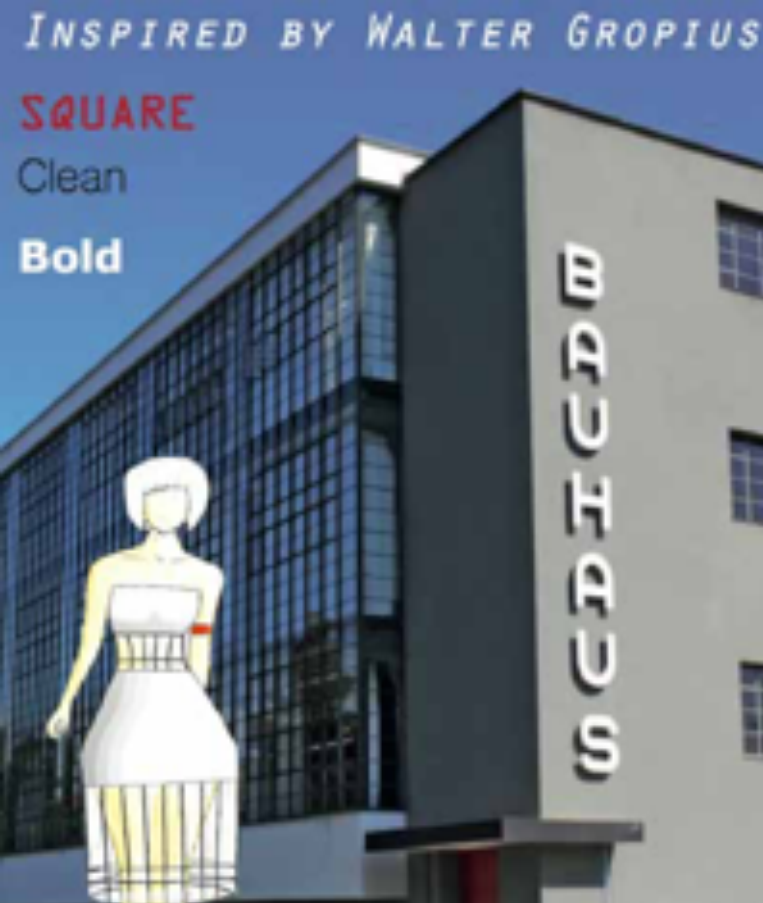
YEAR 9 TEXTILES (ELECTIVE)

In Year 9 you can select Textiles as an elective for 3 periods per week for one semester.

You will learn about and use the Technology Process of investigating, designing, producing and evaluating Textiles projects. You will investigate what is needed to generate ideas, plan and manage the safe production of Textiles products for a purpose or function, reflect on the success and effectiveness of the process and product and present your finished projects for display. You will investigate the ethical use of Textiles focussing on sustainability, recycling, upcycling and waste management of textiles in our world.

You will have the opportunity to use a variety of Textiles materials, like fibres, yarns and fabrics, a range of tools, materials, equipment, sewing machines, techniques and processes and technology to develop your personalised textiles items. You will also develop your own design ideas and style and self-manage your projects with support and guidance.

This subject leads to Year 10 Textiles and Visual Art and VCE Studio Arts Units 1, 2, 3 and 4.




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Year 9 Electives

YEAR 9 MEDIA (ELECTIVE)

In this elective you will investigate, explore and develop your understanding of media technologies, forms and styles.

You will learn technical skills related to media production such as how to use a DSLR camera, how to compose a high-quality photo and storyboard a short film, as well as undertake the creative processes to produce your own media products. You will also evaluate professional film and photographic productions, learning the principles of media design and story-telling.

This subject leads into Year 10 Media, VCE Studio Arts and Media Units 1, 2, 3 and 4.

YEAR 9 VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN (ELECTIVE)

This elective will entail 3 periods per week for one Semester. This elective is a continuation of your studies in Design. It focuses on consolidating creative thinking techniques and the use of imagery to communicate to different audiences. Most of the class work is practical where you learn about design by doing it. You will become more confident in using the visual language and following the design process. You will also further develop your own individual solutions to a variety of design challenges.

You will be able to experiment with various media, like pencils, markers, pastels and watercolour as well as methods like drawing, painting, photography, collage, computers or 3D modeling. You will learn how to draw in different ways – freehand and using instruments as well as design using technology. You will also start using some specific drawing systems.

There are many possible design options in VCE and diversity and original ideas are valued.

This subject is a basis for further study in VCD which is an elective in Year 10, and Visual Communication Design in VCE.



Year 9 Electives

YEAR 9 VISUAL ART (ELECTIVE)

Students develop designs based on different sources of inspiration such as the work of recognised artists, artworks, art styles, art genres and The World around us.

Students will draw on their knowledge and understanding of Art Elements and Art Principles found in art to create their own artworks.

Students will have the opportunity to trial a range of mediums and materials such as paints, pencils, pastels, inks, charcoal, graphite, canvas and paper. Students will explore different processes using art forms such as painting, drawing, printmaking and collage and sculpture.

This subject is preparation for and leads to further study in year 10 Design, Media, Visual Art, Textiles and VCE Studio Arts, Visual Communication Design and Media Units 1, 2, 3 and 4.





Year 9 Electives

YEAR 9 DRAMA (ELECTIVE)

Year 9 Drama is designed to give you the next step into drama through practical group based and individual activities aimed to develop self-confidence, effective communication and performance techniques. You have an opportunity to explore drama styles, use masks and begin to develop your analytical skills. You will attend a professional drama performance and analyse the actors' use of expressive skills.

You experiment with voice, body language and movement through the creation, development and the performance of several original pieces.

You also explore traditional dramatic styles such as Commedia dell'arte and choose an historic style to explore. Drama offers you an opportunity to develop your improvisation, play building skills and confidence.

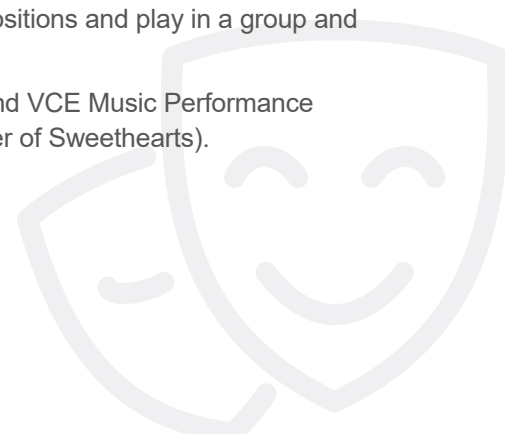
This subject is preparation for and leads to further study in Drama at years 10 and VCE Drama Units 1, 2, 3 and 4.

YEAR 9 MUSIC (ELECTIVE)

In Year 9 Music you will develop your listening, comprehension and compositional skills and refine your practice and performance skills on an instrument of your choice. If you are selecting this elective you should be competent in playing an instrument or voice and you should have at least Grade 1 theory or the equivalent.

In Year 9 you will begin Grade 2 theory. You will plan and write your own compositions and play in a group and as a soloist.

This subject is preparation for and leads to further study in Music in years 10 and VCE Music Performance Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 and, VET Certificate 4 in Music Industry (if you are a member of Sweethearts).





Year 9 Electives

YEAR 9 DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY (ELECTIVE)

Digital Technology at Year 9 allows you to further develop your skills and knowledge of computer science and computer programming.

You will continue to develop your programming skills in a range of programming languages including Scratch, JavaScript, HTML, CSS and C/C++.

You will investigate circuits and have the opportunity to draw with conductive ink and design wearable technology using conductive thread. You will also experiment with Arduinos and program them to perform a range of tasks that use both input and output devices.

You will explore and discuss issues associated with digital technologies and how current and future digital tech can be used to solve a vast array of problems.

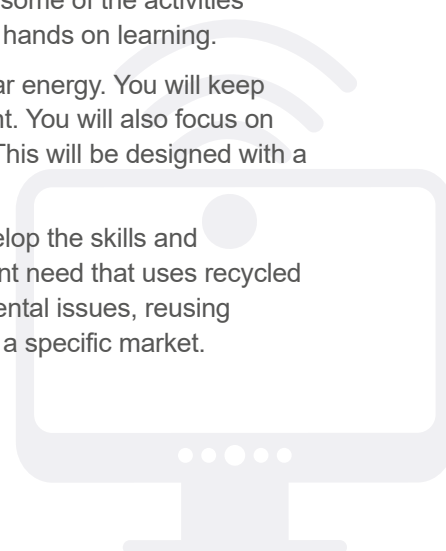
YEAR 9 ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY (ELECTIVE)

In this elective you will learn about recycling and reusing materials and use the Technology Design brief to develop environmental solutions to current environmental issues.

You will be involved in many varied building projects using drills and saws. you will make wicking beds and grow vegetables to plant in these beds. Composting, fertilising and watering will be some of the activities undertaken each lesson. Most lessons will be in the Our Living Garden and involve hands on learning.

A focus for this subject will be composting, recycling and alternative energy like solar energy. You will keep a record of the activities and your learning and this will form part of your assessment. You will also focus on using recycled materials to make a food-growing container that uses water wisely. This will be designed with a specific market in mind and you will be able to take this home and watch it flourish.

You will be involved in one major project as well as a series of smaller tasks to develop the skills and knowledge needed. You will design and create a functional product to solve a current need that uses recycled or up-cycled materials. This elective includes an investigation of current environmental issues, reusing recycling and up-cycling of products that go into landfill and designing a product for a specific market.





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