



2023

Middle School Years 8 and 9 Curriculum Handbook



INTRODUCTION

Rockhampton Girls Grammar School provides a continuum of learning from Years Prep to 12.

- Early Learning - Prep to Year 2
- Primary School - Year 3 to Year 6
- Middle School - Year 7 to Year 9
- Senior School - Year 10 to Year 12

We value the partnership between students, parents and teachers who work together to ensure that Years 8 and 9 are enjoyable and productive and provide the foundation for success in the following years. The Years 8 and 9 curriculum provides the essential bridge between Middle School and Senior School learning and expectations. This Middle School Curriculum Handbook should be used in conjunction with the information given to students by the subject teachers.

It is important to note that elective subjects will be offered only if selected by sufficient numbers of students and where the demands of the school timetable and staffing permit.

If you have any questions please contact the Deputy Principal - Studies, Dr John Fry or the classroom teacher with expertise in that subject:

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Business
Dance
Digital Technologies
Drama
English
Food and Textiles
Humanities and Social Science
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education
Science
Spanish
Visual Art

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CORE STUDIES AT YEARS 8 AND 9

Core subjects ensure that all students are provided with the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge to undertake the range of subjects available in the senior years of schooling.

Beyond the Core, students have an opportunity to select from a range of elective subjects. The elective choices are designed to maximise the engagement of students in Middle School.

Core Subjects:

All students are required to study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Science (HaSS)
- Physical Education



ENGLISH (CORE)

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Overview

People learn to use language in their everyday lives through participating in a variety of language activities. By providing students with a range of worthwhile and realistic activities, they will develop an understanding of, and effective control over, language which is appropriate to a range of situations. We believe it is important that students are confident in communicating in oral and written modes as well as being able to utilise various technologies to learn and to convey their ideas. In addition to units, all students explicitly study grammar to improve their writing and editing skills.

Year 8 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Advertising Film	Novel Study Poetry

Year 8 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Extended response – Comparative written response Assessment 2: Extended Response – Persuasive written and spoken response	Assessment 3: Examination - Analytical / Evaluative written response Assessment 4: Extended Response – Analytical written response

Year 9 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Narrative – Short story Persuasion – TED Talk	Novel study - <i>Lord of the Flies</i> Shakespeare – <i>Romeo & Juliet</i>

Year 9 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Short response — imaginative written response Assessment 2: Extended Response – persuasive spoken response	Assessment 3: Examination — analytical written response Assessment 4: Extended response — imaginative written and spoken response



MATHEMATICS (CORE)

Contact – BronteEvetts@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

The Mathematics program is based on the Years 8 and 9 Mathematics Australian Curriculum and is organised into two learning area Achievement Standards. The proficiency standard describes the skills, or 'how' of Mathematics and the content standard describes the knowledge and understanding, or 'what' of Mathematics. The courses include topics in the Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry, and Statistics & Probability strands.

Through key activities such as the exploration, recognition and application of patterns, the capacity for abstract thought can be developed and the ways of thinking associated with abstract ideas can be illustrated. Previously established mathematical ideas can be drawn upon in unfamiliar sequences and combinations to solve non-routine problems and to consequently develop more complex mathematical ideas. However, students of this age also benefit from an understanding of the connections between mathematical concepts and their application in their world. This means using contexts directly related to topics of relevance and interest to this age group.

Year 8 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Integers and indices Fractions and decimals Algebra - simplifying, expanding, factorising, finding the rule Measurement - calculating perimeter, Area and Volume and capacity	Linear Graphs - creation of and interpretation, finding the equation of a line. Linear equations - solving linear equations, solving linear equation problems. Geometry - calculating unknown angles, congruent and similar triangles, quadrilaterals. Statistics - Creation and analysis of Graphs, working with averages. Probability - Calculating probabilities for single step experiments. Venn Diagrams and two-way tables.

Year 8 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Examination Assessment 2: Problem Solving and Modelling Task	Assessment 3: Examination Assessment 4: Examination

Year 9 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Finance Pythagoras theorem Algebra - simplifying, rearranging formulas, expanding and factorising Measurement - calculating length, Area and Volume	Linear equations Geometric Reasoning Trigonometry Statistics and Probability Non Linear relationships

Year 9 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Examination Assessment 2: Problem Solving and Modelling Task	Assessment 3: Examination Assessment 4: Examination



SCIENCE (CORE)

Contact - ChristieDey@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

The Science program delivers the three content strands of the Australian Curriculum:

- **Science Understanding** - Evident when a person selects and integrates appropriate science knowledge to explain and predict phenomena and applies that knowledge to new situations.
 - Biological Sciences
 - Chemical Sciences
 - Physical Sciences
 - Earth and Space Sciences
- **Science as a Human Endeavour** - Highlights the development of science as a unique way of knowing and doing, and the role of science in contemporary decision making and problem solving.
 - Nature and Development of Science
 - Use and influence of Science
- **Science Inquiry Skills** - Covers evaluating claims, investigating ideas, solving problems, drawing valid conclusions and developing evidence-based arguments.
 - Questioning and predicting
 - Planning and constructing
 - Processing and analysing data and information
 - Evaluating
 - Communicating

The strands and sub-strands will build sequentially and cumulatively across the two years of 8 and 9. Together, the three strands provide students with understanding, knowledge and skills through which they can develop a scientific view of the world. Units within each year level will focus on the sub-strand descriptors. Students who develop their science skills in Years 8 and 9, (particularly the skills of problem solving, analysis and prediction) will be suitable candidates for Senior Science subjects such as: Agricultural Science, Chemistry, Physics and Biology. As students enter their senior years, they will be assisted in their selection of subjects based on their demonstrated aptitude and future career interests.

Year 8 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Earth & Space Science - Rocks and Their Uses Biology - Multiplying by Dividing	Chemistry - Matter Matters Physics - Energy for My Lifestyle

Year 8 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Earth & Space Science – STEM task Assessment 2: Biology – Supervised Exam	Assessment 3: Chemistry – Supervised Exam Assessment 4: Physics - Assignment

Year 9 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Biology - Life's balance Chemistry - Chemical Patterns	Physics - Waves and Particles Earth & Space Science - Changing the Earth

Year 9 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Biology – STEM Task Assessment 2: Chemistry – Supervised Exam	Assessment 3: Physics – STEM Task Assessment 4: Earth & Space Science – Supervised Exam



HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE (CORE)

Contact – EmmaWhitehand@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

The study of Humanities and Social Science (HaSS) provides opportunities for students to appreciate and understand the historical, geographical and cultural aspects of our wonderful world. Employing an inquiry approach to studies, students will learn to analyse maps and graphs, stimulus material and primary and secondary sources using the ADAMANT approach. There is a strong focus on developing higher order thinking skills and students are encouraged to research and draw their own conclusions in response to topics studied. Students who enjoy History, Geography and Civics and Citizenship are encouraged to undertake courses in Humanities in the senior school.

In 2023, students will undertake studies in History, Geography and Civics and Citizenship.

Year 8 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Changing Nations Medieval Europe and the Black Death	Shogunate Japan Exploring influences that shape Australian Citizenship

Year 8 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Exam Assessment 2: Research Multimodal Task	Assessment 3: Source Analysis Exam Assessment 4: Exam

Year 9 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Making a Nation Movement of Peoples	World War I The Great Depression- The Inter War Years

Year 9 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Analytical Essay Assessment 2: Source Analysis Exam	Assessment 3: Multimodal Research Task Assessment 4: Source Analysis Exam



PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE)

Contact - GretaDoherty@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

This course aims to develop healthy and active students with critical enquiry skills to analyse and understand the influences on their own and others' health, safety, wellbeing, and physical activity participation. Physical Education lessons aim to encourage lifelong involvement and enjoyment in physical activity.

Due to the requirements of participation in the practical component of Physical Education, each student is required to have their correct sports uniform, a sports hat, and joggers for every practical lesson or swimmers, swimming cap and sun-shirt where water sports occur. Students are expected to participate in every lesson, allowing them to develop their skill level and confidence within the physical activity under study.

Year 8 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Drugs and Positive Choices (Lifesaving) Lifestyle Diseases and Health Benefits of Physical Activity (Athletics)	Anatomy and Physiology (Soccer and Futsal) Basic First Aid (Tee Ball and Cricket)

Year 8 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Persuasive letter Assessment 2: Multimodal Presentation	Assessment 3: Examination Assessment 4: Examination

Year 9 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Figueroa's Framework (Water Polo) Motor Learning (Touch)	Relationships and Sexual Health (Volleyball) First aid and CPR (Lifesaving)

Year 9 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Research Report Assessment 2: Project Folio	Assessment 3: Examination Assessment 4: Examination – Practical CPR and Response to Scenarios

ELECTIVE STUDIES AT YEARS 8 AND 9

In addition to the five core subjects, students choose three elective subjects, enabling each student to pursue areas of academic interest as potential precursors for senior schooling.

Electives should be selected on the basis of studies each student would most enjoy. The only Years 8 and 9 elective that is a ***prerequisite** for senior studies is Spanish. Year 8 and 9 elective subjects provide a self-contained learning experience while providing an excellent foundation for related studies in Year 10. Students may choose to experience several different elective subject combinations across Years 8 and 9.

Students choose three electives from the following:

- **Agricultural Science**
- **Business**
- **Dance**
- **Drama**
- **Food and Textiles**
- **Digital Technologies**
- **Music**
- **Spanish***
- **Visual Art**





AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE (ELECTIVE)

Contact - SalenaMcBride@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

Agricultural Science examines modern agricultural practices. It is a program of study for girls interested in primary production and the care of plants and animals. It is relevant to every student as it gives an understanding of where food and fibres, that are essential for everyday life, are sourced. An Agricultural Science garden for growing vegetables and conducting field trials is located on campus. We also have access to properties in the local area which extend our capacity to showcase agriculture. Excursions are planned at various times to allow students to experience agricultural aspects in the local community. Cattle sales and trips to properties and farms are undertaken by students during the school year.

Topics covered include Australian Beef, Animal Welfare, Animal Behaviour, Care of Farm Animals, Plant and Animal Anatomy and Physiology, Farm Planning, Sustainability, Innovation and Technology and more depending on student interest.

Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Cropping & Grains Animal Health	Pork & Poultry Agricultural Careers

Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Student Experiment Assessment 2: Exam	Assessment 3: Research Assignment Assessment 4: Presentation



BUSINESS (ELECTIVE)

Contact – ChrisRead@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

The study of Business has both practical and theoretical components which provide students with everyday life skills. Topics utilise technology in assessment and practical situations to produce products. Each focus area includes a cross-curricular component that underpins the Business program including literacy, numeracy, life skills and future perspectives. The course has been designed to provide students with skills and opportunities which align with industry specific processes.

Throughout the program, students will be provided with the opportunity to engage in the following areas of study:

- Introduction to business economics
- Production and markets
- Marketing and promotion
- Business planning
- Financial risk and rewards
- Competitive markets and innovation
- Management and leadership
- Participants in the workplace

Students will investigate information procedures by applying basic financial analysis techniques. Such techniques include the development of budgets, graphing business data to analyse trends and determining a business's financial position. Students explain how changes to sources, forms and management of information effect design and production decisions. Further analysis will include financial management, investigation and interpretation of business and economic activities, including the systems and regulatory bodies that control economic activity and standardise industries.

By the end of the course, students should develop the ability to:

- complete basic financial management processes
- explain the importance of managing financial risks and rewards
- analyse business and economic systems
- develop business and marketing plans
- analyse why businesses seek to create a competitive advantage through innovation
- analyse the roles and responsibilities of participants in the workplace

Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Financial Risks and Rewards Competitive markets and innovation	Management and leadership Participants in the workplace

Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Exam Assessment 2: Report	Assessment 3: Exam Assessment 4: Report



DANCE (ELECTIVE)

Contact - EmmaGirle@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

Dance is a human activity of ancient tradition and a fundamental and evolving form of expression. Through Dance, students can effectively convey ideas, images and feelings using the human body as an instrument of communication. The study of dance in its wider context promotes an understanding of culture and promotes a respect for other cultures. Students gain self-esteem and develop an ability to appreciate dance and other art forms. They also practise discipline and respect for self and others as necessary skills to work effectively individually and in groups. The study of dance in the secondary years is designed for students with or without previous dance experience. It caters for a variety of skills and ability levels and aims to introduce students to a wide range of dance styles.

Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Broadway Baby Becoming the Choreographer	Legacies of Dance

Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Performance Assessment 2: Choreography	Assessment 3: Project – dance work Assessment 4: Examination



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (ELECTIVE)

Contact – JaydenBorg@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

This is a stimulating and relevant subject for students interested in digital creativity and design. Students studying Digital Technologies will have the opportunity to engage with the Adobe Creative Cloud Suite, Web and Database languages, Microcontrollers and their application to Robotics and IoT (Internet of Things). Students will study graphic and web design, web coding and interaction. System and software engineering will also be explored through the creation of robots and IoT devices. This is based on Arduino compatible prototyping boards and the Arduino IDE software interface. The Digital Technologies program has been specifically designed to develop 'real world' skills that can be applied across other subjects in future educational and employment endeavours.

Students undertaking the Digital Technologies program will produce:

- Websites and Website designs
- Database Systems
- Interactive Web interfaces with SQL
- Microcontroller programmed devices
- Robotics and IoT devices
- Short film samples
- 3D printed and modelled objects

Languages explored include HTML, CSS, JavaScript, MySQL, PHP and C++(Arduino)

Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Arduino IDE and Galileo Prototyping Boards Arduino IDE Project – Solving a real-world problem	Microsoft Access – Database Premiere Pro – Video Editing

Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Examination Assessment 2: Project	Assessment 3: Project Assessment 4: Project



DRAMA (ELECTIVE)

Contact - EmmaGirle@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

The study of Drama focuses on the development of creative and critical thinkers. Topics covered challenge students to explore the elements of Drama and a wide range of dramatic styles, conventions and techniques. Throughout the course, students engage in creating, performing and analysing dramatic action. They develop the confidence to step inside another's shoes and view events and issues from multiple perspectives while becoming reflective and active learners. Students engage critically with the world around them in their approach to creating, presenting and deconstructing performance works. Styles studied develop skills in physicalisation, character development, social engagement and lateral thinking.

Year 8 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Stories in the Dark	Drama to Connect

Year 8 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Performance Assessment 2: Portfolio	Assessment 3: Performance Assessment 4: Script writing task

Year 9 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
The Real and the Imagined	Holding the Mirror Artists at Work

Year 9 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Examination	Assessment 2: Script writing task Assessment 3: Directorial Pitch/Performance



FOOD AND TEXTILES (ELECTIVE)

Contact – SammyCobon@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

Social and economic shifts have caused radical changes to how we live our lives and the resources we have at hand to do so, especially in the workplace. In Food and Textiles, students will develop the capacity for action to create innovative solutions that improve the lives of people and societies globally, using traditional, contemporary and emerging technologies, to meet current and future needs.

Knowledge and Understanding -

- Technologies and Society - The use, development & impact of technologies in people's lives
- Technologies Contexts - Technologies and design across a range of contexts: Food and Fibre production, Food Specialisation, Materials and Technologies specialisations

Processes and Production -

- Investigating and defining
- Generating and designing
- Producing and implementing
- Evaluating
- Collaborating and managing

Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Ronald McDonald House – Material Specialisation Diet Related Diseases – Food Specialisation	Healthy Snacking – Food Specialisation Food and Fibre Production

Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Performance and Produce Assessment 2: Performance and Produce	Assessment 3: Performance and Produce Assessment 4: Investigation



MUSIC (ELECTIVE)

Contact – JessicaDawes@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

Music helps us to express and communicate what it is to be human. Through music, we develop communication, interpersonal and leadership skills as well as self-esteem, confidence and discipline. It also stimulates unique forms of self-expression and artistic freedom and extends students' higher intellectual skills while providing creative industry pathways. While there are no subject prerequisites for Years 8 and 9 Music, the ability to read music notation and play an instrument is essential, and students would therefore benefit from regular tuition on an instrument. Students are also expected to be a member of at least one of the Girls Grammar Instrumental or Vocal Ensembles.

Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Track Formers Be a Producer	Game Composer Part 1 Game Composer Part 2

Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Performance Assessment 2: Composition	Assessment 3: Performance Assessment 4: Musicology



SPANISH (ELECTIVE)

Contact - MaiteLacosteSanchez@rggs.qld.edu.au

*Prerequisite for Years 11 and 12 Spanish

Overview

Spanish is a global language that is among the world's top five languages in terms of number of speakers, number of countries where it is official, and geographic extension. With nearly 493 million native speakers, it is the world's second largest mother tongue. The number reaches 591 million Spanish speakers adding together native speakers, those with a more limited knowledge, and students of the Spanish language. It is also the third most widely used language on the internet.

At Rockhampton Girls Grammar School, language education is based on the communicative approach. The objective is to develop the learner's competence to communicate in the target language, with an enhanced focus on real-life situations (order at a restaurant, make plans with friends, go shopping...). In order to achieve this goal, students are encouraged to use the language to communicate whenever possible in the classroom.

The class activities include working on the four skills: Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking. The development of these skills is vital for students to reach the goal of effectively communicating in real life interactions. Teaching and learning contexts will draw from more than one of these skills to support students' effective learning. Students will also explore Spanish-speaking countries' lifestyles and traditions to develop intercultural understanding and social language skills when interacting with natives. Students will value and respect diverse ways of communicating, thinking and behaving.

Years 8 and 9 units aim to extend the skills gained in Year 7 and Primary School. Students with no prior knowledge of Spanish would need to be prepared to undertake extra independent work in order to succeed.

Year 8 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p><i>¿Cómo eres?, ¿Dónde vives?</i> <i>Mi rutina</i></p> <p>Topics: family, city, descriptions, daily routine</p>	<p><i>Competición</i> <i>Buen provecho</i></p> <p>Topics: sports, food, likes and dislikes</p>

Year 9 Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p><i>¿Por qué no vamos al cine?</i> <i>He viajado a Méjico</i></p> <p>Topics: leisure activities, plans, experiences, travelling</p>	<p><i>Ayer...</i> <i>Cuando era niña</i></p> <p>Topics: actions in the past</p>

Years 8 and 9 Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
<p>Assessment 1: Macro skills of -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading examination - Writing examination - Speaking examination - Listening examination 	<p>Assessment 2: Macro skills of -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading examination - Writing examination - Speaking examination - Listening examination



VISUAL ART (ELECTIVE)

Contact – NicoleGraham@rggs.qld.edu.au

Overview

“There’s always room for a story that can transport people to another place” – J.K. Rowling

Through the lens of visual art, we view, understand and communicate ideas about the world and ourselves. Artists develop an astute capacity to observe, analyse, examine, explore and construct representations of the world. They will be exposed to new ways of thinking and diverse or multiple viewpoints that challenge perspective and visual representations.

Throughout the year, students will focus on storytelling and fantasy as inspiration. Students will produce a variety of art pieces using pencil, watercolour, acrylic paint, printmaking, collage and photoshop. To develop a better understanding of the way artists work, they will examine their personal contemporary influences in the context of their time and place in history.

Students will experiment with a range of approaches to improve technical skills, foster curiosity, creative thinking, and inspire innovative art practices. They will be guided through the inquiry learning process to develop, research and reflect and resolve questions about the making of art.

Structure

Semester 1	Semester 2
Storytelling - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercolour painting Printmaking- lino printing 	Fantasy - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collage techniques Photoshop

Assessment

Semester 1	Semester 2
Assessment 1: Practical - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Storytelling without words through watercolour Telling stories through symbols through lino print. Assessment 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory – Research Storytelling artists and reflection on own process/artwork 	Assessment 3: Practical - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fantasy world through collage Manipulation of collage using photoshop Assessment 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theory – Exam

