

2025

Year 9

SUBJECT HANDBOOK

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# **YEAR 9 SUBJECT OVERVIEW**

The curriculum at Vermont Secondary College in Year 9 is rich, varied and challenging. The curriculum is based on the Victorian Curriculum and the understanding that at Year 9 students should be provided with a broad intellectual grounding in a range of subject areas, whilst introducing the opportunity for students to explore varied interests and pathways. Accordingly, students engage in a number of core and elective subjects.

# **Year 9 Subjects**

## **Year Long (Core Subjects)**

- English
- Health & Physical Education
- Mathematics
- Science

## **Semester Length Subjects**

- Geography
- History
- Elective 1 From Arts and Technologies List
- Elective 2 Free Choice
- Elective 3 Free Choice
- Elective 4 Free Choice
- Elective 5 Free Choice
- Elective 6 Free Choice

Please note: Language is a year-long sequence.

## **COMMERCE**

## **COMMERCE**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students will explore ways they can contribute to decision-making processes in Australia by gaining an understanding of the Australian political system. Students will also develop useful skills for their future beyond school. Areas of study include:

- Government and Active citizenship the role of political parties, parliament and compulsory voting, as well as how we can influence change.
- Law and Citizens key features of Australia's court and the justice system.
- Australia as a trading nation and its place within the global economy.
- Economic performance and economic indicators including variations within different economies.
- Consumer and Financial Literacy making financial decisions, budgeting and managing credit

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Financial capability test
- Economics task
- Law test
- Active citizenship research task

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Civics and Citizenship Victorian Curriculum Economics and Business Year 10 Commerce Year 10 Politics and Economics

## **COSTS INVOLVED:**

## **COMPUTING**

### **MULTIMEDIA**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This course will provide students with introductory skills in Adobe Photoshop a powerful tool used for photo editing, creating digital artwork, designs for web sites and more. This introductory course provides a thorough overview of the interface, the tools, features and tricks and tips of using Adobe Photoshop. The software is extensively used for editing and composing raster images: using layers, colour balance, blending modes, curves, masks and many more features. Students also acquire a deep knowledge and understanding of digital systems, data and information and the processes associated with creating digital solutions

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Data & Information Research poster
- Creating Digital Solutions Folios, skill tests, networking, collage and panorama project
- Digital Systems Online test

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Digital Technologies
VCE VET Digital Media Units 1 - 4
VCE Computing: Applied Computing Units 1 & 2

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

### **PROGRAMMING**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Programming is designed for students to become confident and creative developers of digital solutions through structured computer programming and creating computer games. Students acquire a deep knowledge and understanding of digital systems, data and information and the processes associated with creating digital solutions.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Digital Systems online test
- Data & Information research poster
- Creating Digital Solutions folios, tests, programming projects

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Digital Technologies VCE Computing: Applied Computing Units 1 & 2 VCE Computing: Software Development Units 3 & 4 VCE Computing: Data Analytics Unit 3 & 4

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

## **ENGLISH**

## **ENGLISH**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The Year 9 English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Together the strands focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. Learning in Year 9 English builds on concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier levels, and teachers will revisit and strengthen these as needed. Year 9 students will engage with a variety of texts. They will interpret, create, evaluate, discuss and perform a wide range of literary texts designed for aesthetic, informational and persuasive purposes.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Assessment
- Writing Tasks
- Speaking Tasks
- Reading and Responding Tasks

#### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum English

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

[CORE SUBJECT]

## **LITERATURE**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Literature is targeted at those students interested in reading, analysing and discussing a range of text types. Students will undertake an in-depth study of how written texts can be interpreted and analysed. The unit will also provide students with a solid basis to enhance their future studies in English and Literature.

## ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Text analysis
- Creative response
- Oral presentation
- Poetry analysis

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum English and VCE Literature

## **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

## **ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students with less than four years of schooling in Australia are required to list this unit as one of their elective choices. This unit is taken in addition to Year 9 English by students for whom English as a second or further language. Students develop their vocabulary, reading comprehension, grammar, sentence structure and essay writing. Tasks also focus on personal learning strategies and developing the speaking confidence and competency required in Australian social and educational contexts and VCE studies.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Listening comprehension
- Grammar Tests
- Reading and Responding to Texts
- Speaking and Presenting
- Writing Folio

#### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum English. Required for successful completion of English/EAL VCE Units 1 - 4

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

## **SUCCESS IN ENGLISH**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Do you feel as though you need a helping hand with your Reading and Writing skills? Does essay writing feel like a difficult task? Do oral presentations make your heart flutter? Well, worry no longer! We all know that strong English skills are the key to a successful senior school career and your best ATAR score. You can do this by studying visual and written texts that will strengthen your English skills. This elective has been designed to support students who are struggling to perform at the expected level of English proficiency under the Victorian English Curriculum. In short, the course is remedial by nature, designed to assist those students struggling with their English studies to help them "catch up" to where they need to be in their English proficiency.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Reading and creating texts
- Analysing and presenting

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum English

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

# **HEALTH, and PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

## **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Year 9 Health and Physical Education is a coeducational program incorporating a wide range of activities designed to develop movement, coordination and control as well as interpersonal skills, enabling students to function effectively as a part of a group or team and to promote knowledge and understanding of the importance of physical activity and optimal health and wellbeing. Physical Education activities focus on movement skills including community fitness, recreation and athletics, and invasion, net/wall, and striking games and sports.

Year 9 Health unit covers a variety of topics including the Benefits of Physical Activity, Nutrition, Alcohol and Drugs, Relationships, Sexuality and Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Across Health and Physical Education, students also develop Personal and Social capabilities including managing respectful relationships, resilience, empathy for others, emotional literacy and teamworking skills.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Movement skills
- Strategic application & teamwork
- Physical Activity Promotion presentation
- Party Safely kit
- Test
- Essay

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Health and Physical Education

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

[CORE SUBJECT]

## **DISCOVERING THE OUTDOORS**

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Students are introduced to the outdoor natural environment, working towards a 3-day overnight camp at the end of the semester. The subject equips students with knowledge in order to ensure a safe and worthwhile experience whilst adopting an independent and cooperative approach to challenging tasks. Students investigate the concept of adventure, review strategies which promote environmental awareness, and learn all aspects of hiking, including: adventure planning & logistics, hike appropriate food, safe Trangia use, tent pitching, packing a hiking pack, risk assessment and management with a focus on weather and safe hike practices.

The camp in Warburton is a highlight where students work in pairs and share responsibility for preparing/cooking meals and sleeping in a tent. The group will engage in a series of hikes over the course of the 3 days with a focus on investigating biodiversity within the environment.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- My Dream Adventure task
- Climate Change Test
- Camp Evaluation and Vlog
- •

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Health and Physical Education VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies Units 1 - 4

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

In 2024 Year 9 DTO charged students \$215 pay as you go camp fee. 2025 costs are still to be confirmed.

## **HUMANITIES**

### **GEOGRAPHY**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Through studying Biomes and Food Security, students will investigate biomes of the world and their influence on the food and fibre industry. Students will look at the challenges of climate change on food production and participate in local fieldwork to investigate where their food comes from. For Geographies of Interconnections, students gain an insight into how people are connected to places around the world.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Biomes Oral Presentation
- Topic Test with geographical skills and data
- Food Security Fieldwork
- Waste Management Video Proposal

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Geography

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

[CORE SUBJECT]

## **ASSASSIN'S BULLET**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students study the most shocking and important assassinations in history including Julius Caesar, Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy. They will evaluate the context of each assassination, explore the short-term causes and long term political and social effects. Students ask a range of questions about the moral implications of each assassination, as well as exploring popular conspiracy theories to comment on how history is remembered.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Extended response
- Source Analysis
- Group research project

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum History

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

## **GEOGRAPHY – OUT ON THE TOWN**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

In 'Out on the Town' students will be looking at Melbourne, and other cities around the world, in terms of liveability and sustainability. The unit will also help students to engage with their local city through active fieldwork on the sustainability and Indigenous cultural sites in Melbourne. Students will continue to develop their Geography skills along with their research and writing abilities. Students will look into Earth's future, by studying the outlook of wild animals and viewing the film '2040'.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Off the beaten Track Project
- Melbourne CBD fieldwork
- '2040' Film Analysis
- Sustainability Research Task

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Geography
Pathway to VCE Geography Units 1 - 4

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

## **HISTORY**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students venture into the Modern World, exploring the importance of the Industrial revolution in Britain and the process of modernisation throughout the world. Impacts of modernisation, changing roles of women, and technological advancements (including weapons technology) are explored. Students will also explore the impacts and effects of colonisation on the First Nations peoples of Australia.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Research task
- Source analysis
- Essay

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum History

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

[CORE SUBJECT]

## **PHILOSOPHY**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students are introduced to philosophical thinking in relation to the self. Students explore ethics and morality (what is right and wrong, and how do we decide?).and questions around the nature of reality. Students also engage with philosophical thought from the past and the present and how examples of popular culture (television, film, music, video games, literature) represent philosophical viewpoints.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Socratic discussion presentation
- Pop culture inquiry task
- Film analysis

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Ethical Capability
Victorian Curriculum Intercultural Capability

#### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

## **LANGUAGE**

## **FRENCH**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students learn about a range of vocabulary and grammar on the following topics:

- Weather and seasons (including activities)
- Holiday activities in New Caledonia
- Adjectives (body parts, clothing and personal qualities)
- How to ask and respond to questions in French

They participate in spoken exchanges and learn about French cultural aspects such as French-speaking territories (New Caledonia), Famous French speakers and life in French suburbs and Paris.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Listening Comprehension
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing
- Speaking

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Languages

## COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

## **GERMAN**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students learn about a range of vocabulary and grammar on the following topics:

- Health and Wellbeing
- The Environment and environmental issues in Australia and Germany
- Holidays and Travel

They participate in spoken exchanges and learn about German cultural aspects such as German history, German environmental issues, and the construction of the Berlin Wall.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Listening Comprehension
- Reading Comprehension
- Writing
- Speaking

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Languages

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

## **MATHEMATICS**

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students develop useful mathematical skills applicable to numeracy across the curriculum, solve practical real-life problems, build up specialist knowledge that provides further study in the discipline, and strengthen their confidence in their personal knowledge of mathematics.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

Whilst a variety of assessments will be undertaken by the classroom teacher, students will be required to sit a common Semester Exam in Term 2 and Term 4.

- Topic tests
- Application tasks
- Assignments
- Semester Examination

#### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Mathematics Version 2.0

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

[CORE SUBJECT]

### **NUMERACY SUPPORT**

## **DESCRIPTION:**

This elective is offered for one semester. The unit is designed to provide students who find it difficult to perform at the expected level as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum Mathematics standards with support for success in their Year 9 Mathematics class. Students that will benefit from this elective will be given:

- the opportunity to strengthen their arithmetic skills
- support with the key skills and knowledge taught in class
- early exposure and practice of concepts to be presented in their mathematics class
- support in understanding numeracy requirements in their other subjects such as numeracy in Science, Geography

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Quizzes
- Assignments
- Reflective Tasks

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Mathematics Version 2.0

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

## **EXTENSION MATHEMATICS**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This elective is offered for one Semester. This unit is designed to provide Mathematics students, who are currently achieving at the highest standard in Year 8, with the opportunity to enrich their understanding of more complex mathematical concepts in particular in the area of study Number and Algebra in the Victoria Curriculum. This course is specifically designed for students who enjoy the challenge of mathematics, exhibit an excellent work ethic, and who are committed to achieving their very best in the subject. This course will provide students with a head start towards their study of Year 10 Mathematics. Possible topic areas: surds, simultaneous equations, linear algebra.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Tests
- Application Tasks

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Mathematics Version 2.0

#### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

## PERFORMING ARTS

## **DRAMA**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The course deals with the development of students' dramatic skills including acting, story-telling, script writing, improvisation, role-play, characterisation, as well as mime and movement. Students undertake performances, which require the use of dramatic elements. Production Areas are then applied to enhance the dramatic realisation of all performance work.

#### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Performance Analysis Task
- Dramatic Elements Workshop Task
- Performance Tasks

#### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Drama Pathway to Year 10 Drama and VCE Drama Units 1 - 4

#### COSTS INVOLVED:

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

### MUSIC SONG WRITING & ARRANGING

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This subject focuses on the study of composition and performance and an understanding of how music works in various musical genres. It will provide students with practical experience in composing arranging and performing on their own instruments. They will also utilise technical equipment, such as musical apps and equipment used in performance.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Performing
- Composing/Arranging
- Music language and Musicianship

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Music Pathway to VCE Music Performance Units 1 - 4 VET – Music Industry Skills

## **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

### **MUSIC**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This subject aims to provide students with an enrichment of the skills and understanding already undertaken in previous years. This unit focuses on developing an understanding of the relationship between the use of the elements of music and each specific style. The styles include 21st Century Musical Theatre, Jazz and Rock music. Students engage in listening to, analysing and describing recorded music, performing works and comparing and improvising in selected styles

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Performing
- Composing, Arranging
- History of Music assignment
- Music language/analysis

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Music Pathway to VCE Music Performance Units 1 - 4 VET – Music Industry Skills

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

## **SCIENCE**

## **SCIENCE**

## **DESCRIPTION:**

By year 9 students are formalising their understanding of the strands of Biology by exploring the nervous system and the process of homeostasis and impact of disease. Chemistry concepts of atomic theory are related to useful chemical reactions and Physics investigates the movement of energy by exploring electricity through circuits and light via the particle and wave model. Students further explore and apply the Scientific Inquiry Skills by undertaking directed and self-designed investigations that support the learning of the abovementioned areas.

## **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Scientific reports
- Research tasks
- STEM
- Tests

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Science

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

[CORE SUBJECT]

## **TECHNOLOGY STUDIES**

## **FOOD STUDIES**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

This course involves cooking sessions and theory. Food produced will include sweet and savoury dishes. Students will build on skills and knowledge from Year 8 with a focus on Australian and international food.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Practical Activities
- Materials Testing
- Healthy Eating Challenge
- Global Menu Challenge

#### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Design and Technologies: Food specialisations

Pathway to VCE Food Studies Units 1 - 4

#### COSTS INVOLVED:

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered.

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students work with a range of resistant materials - metal, plastics and electronics, investigating the properties and characteristics of the materials used. Students use the skills and knowledge learnt to choose the most appropriate material to solve a design problem. Students become familiar with the Product Design Factors and apply these to their Design Folios. Students use design thinking skills to generate ideas and evaluate their work.

### ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Factors that influence Product Design
- Folded Metal Box
- Two-tone soldered Ring
- Serving Tray

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Design and Technologies
Pathway to VCE Product Design & Technologies Units 1 - 4

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered.

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## MAKE, BAKE AND DECORATE

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students will be introduced to cake making and decoration techniques and the design process. They will develop safe and responsible work practices and be provided with the opportunity to explore new equipment and food production techniques. Students investigate issues around food sustainability. This course has a strong emphasis on production of a range of cakes for special occasions.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Practical Activities
- Sustainable food practices
- Novelty Cup Cake Challenge
- Create Cake Design Folio

#### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Design and Technologies: Food specialisations

Pathway to VCE Food Studies Units 1 - 4

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered.

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## **DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY WOOD**

## **DESCRIPTION:**

Students specialise in timber and related materials. Students use the Product Design Factors and Process to learn to make ethical and sustainable decisions about designed solutions. They use a range of equipment, techniques and production processes to realise their chosen designs. They are introduced to digital laser cutting technologies. Students use design thinking skills to generate ideas and evaluate their work.

## **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Frame
- Materials Investigation
- Chopping board
- Small box and Folio

## **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Design and Technologies
Pathway to VCE Product Design & Technologies Units 1 - 4

## COSTS INVOLVED:

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered.

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

## **EXPLORING ART PRACTICES**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students explore both 2D and 3D artforms. Students explore a range of art making links between the world and art. Focusing on developing sculptural, drawing and printmaking skills. Students engage in experimental art making activities that invite them to respond creatively to the world around them. Students are introduced to the creative process to respond to the artwork of established artists and diverse cultural context while developing knowledge and understanding of how artists work.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Adorning the body
- Sound Amplifier
- Re-contextualised Painting
- Art Analysis Journal

#### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Visual Arts
Pathway to Art Creative Practice Units 1-4

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered.

Excursions and/or Incursions and will be charged prior to the activity.

## VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Students focus on designing three-dimensional products in line with Object Design. Document drawing skills related to Object Design are extended. Students are introduced to digital drawing methods and work with the Adobe Suite, laser cutter & 3D printer technologies to create & develop their design solutions. Students look at the design of others and use design thinking skills to broaden their knowledge and understanding of design from different contexts.

## ASSESSMENT TASKS:

- Photoshop Basics
- Drawing Folio
- Design Contexts Investigation
- Technical Drawing Folio
- Industrial Design Folio
- Interactive Design

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Visual Communication Design Pathway to VCE Visual Communication Design Units 1 – 4

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered.

Competition (optional), Excursions and/or Incursions will be charged prior to the activity.

## **MEDIA ARTS**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

The study of Media is essential in the 21st century especially given the wide range and all-encompassing nature of media platforms, news gathering and delivery, as well as social media. Year 9 Media Arts will introduce students to basic media literacy, theories of transmission and audience and will provide basic tools to assist students in the navigation of media saturation, communication, and messaging. Students will undertake tasks in advertising, media deconstruction and communication theory, as well as media production.

### **ASSESSMENT TASKS:**

- Advertising Campaign
- Narrative Film Research Assignment
- Designing A Narrative Screenplay

### **CURRICULUM LINK:**

Victorian Curriculum Digital Technologies VCE – Media etc.

### **COSTS INVOLVED:**

Costs may be applied if students request materials that are over above the standard curriculum offered.