



8

NOTRE DAME COLLEGE

**SUBJECT AND
PROGRAMME GUIDE**

2027



WELCOME

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 send an email to: subjectselection@notredame.vic.edu.au.

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



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GENERAL INFORMATION

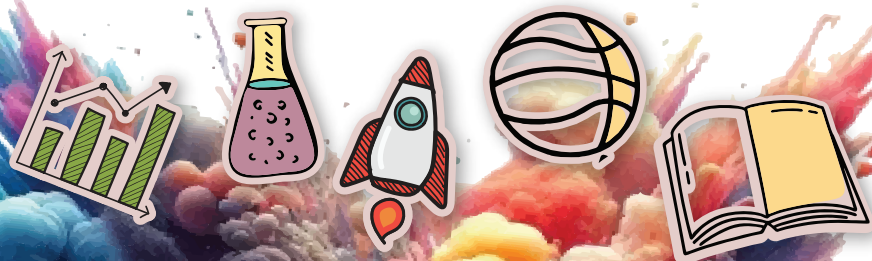
Submitting your Subject Selections

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.

High Performance Sport at Year 8

Previously called Sports Academy, High Performance Sport (HPS) is a selective entry elective with limited places available each semester. Selection is based on a student's demonstrated commitment to sport, positive behaviour, work habits and willingness to improve.

The programme is designed to support students in maximising their sporting potential while developing lifelong habits for health, performance and leadership. High Performance Sport electives are semester-based subjects, with students having the opportunity to select different HPS streams across the year depending on year level restrictions and timetabling availability.



College Contacts

Subject Selection Queries

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THE YEAR 8 PROGRAMME

In Year 8 you will undertake seven core subjects, Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, The Humanities and your chosen Language. Core subjects are studied for the whole year. You also have the opportunity to select subjects of your own choice, these are called Electives. You will select two electives from Technology, and two from The Arts Learning Areas. You will undertake two electives each semester.

CORE SUBJECTS STUDIED ALL YEAR

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 two units in each of the following areas: Biological Science, Physical Science, Chemical Science and Earth Science. For Physics, you investigate forms of energy such as kinetic and potential. You explain how energy can be transferred and transformed. You also apply the particle model to explain the properties of matter. For Chemistry, 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. 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. For Earth Science, you investigate tectonic plates and 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. In Science, you engage in practical investigations. This includes designing, conducting and presenting your findings.

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: Economics, Civics, Geography and History. In Semester One you will learn about the topic of Economics with a focus on how markets work and the opportunities that arise for businesses, consumers and governments. Term Two begins with the study of Civics and you will learn about the rights of citizens within the Australian democracy. This is followed by Geography, which focuses on analysing the impacts of natural and human-made disasters. In Semester Two you will conclude the year with an in-depth study of the Aztec Empire and the Spanish Conquistadors. The final Term will focus on an investigation into the Black Death in Europe.

► **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 Aztec empire of Mexico and their later colonisation by the Spanish. 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.

Italian 08ITA

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

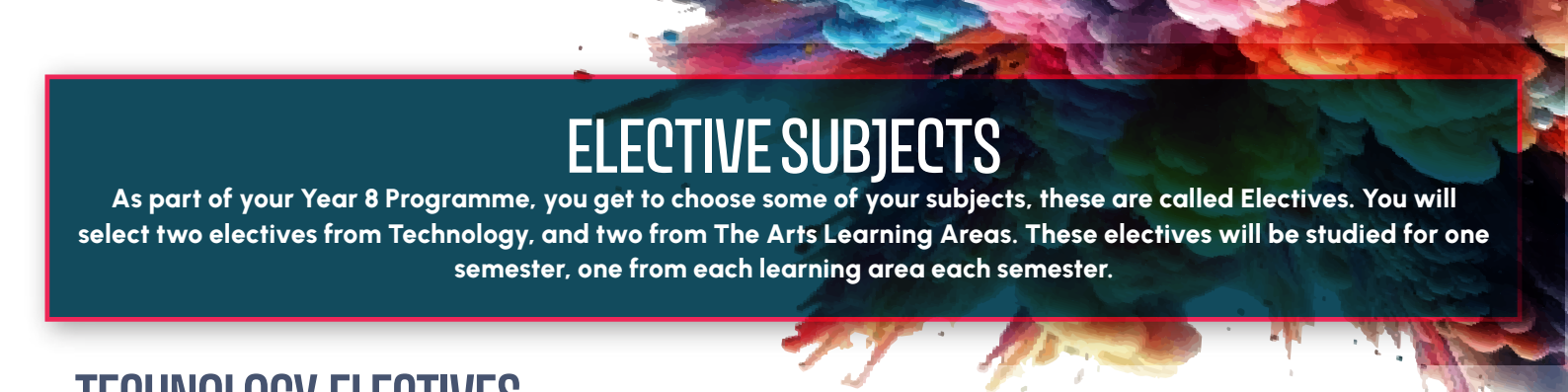
Italian is a rewarding language to learn as it opens up the riches of Italy's cultural past and its dynamic present. Using the communicative approach, you will develop pronunciation, grammar and practical vocabulary, building skills to take part in simple conversations and to read and write simple sentences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

In Year 8, you will explore topics including physical descriptions, animals, school life and telling the time, and fashion. You will develop your ability to listen, speak, read and write in Italian, engaging with the language in meaningful, everyday contexts. Along the way, you will also discover connections between Italian culture and your own, deepening your understanding of the world through the lens of another language.

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

As part of your Year 8 Programme, you get to choose some of your subjects, these are called Electives. You will select two electives from Technology, and two from The Arts Learning Areas. These electives will be studied for one semester, one from each learning area each semester.

TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

SELECT TWO TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

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.

THE ARTS ELECTIVES

SELECT TWO ARTS ELECTIVES

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

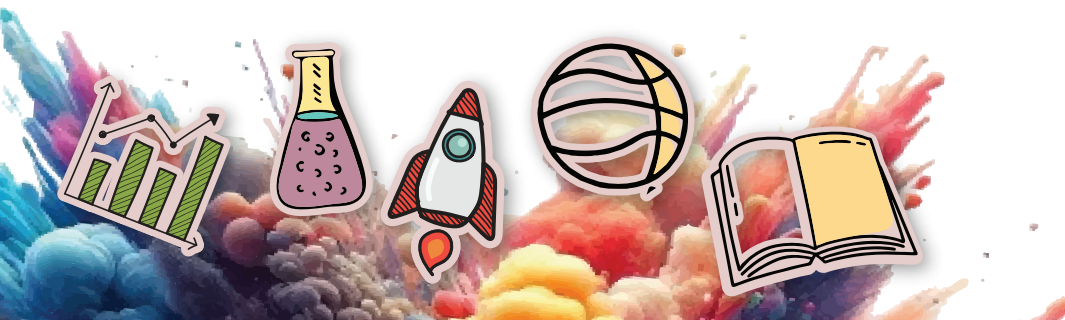
Music is a fun, engaging and interactive subject that explores many different genres and instruments: keyboard, guitar, ukulele and voice. You will investigate styles of music and apply your knowledge and skills to your compositions in Soundtrap. You will have the opportunity to create your own songs 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

RESTRICTED ENTRY

High Performance Sport 08SAC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ▶ High Performance Sport (HPS) is a selective entry elective with limited places available each semester. Selection is based on a student's demonstrated commitment to sport, positive behaviour, work habits and willingness to improve.
- ▶ This subject incurs an additional fee of \$100 per semester
- ▶ High Performance Sport will replace either an Arts or Technology elective per semester.
- ▶ Students may choose HPS in one or both semesters depending on their overall elective selections and ▶ timetable availability.

As part of the Learning phase of the HPS pathway, students will develop movement skills, game awareness and decision-making in competitive sporting environments. Students will participate in weekly athletic development and introductory strength and conditioning sessions focused on fitness components relevant to their sport, while learning how training habits, feedback and preparation influence performance.

Students may explore topics such as skill-related fitness, inclusive sport experiences and leadership through team-based competition. This subject is suited to students who demonstrate positive behaviour, strong effort and a willingness to learn and improve.

- ▶ **OPTION 1** Invasion Focus – Designed for students who enjoy sport and are motivated to improve their performance in invasion games such as football, basketball, netball and soccer. AND/OR
- ▶ **OPTION 2** Net/Wall & Striking/Fielding Focus – Designed for students who enjoy sport and are motivated to improve their performance in sports such as tennis, badminton, volleyball, cricket and softball/baseball.

