



YEAR 8

Subject and
Programme Guide

Welcome to YEAR 8 at Notre Dame College

We aim to develop a love for learning that lasts a lifetime and prepare you to be responsible citizens in a world that is always changing.

In Year 8, you will continue exploring a variety of subjects, building on what you learned in Year 7. You will have seven core subjects, and you'll also get to choose some subjects from the Arts and Technologies areas.

This handbook is your guide to the Year 8 Programme at Notre Dame College. Should you have any queries, do not hesitate to reach out to the staff listed within this guide or email us at subjectselection@notredame.vic.edu.au.

Wishing you all the best for a wonderful Year 8 at Notre Dame College.



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THE YEAR 8 STRUCTURE

As a student in Year 8 you will continue to experience a range of subjects from each of the Learning Areas, building on from the Year 7 programme. You will undertake seven core subjects as well as have the opportunity to select subjects of your own choice from The Arts and Technology Learning Areas.

Core Subjects

Core subjects are studied for the whole year

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health and Physical Education
- The Humanities
- Language (Italian or Japanese)

Elective Subjects

One of The Arts and one Technology elective subject are studied in each semester

- The Arts *select two*
- Technology *select two*

MAKING YOUR SUBJECT SELECTIONS

Subject selections are to be submitted online. You will receive an email to your College email account containing a link which enables you to access the subject selection portal, where you can enter your subject choices. Ensure you complete your subject selections by the due date to have the best chance of being allocated your first choice. While every effort is made to accommodate subjects as selected, you may not be allocated the subject/s that you choose. If you are unsure whether you are returning to Notre Dame College next year, please complete the subject selection process online just in case you do return.

SPORTS ACADEMY AT YEAR 8

Students accepted into the Sports Academy at Year 8 will complete the subject as an elective in both semesters. Refer to the Sports Academy information on page 13 relating to selecting elective subjects.

CORE SUBJECTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION [08RED]

In Year 8 Religious Education, you build upon the understandings and concepts learned in Year 7. You are challenged to discover who you are and where you belong as you travel the path of your faith journey. You learn about scripture, the sacraments, prayer, some Catholic church history, traditions and the Church's response to injustices in the world. At the end of Year 8 you will have a good foundational knowledge in Religious Education to assist you with your continued studies in this subject.

ENGLISH [08ENG]

English is at the core of the curriculum because it enables you to become an effective communicator in an increasingly connected world. Developing from the foundations of Year 7, you will engage deeply with your studied texts, honing your ability to write analytically, comparatively, persuasively and creatively. In addition to written assessments, you will also deliver oral presentations, actively enhancing your communication skills. You will engage with a variety of fictional text types, including: a novel, a film and a selection of poetry. You will develop the critical skills of textual interpretation alongside those of understanding persuasion in the media. Building on your study of how language is used in different contexts, for different purposes, you will also develop the ability to write creatively in response to a studied text.

MATHEMATICS [08MAT]

The Year 8 Mathematics course focuses on the development of mathematical skills in the areas of Algebra, Number, Statistics, Probability, Measurement and Geometry. You have the opportunity to fill gaps in your background knowledge as well as accelerate your learning up to a Year 10 level. You will also develop mathematical skills such as problem solving and reasoning as you complete regular Rich Task activities. In the classroom, you are tested at your current levels of understanding across the curriculum and the content is tailored to your needs. You work in regular learning cycles and your progress is tested at the end of each two-week cycle. There is an emphasis on your development and growth, with effort and accuracy being a focus.

SCIENCE [08SCI]

In Year 8 Science, you build on your scientific knowledge and inquiry skills. You complete one topic in each of the following areas; biological science, physical science, chemical science and earth science. You investigate forms of energy such as light and sound. You explain how energy can be transferred and transformed. You also apply the particle model to explain the properties of matter. You investigate differences between physical changes and chemical reactions and complete a series of experiments to record evidence of chemical change. You will learn how to represent reactions as simple word equations. In Science, you also plan your own practical investigations. This includes designing, conducting and presenting your findings. For biology, you use microscopes to investigate a variety of cells. You discuss cell structure and function and investigate how cells work together to create organs and how organs work together to form body systems. You complete a heart dissection to build on your understanding of the circulatory system. You also complete a more detailed study of the reproductive system. You investigate the rock cycle including the various rock forming processes. The sustainable use of resources such as fossil fuels is also considered in this area of study.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION [08HPE]

In this subject you will complete both practical (Physical Education) and theory (Health) classes each week throughout the year. You will get the chance to develop your practical motor skills through various activities which may include athletics, netball, volleyball, badminton, football codes (AFL, touch football, soccer, speedball), pickleball, tennis, cricket, touchball, minor games and fitness testing and training. Practical assessment is ongoing and takes into account your teamwork, willingness to participate, persistence and development of both strategies and skills in games. In Health classes you will learn about important topics such as: cyber safety, adolescent development and respectful relationships, fitness, and risk taking, including alcohol and recreational drugs.

THE HUMANITIES [08HUM]

Humanities is the study of four subjects: History, Civics, Geography and Economics. In Semester One you will complete topics that help you understand Australia's parliamentary and legal systems and you will explore the beliefs, social structures and historical significance of the Aztec Empire and the Spanish Conquistadors. In Semester Two you will study the significance of landscapes to people and the spatial change in the distribution of populations. This will include a visit to the Barmah National Park to undertake fieldwork. You will conclude the year with an Economics topic where you will learn about how markets work and the opportunities that arise for businesses, consumers and governments.

HISTORY You develop your historical understanding through key concepts, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability. These concepts are investigated within the historical context of the Middle Ages and Early Exploration. You consider how societies changed, what key beliefs and values emerged, and the causes and effects of contact between societies in this period.

CIVICS You continue to build on your understanding of the concepts of the Westminster system, democracy and participation. You investigate the types of law in Australia and how they are made. You consider the responsibilities and freedoms of citizens, and how Australians can actively participate in their democracy. You explore the different perspectives of Australian identity.

GEOGRAPHY The concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability and change continue to be developed as a way of thinking and provide you with the opportunity to inquire into the significance of landscapes to people and the spatial change in the distribution of populations. You apply this understanding to a wide range of places and environments at the full range of scales, from local to global, and in a range of locations. Students generally undertake field work at Barmah National Park.

ECONOMICS The concept of markets is introduced to further develop your understanding of the concepts of interdependence, making choices and allocation. You consider how markets work and the rights, responsibilities and opportunities that arise for businesses, consumers and governments. Work and work futures are explored as you consider the influences on the way people work now and consider how people will work in the future. You focus on national and regional issues, with opportunities for the concepts to also be considered in relation to local community, or global, issues where appropriate.

You will continue your study of Italian or Japanese in Year 8

ITALIAN [08ITA]

Year 8 Italian is a prerequisite for studying Year 9 Italian.

Italian is a rewarding language to learn as it opens up the riches of Italy's cultural past and its dynamic present. Using the communicative approach, you focus on the development of pronunciation, grammar and practical vocabulary. You will learn useful phrases and develop skills to allow you to take part in simple conversations, and read and write simple sentences covering a range of everyday topics in Italian.

JAPANESE [08JPN]

Year 8 Japanese is a prerequisite for studying Year 9 Japanese.

You will continue to develop your Japanese speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. You will learn about Japanese culture and traditions, people, society and history, comparing your own lives to the life of a teenager in modern Japan. You will become proficient in reading and writing the Hiragana script and be introduced to the Katakana and Kanji scripts. This course will concentrate on developing your communication skills, focusing on practical vocabulary and useful phrases.



ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

TECHNOLOGY

You will complete two Technologies electives over the year, one in each semester

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY [08DTE]

In Digital Technologies, you're not just learning – you're unlocking the real-life codes to become a problem-solving master! Over this epic adventure, you'll gain hands-on experience across diverse digital platforms, from awesome apps to cool coding languages, building an arsenal of tech powers to conquer any info-problem. You'll start by designing solutions to basic quests and learn two powerful programming languages – a graphic one for visualising your code in action, and a general-purpose language for flexing coding muscles. You'll train your brain in systems thinking, a mental superpower enabling you to evaluate and optimise solutions, learning from battle-tested ones. Joining an elite squad, you'll work in project development teams, sharing epic ideas, swapping tactical feedback, ensuring your crew stays on target. Get ready to embark on a journey transforming you into a digital warrior, armed with skills to conquer any challenge.

ENGINEERING WORKSHOP PRACTICES [08EWP]

In this elective, you dive into the exciting world of engineering and hands-on craftsmanship. Throughout the term, you'll learn essential skills for safely working with a variety of materials, tools, and equipment in the workshop. Key topics include mastering techniques such as cutting, shaping, and assembling materials to create functional and innovative projects. You'll also explore design principles, problem-solving strategies, and the importance of environmental sustainability in engineering practices. Safety is our top priority, and you'll receive thorough instruction on safe workshop procedures. By the end of the course, you'll have honed your technical abilities, unleashed your creativity, and gained a deeper appreciation for the impact of engineering on our world. Get ready for an engaging and enriching journey in the Year 8 Engineering Workshop!

FOOD [08FOO]

This subject aims for you to continue investigating the kitchen and its equipment and build on the skills you developed in Year 7. You will increase your awareness of safe and hygienic working procedures in the kitchen, and use more complex utensils, equipment and appliances. You will have a production (cooking) and a theory class once a week. You will continue to analyse how characteristics and properties of food determine practical preparation techniques and presentation when creating solutions for healthy eating. You will also work both individually and in pairs to create a variety of food items including dishes for breakfast, lunch, dinner and meals for families. You will also make healthy snacks and focus on sustainability. A major assignment will include planning, producing and evaluating a healthy pasta dish.

SYSTEMS [08SYS]

In this subject, you are introduced to electrical, electronic and mechanical systems. You explore how systems are made, tested and used in a practical way. You apply your knowledge by completing practical tasks such as constructing mechanical devices and simple machines, electrical and electronic circuits and microcontrollers. This course encourages you to develop your problem-solving skills and you will begin to develop an ability to read and interpret circuit diagrams while effectively planning and designing your projects.

TEXTILES [08TEX]

In this subject, you will further develop your knowledge and understanding of the Product Design Process by designing and making things with textiles (fibres and yarns). You will learn to use tools and equipment in the workroom and prepare a Product Design Folio to record your work. You will learn to respond to a design brief. You will learn to use the sewing machine to make a simple drawstring bag, an upcycling project featuring applique and beginner garment construction by making a pair of elastic waist shorts. You will learn fabric decoration techniques such as fabric dyeing, fabric painting and transfer printing. You will learn about sustainability by completing a fast fashion research task.

WOOD [08WOO]

In this subject, you will further develop your knowledge and understanding of the product design process using wood as the main material. You will learn to prepare a Product Design Folio and construct several items using a range of wood working processes. Areas covered will include the production processes and an introduction to wood, accurate preparation of materials, simple construction of joints, and working safely with a range of materials, tools and equipment.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

THE ARTS

You will complete two electives from The Arts over the year, one in each semester

BEAT PRODUCERS [08BPR]

Get ready to unleash your inner music producer in Beat Producers! Using Soundtrap, you will craft cool beats, compose your own tunes, and experiment with recording and remixing audio. Perfect for aspiring musicians and tech-savvy creators, this course is all about having fun while making music. By the end, you'll have a collection of original tracks to show off!

DRAMA [08DRA]

If you love performing on stage or would like to develop your confidence, then Year 8 Drama is the choice for you! Throughout the course, you will participate in activities that build your skills as a performer. You will explore ways to express yourself by experimenting with different characters and scripts. There will be opportunities for you to work in teams and present performances to the class in different theatre styles. You will also have the opportunity to watch and review a professional theatre performance.

MEDIA [08MED]

In Year 8 Media you plan, produce and share short video projects. You complete a series of practical exercises to develop skills in camera operation, file management and video post-production. This includes learning about how filmmakers use different shot types, camera movements and editing choices to engage audiences, tell stories and communicate ideas. In the second half of the unit, you work collaboratively to plan and produce a short film in either a documentary or narrative fiction format. You complete reflective writing, planning documentation and media theory tasks to complement and support your production work.

MUSIC [08MUS]

Music is a fun, engaging and interactive subject that explores many different genres and instruments: keyboard, guitar, ukulele and voice. You will investigate styles of music and apply your knowledge and skills to your compositions in Soundtrap. You will have the opportunity to create your own songs and will use techniques such as beat-making and playing instruments to present and perform throughout the semester. You will also learn what it takes to become a musician by learning about chords, melody and rhythm while developing listening skills by listening to some of your favourite artists.

THEATRE: BEHIND THE SCENES [08TBS]

Explore the “behind the scenes” of theatre. In this course you will take on the role of designer, creator and theatre technician to understand how people in these roles create the look and feel of a production on stage. You will learn about lighting, costumes, set/props and make-up. You will also get hands-on experience by visiting working theatres and meeting with professionals working in industry. This subject is perfect for students who are thinking about a career in theatre and stage production.

VISUAL ARTS [08VAR]

In Year 8 Visual Arts, you will dive deeper into the world of Art. You will analyse and identify specific features of artworks from different cultures and times and, as you engage with the creative design process to develop and experiment with original ideas, you will be able to deeply reflect and strengthen your practical and theoretical knowledge of Visual Arts. You will work with a variety of materials including pastel, clay, pencil, ink and linoleum to create a series of final artworks and demonstrate your developing creative abilities using each specific technique. Each technique focuses on a different outcome so you are able to experience a wide variety of forms that Art offers.



ELECTIVE SUBJECT

This subject has restricted entry

SPORTS ACADEMY

SPORTS ACADEMY [08SAC]

If you are accepted into the Sports Academy at Year 8 you will complete the course as an elective in both semesters, therefore you will be able to select only one of THE ARTS and one TECHNOLOGY elective for the year, instead of two of each.

The Sports Academy has been formed to assist talented student athletes to achieve at the highest levels of performance in their various sports and to help them with their personal education and vocational development. The Sports Academy will be offered as a select entry programme at Year 8, Year 9, Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12. If you are selected into the Sports Academy you will complete specialised theory content aimed to provide you with prior VCE knowledge, specific knowledge required by athletes and an introduction into possible careers in the sporting industry. Throughout the year you will participate in strength and conditioning training programmes during timetabled practical classes. Additionally, you will complete a sports-specific skill training session five times per term in the morning before school.

Theory topics covered in Year 8 are Goal Setting and Healthy Habits, Strong Mind Strong Athlete, Fitness for Life and Nutrition for Life.

You will complete one strength and conditioning session during your timetabled practical class each week.