

Year 9 **CURRICULUM** Handbook



Our Lady of
Mercy College

Year 9 2027 Curriculum Handbook

This publication has been produced to assist students in the selection of Courses for Year 9. Please be aware that information provided by organisations outside of the College may be subject to change. Updated information will be provided to students as it becomes available and will be published on the College Website.

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Introduction

Vision

A community, guided by Christ's teachings, where our Catholic faith and vision for learning unite to uphold human dignity, promote justice and act for the common good.

Mission

Centred by the Mercy tradition and values and our vision for learning, we equip and empower students to contribute to a more just and compassionate world.

Deepening Focus

In Year 9, students continue to build on their academic foundation through core subjects while gaining greater autonomy in their learning by selecting semester-long electives that reflect their personal interests. These electives span a variety of areas, including Visual Arts (with options in Visual or Media Arts), Digital Technologies (such as Materials Design Technology or Food Technology), Performing Arts (including Dance, Music, and Drama), and STEM. This stage of learning encourages students to explore their passions, develop new skills, and begin shaping their educational pathways in a supportive and engaging environment.

General Information

Although this book has been primarily addressed to students, it has also been written for parents and caregivers. We hope that as a family, you will go through the material together to hand an understanding of what is on offer for your child's Year 9 journey.

Performing well in Year 9 leads to:

- Greater subject selection options in Year 10.
- A strong foundation for learning in Years 10, 11 and 12.
- Effective study habits and a positive work ethic.
- Increased confidence, independence and personal responsibility.
- Greater awareness of personal strengths, interests and future pathways.
- The resilience and perseverance needed to respond positively to challenges.

The Subject Selection Process

Compulsory Subjects Outline

Students will undertake the compulsory study of each of the following:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Science
- Health and Physical Education

Literacy and Numeracy Support Programs are offered to those students who may require further differentiation.

Year 9 Elective Selection Requirements

Year 9 students will study eight (8) elective courses throughout the year, completing four (4) electives in Semester 1 and four (4) electives in Semester 2. Students will study up to eight (8) electives, depending on their individual selections. If an elective does not proceed due to insufficient enrolments, students will be allocated one of their reserve preferences.

Year 9 Electives		
Creative Writing	Indonesian	Music A (Contemporary)
Dance A (Jazz)	Italian	Music B (Modern)
Dance B (Contemporary)	Leadership and Performance	Outdoor Education
Design Studies	MDT: Food A	Physical Recreation
Digital Innovator	MDT: Food B	SMF: Rising Leaders
Drama A (Performance Skills)	MDT: Jewellery	STEM: First Lego League
Drama B (Theatre Making)	MDT: Wood	Visual Arts A (2D)
Eco Explorers	Money & Life Skills (Adulting 101)	Visual Arts B (3D)
Electronics	Media Arts A (Hollywood Horror)	
History (Call of Duty)	Media Arts B (Superhero Media)	

How to Choose Your Electives

Students are required to select eight (8) electives in total.

Students will study four Elective subjects each week (2 periods per week). All Elective courses run for a semester. When completing subject selections for Year 9, students are asked to choose ten (10) subjects and rank them in order.

Where Elective Courses are titled A and B, this gives students the opportunity to study an area of interest year-long. Please note A and B do not necessarily relate to it running in Semester One and Two.

Allocation of Electives

The College will make every effort to allocate students to their preferred electives. However, allocations are subject to class sizes, staffing and workplace health and safety requirements. In some cases, students may be placed into an alternative preference.

Making Your Subject Selection

Choosing your electives is quite straightforward if you follow the steps below.

1. You will receive an email school email account. This will have your unique web code plus a link to the web address where you will be able to log in.
2. Once you have navigated your way to the correct website, you will see the login screen where you are prompted to enter the web code that you received via email.
3. After entering your web code, the first screen that appears will display 'Year 9 Electives – Open for Submission'.
4. Simply click on the 'Open for Submission' button to proceed to the next page.
5. The next screen is where you will enter your selection of elective subjects for next year.

You will notice you have two boxes:

The one on the left is where you enter your main selections. These are your first preferences for the electives you would like to undertake next year .

On the right-hand side, you will need to select three electives as your reserves. These are used when one or more of the electives you have chosen do not run due to insufficient numbers, or when there is a clash between the electives you have chosen.

6. Be sure to click the Submit button to ensure your electives are registered. Once submitted, you will receive the summary screen outlining your selections. You are encouraged to either print a copy or email yourself a copy for your records.

Before You Make Your Selections

As you consider your elective choices, keep the following in mind:

- Choose subjects that genuinely interest you and that you will enjoy studying throughout the year.
- Think about the skills, knowledge and experiences you would like to develop.
- Make your selections based on your own interests and strengths rather than the choices of your friends. Electives are most rewarding when they reflect your passions and aspirations.

- Remember that elective classes form a regular part of your timetable, so it is important to choose subjects that you are committed to and excited about studying.
- While every effort is made to accommodate student preferences, changes to elective selections may not be possible once classes have been finalised.

If you have any questions about your elective choices, please speak with your Head of Year or Head of Learning Area of the respective elective.

Subject and Course Information

The following pages contain information for each subject over Year 9 for both Core and Elective Subjects. Core Subjects are courses that students MUST participate in. Elective Subjects are courses the students may select to do during the year.

When making your elective subject selections for Semester 2 it is important that you consider what you would like to do in Year 10.

If you have any questions please speak to your Head of Year, Head of Learning Area or the Deputy Principal Middle School.

Compulsory Year 9 Core Subjects

Core Subject: Religious Education

Year 9 Religious Education encourages students to explore some of life's most important questions about truth, identity, relationships, purpose and faith. Students investigate how the Catholic tradition responds to these questions through Scripture, Church teaching, prayer and the example of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the year, students develop a deeper understanding of the Bible, the mission and role of the Church, the Sacraments and the work of the Holy Spirit. They are challenged to think critically about contemporary issues, reflect on their own beliefs and values, and consider how faith can influence the way people live, make decisions and interact with others.

The course combines classroom learning with opportunities for personal reflection, prayer, discussion, service and participation in the Year 9 Retreat and Christian Service Learning Program.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Investigations, extended responses, source analysis, reflections, examinations and research-based tasks.

Practical Assessments: Presentations, collaborative activities, creative responses, prayer experiences and participation in Christian Service Learning.

Year 9 Retreat – Relationships and Human Dignity

The Year 9 Retreat focuses on the importance of healthy and respectful relationships, encouraging students to reflect on how they relate to themselves, others and God. Through faith-based activities, group discussions, personal reflection and team-building experiences, students explore their individual character strengths, personal values and the qualities that contribute to positive relationships.

Grounded in the Catholic understanding of the dignity of every person, the retreat challenges students to recognise their own worth and the worth of others. Students are encouraged to strengthen their connections with peers, demonstrate empathy and respect, and consider how their gifts and strengths can positively contribute to the College and wider community.

Religious Education Assessment (REA)

As part of the Religious Education program, Year 9 students participate in the Religious Education Assessment (REA). This system-wide assessment provides an indication of students' knowledge and understanding of the Religious Education curriculum taught in Catholic schools.

The REA is one component of the broader Religious Education program and is used alongside classroom assessments to support curriculum planning and identify areas for continued learning. Students will be provided with opportunities to revise key knowledge and concepts in preparation for the assessment.

Core Subject: English

Year 9 English encourages students to develop an open and questioning view of themselves, their communities and the wider world. Through exploring contemporary and global issues, students broaden their understanding of different perspectives and learn to critically evaluate information, ideas and values.

Students engage with a wide range of literary, informative and media texts, including novels, poetry, drama, non-fiction and digital texts. They analyse how authors and creators use language, structure and stylistic features to represent people, places and ideas, and to shape audience responses. Students investigate complex themes, ethical issues and diverse viewpoints, while developing a deeper understanding of the relationship between texts, context, purpose and audience.

Through speaking, listening, reading, viewing and writing activities, students strengthen their ability to analyse, interpret, evaluate and synthesise information from a variety of sources. They create imaginative, informative, analytical and persuasive texts for a range of audiences and purposes, using increasingly sophisticated language and communication skills.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete a range of written tasks, including analytical responses, essays, creative and persuasive writing, information reports and reading comprehension activities. These assessments evaluate students' ability to analyse and interpret texts, develop and support ideas with evidence, and communicate effectively using appropriate language features, text structures and conventions.

Practical Assessments: Students complete practical communication tasks, including oral presentations, speeches, discussions and multimodal presentations. These assessments evaluate students' ability to communicate ideas clearly, respond to different audiences and purposes, and use effective speaking, listening and presentation skills.

Core Subject: Mathematics

Year 9 Mathematics General

Year 9 Mathematics challenges students to apply their mathematical knowledge with increasing independence as they investigate more abstract concepts and solve increasingly sophisticated problems. The course encourages students to think critically, make mathematical connections, and apply their understanding to a wide range of real-world situations, while starting to prepare them for Mathematics Applications ATAR or Mathematics Essentials General courses available in senior secondary mathematics.

Throughout the year, students strengthen their understanding of real numbers, algebra, linear relationships, financial mathematics and simple interest. They develop increasingly sophisticated problem-solving skills through the study of graphs, equations, gradient, scientific notation and introductory quadratic relationships. Students investigate geometric concepts including congruency, similarity, trigonometry, perimeter, area, surface area and volume, while extending their understanding of probability and statistics through two-stage chance experiments, sampling techniques and the critical analysis of statistical data presented in the media.

Mathematical language, conventions and notation are applied with increasing precision to model, solve and communicate solutions to authentic problems.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete a range of written assessment tasks, including topic tests, investigations, problem-solving tasks and semester examinations. These assessments evaluate students' conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, reasoning and their ability to apply mathematical knowledge in both familiar and real-world contexts.

Practical Assessments: Students complete mathematical investigations and problem-solving activities that require them to apply mathematical concepts, communicate their reasoning and interpret solutions. These assessments encourage critical thinking, collaboration and the application of mathematics to authentic situations.

Mathematics Extension

The introduction of Year 9 Mathematics Extension for select students provides students with opportunities to engage with the optional Western Australian Curriculum content, extending and enriching the core Year 9 program. Students investigate more sophisticated algebraic techniques, trigonometry, geometry, probability, statistics and financial mathematics while developing higher-order reasoning, mathematical proof and abstract problem-solving skills. The course is designed for students seeking additional challenge and provides a strong foundation for senior secondary ATAR Mathematics pathways, particularly Mathematics Methods and Mathematics Specialist.

Core Subject: Humanities and Social Sciences

Year 9 Humanities and Social Sciences develops students' understanding of the people, events, systems and environments that shape Australia and the wider world. Through Civics and Citizenship, students examine the influences on voter decision-making and Australia's court system. In History, they investigate Australia's development between 1750 and 1914 and the causes, experiences and consequences of the First World War. Geography explores biomes, food security and global interconnections, while Economics and Business examines Australia's role in the global economy and the opportunities, risks and rewards associated with financial decision-making and investment.

Throughout the course, students develop their ability to construct questions and hypotheses, conduct research, interpret and evaluate sources, analyse data, identify patterns and trends, and consider different perspectives. They draw evidence-based conclusions and communicate their understanding using subject-specific terminology, appropriate referencing and a range of written, visual and digital formats. These skills support students in becoming informed, critical and active participants in society.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete a range of written tasks, including classwork and portfolio activities, topic tests, source analyses, research assignments, inquiry tasks and examinations. These assessments evaluate students' knowledge and understanding, research skills, ability to interpret sources and data, draw evidence-based conclusions, and communicate using appropriate Humanities terminology and referencing.

Practical Assessments: Students apply their Humanities knowledge and skills through activities such as fieldwork, mapping, data collection and analysis, presentations, debates, simulations and collaborative investigations. These assessments evaluate students' ability to investigate real-world issues, consider different perspectives, communicate findings and propose informed responses.

Core Subject: Science

Year 9 Science deepens students' understanding of the biological, chemical, physical and Earth systems that shape our world. Students investigate organism adaptations, ecosystems, atomic structure and chemical reactions, sound and light waves, and the interactions between Earth's global systems and climate.

Practical investigations and inquiry-based learning are central to the course. Students design investigations, control variables, analyse data, evaluate evidence and communicate conclusions using scientific reports, graphs, models and digital technologies. They apply their learning to real-world challenges while developing critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills. Students also explore Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, including traditional ecological knowledge and practices for caring for Country/Place.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete a range of written assessment tasks, including topic tests, research and inquiry projects, scientific reports, examinations and other communication tasks. These assessments evaluate students' understanding of scientific concepts, their ability to apply knowledge, analyse and evaluate evidence, interpret scientific claims, and communicate using appropriate scientific language and conventions.

Practical Assessments: Students undertake practical investigations involving experimental design, the identification and control of variables, data collection and analysis, and the development of evidence-based conclusions. Practical assessments also evaluate students' scientific inquiry skills, problem-solving, critical thinking, collaboration and safe laboratory practices.

Core Subject: Health and Physical Education

Year 9 Health and Physical Education challenges students to take greater responsibility for their health, wellbeing and active participation. Through the Health curriculum, students examine the physical, social and emotional changes associated with adolescence and develop strategies for managing stress, supporting mental health and building respectful relationships. They investigate the consequences of risk-taking behaviours, including drug use, sexual health and online interactions, while developing harm minimisation, resilience and help-seeking strategies. Students also critically evaluate health information, media influences and community resources to make informed and responsible decisions.

In Physical Education, students select and apply increasingly complex movement skills and sequences with greater speed, control and accuracy. They implement tactics and adapt their strategies in response to previous performances and changing competitive situations. Students also measure and analyse the body's responses to physical activity. Through participation in a variety of individual and team activities, they develop teamwork, motivation and leadership while demonstrating ethical behaviour and encouraging inclusive, lifelong participation in physical activity.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete a range of written assessment tasks, including topic tests, research investigations, case studies and reflective responses. These assessments evaluate students' understanding of health concepts, risk and harm minimisation strategies, decision-making processes, movement strategies, and their ability to critically evaluate health information and apply their knowledge to personal, social and community contexts.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in a variety of practical activities and performances across individual and team sports. Practical assessments evaluate students' movement skills, speed, control and accuracy, application and adaptation of tactics, fitness, teamwork, leadership and ethical participation. Students may also be assessed on their ability to measure the body's responses to physical activity, analyse their performance and identify opportunities for improvement.

Year 9 Elective Courses

Elective: Creative Writing

Year 9 Creative Writing allows students to extend and experiment with their writing skills. Drawing on their imagination, students explore a range of forms, genres and ideas while examining published texts as models for their own creative work. The course focuses primarily on prose fiction, with opportunities to explore poetry, drama and creative non-fiction. Students develop original ideas and refine their use of structure, characterisation, setting, dialogue and language through drafting, feedback and editing.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students plan, draft and produce original creative works across a range of forms and genres. Assessment focuses on creativity, structure, language choices, control of conventions, editing and the ability to engage an audience.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in writing workshops, peer feedback, author studies, readings and presentations. They may also compile a portfolio that documents the development and refinement of their writing.

Future Pathways: Creative Writing provides a foundation for Year 10 English and senior secondary English General and English ATAR. It can support pathways in writing, journalism, publishing, editing, teaching, advertising, communications, film, television and other creative industries.

Elective: Dance A (Jazz)

In Year 9 Dance A, students develop technical ability, performance confidence and creativity through jazz dance. They refine skills including coordination, flexibility, strength, turns, kicks, leaps, musicality and performance quality through the rehearsal and performance of a class routine.

Students also use improvisation and choreographic techniques to create original group works. They explore the history and evolution of jazz dance and reflect on their own performances and the work of others using appropriate dance terminology.

Students may have the opportunity to perform at the End of Semester Dance Concert or another College performance event.

Assessment Types

Practical: Technique exercises, improvisation, performance of a class routine, collaborative choreography and rehearsal processes.

Written: Reflective evaluations, performance analyses, choreographic planning and investigations into the history and development of jazz dance.

Future Pathways

This course provides a foundation for Year 10 Dance, senior secondary Dance General or Dance ATAR, and further study or careers connected with performance, choreography, teaching, fitness, production and the wider creative industries.

Elective: Dance B (Contemporary)

Year 9 Dance B develops students' creativity and technical skills through Contemporary dance. Students refine their strength, flexibility, coordination, floor work and movement quality through a class routine. Students use

improvisation and choreographic devices to create original group choreography. They also explore Contemporary dance, analyse dance works and apply safe dance practices. Students may perform at the End of Semester Dance Concert or another suitable event.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete reflective evaluations, performance analyses, choreographic documentation and contextual investigations. These assessments evaluate their understanding of Contemporary dance, choreographic processes and ability to analyse dance using appropriate terminology.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in technique exercises, improvisation, class routines, collaborative choreography and rehearsal processes. These assessments evaluate technical skills, movement quality, creativity, expression, collaboration and the communication of choreographic intent.

Future Pathways: Year 9 Dance B provides a foundation for Year 10 Dance, senior secondary Dance General or Dance ATAR, and pathways in performance, choreography, teaching, creative development, production and arts management.

Elective: Design Studies

Year 9 Design Studies develops students' 2D and 3D sketching, rendering and design skills. Students apply the elements and principles of design to develop creative solutions while considering material sources and sustainability. Students progress from skill-building activities to project development, using technical drawing and computer-aided design (CAD) to model their ideas. Final concepts may be produced as prototypes using additive and subtractive manufacturing technologies, including 3D printers and laser cutters.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Design briefs, research, concept development, evaluations and project documentation.

Practical Assessments: Sketching, rendering, CAD modelling, prototyping and completed design projects.

Future Pathways: Design, architecture, engineering, drafting, product design and advanced manufacturing.

Elective: Digital Innovator

Year 9 Digital Innovator explores how technology shapes the world and how people can use it to create solutions. Through projects involving social media, artificial intelligence and electronics, students examine the power, responsibilities and ethical implications of digital technologies. Students design, build and program software to solve problems while developing creativity, teamwork and critical thinking. They also create a digital portfolio that showcases their ideas, skills and connections to real-world applications.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Research, project planning, digital portfolios, evaluations and reflections.

Practical Assessments: Coding, software challenges, digital projects and collaborative problem-solving activities.

Future Pathways: Digital technologies, software development, robotics, cybersecurity, data science, engineering and other technology-based industries.

Elective: Drama A (Performance Skills)

Year 9 Drama A develops students' performance skills through the interconnected strands of Explore, Create and Perform. Students investigate different performance styles, dramatic conventions, cultures and contexts while exploring how performers engage audiences and communicate meaning.

Students interpret scripted and devised works, develop characters and refine their expressive voice, movement and characterisation through rehearsal and feedback. They present individual and ensemble performances and reflect on their creative decisions using appropriate drama terminology.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete investigations, performance analyses and reflective evaluations that assess their understanding of dramatic styles, conventions, creative choices and audience impact.

Practical Assessments: Students complete character development activities, scripted and devised performances, and individual and ensemble rehearsal tasks. These assessments evaluate their performance skills, characterisation, focus, collaboration and ability to communicate dramatic meaning.

Future Pathways: Year 9 Drama A provides a foundation for Year 10 Drama and senior secondary Drama General or Drama ATAR. Drama can support future pathways in acting, directing, writing, teaching, broadcasting, film, television, theatre production and other creative industries.

Elective: Drama B (Theatre Making)

Year 9 Drama B focuses on the collaborative creation of theatre through the strands of Explore, Create and Perform. Students investigate dramatic structures, conventions and production choices while examining how theatre communicates ideas and engages audiences.

Students devise original dramatic works, experiment with production elements and develop effective rehearsal strategies. Through collaborative planning and ensemble performance, they strengthen their leadership, problem-solving and creative decision-making skills while refining their work through feedback.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete investigations, theatrical analyses, planning documents and reflective evaluations that assess their understanding of dramatic conventions, production choices and creative processes.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in devising, directing, rehearsal and ensemble performance activities. These assessments evaluate their creativity, collaboration, ensemble awareness, use of production elements and ability to communicate dramatic ideas.

Future Pathways: Year 9 Drama B provides a foundation for Year 10 Drama and senior secondary Drama General or Drama ATAR. Drama can support future pathways in acting, directing, playwriting, teaching, theatre production, design, arts management, film, television and other creative industries.

Elective: Eco Explorers

Year 9 Eco Explorers provides hands-on opportunities to investigate local environmental issues. Working with organisations such as the Leschenault Catchment Council, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and community conservation groups, students explore conservation, sustainability and environmental management. Students investigate ecosystems and develop practical solutions to improve local habitats. Activities may include biodiversity surveys, water-quality monitoring, revegetation, sustainable gardening, waste management and wildlife habitat creation. Through scientific inquiry, students collect and analyse data, evaluate conservation strategies and communicate evidence-based conclusions.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students maintain an Eco Explorers Journal documenting field investigations, observations, scientific data, conservation activities and reflections. They also prepare a presentation summarising their learning and contribution to environmental projects.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in fieldwork and conservation projects such as biodiversity monitoring, water testing, revegetation, composting and habitat creation. Assessment focuses on scientific inquiry, practical skills, problem-solving, collaboration and environmental responsibility.

Future Pathways: Eco Explorers can support further study and pathways in environmental science, conservation, ecology, sustainability, land management, agriculture, horticulture and environmental education.

Elective: Electronics

Year 9 Electronics develops students' understanding of electronic principles through simple circuits and programmable devices. Students respond to design challenges by creating smart objects using coding and microcontrollers. Projects may combine lights, motors, sensors, buttons, gearboxes and simple mechanisms. Through designing and constructing practical solutions, students develop their coding, engineering and problem-solving skills.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Design briefs, circuit diagrams, research, project documentation and evaluations.

Practical Assessments: Circuit construction, coding, microcontroller activities and completed electronic projects.

Future Pathways: Electronics, electrical trades, robotics, engineering, automation, programming and mechatronics.

Elective: History (Call of Duty)

Year 9 Call of Duty investigates the past through popular culture, exploring how history is represented in video games, films and musicals. Using examples such as Call of Duty, Red Dead Redemption, Jojo Rabbit, Pirates of the Caribbean and Hamilton, students examine historical events, figures and weaponry to determine what is accurate, exaggerated or omitted.

Students compare popular representations with historical evidence, considering perspective, purpose and bias. Through historical inquiry, they develop source analysis, critical thinking and evidence-evaluation skills while exploring the question: How real is the history we see on screen?

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete source analyses, historical investigations, comparative responses and evaluations of historical accuracy and bias.

Practical Assessments: Students create presentations, displays or multimedia products that communicate evidence-based interpretations of history in popular culture.

Future Pathways: This course can support further study and pathways in History, archaeology, education, museums, research, journalism, writing, filmmaking, game development and other creative industries.

Elective: Languages - Indonesian

Year 9 Indonesian allows students to explore the wider world through language and culture. Students investigate life in Indonesia and compare it with life in Australia through topics such as family, food, celebrations and traditions. Students continue to strengthen their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills while developing a deeper understanding of Indonesian culture. They communicate with increasing accuracy, confidence and independence, applying their language skills in a variety of real-world contexts.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete reading and listening comprehension activities based on authentic texts. They also produce written responses such as emails, diary entries, descriptions and personal accounts that demonstrate their vocabulary, grammar and cultural understanding.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in conversations, interviews, role-plays and presentations that evaluate their pronunciation, fluency, accuracy and ability to communicate in Indonesian.

Learning Experiences: Students may participate in a range of cultural and language-based experiences that bring their learning to life. These may include Indonesian cooking, cultural celebrations, traditional games, music, art and interactions with Indonesian speakers. These experiences allow students to apply their language skills in meaningful contexts while developing a deeper appreciation of Indonesian culture and strengthening their intercultural understanding.

Future Pathways: Indonesian can support further language study and pathways in education, interpreting, translation, tourism, hospitality, international business, government, defence and diplomacy.

Elective: Languages - Italian

Year 9 Italian develops students' ability to communicate confidently and independently in real-world situations. Students describe their neighbourhood, discuss locations and transport, ask for and give directions, and explore different types of housing, including their ideal home. Students analyse and compare information from a range of texts, identify different perspectives and create extended responses using a broader vocabulary and range of verb tenses. They describe experiences, express opinions and justify ideas while developing their understanding of how language reflects Italian culture and values.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete reading and listening comprehension activities based on authentic texts, including advertisements, emails, articles, social media posts and videos. They also produce emails, diary entries, blogs, letters, reports and opinion pieces.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in conversations, interviews, role-plays and presentations that evaluate their pronunciation, fluency, accuracy and ability to communicate in real-world contexts.

Learning Experiences: Students who continue Italian into the senior years may have the opportunity to participate in an Italian language and cultural exchange during the December–January holidays. This experience allows students to live with a host family, participate in school activities and develop their language skills through immersion in Italian culture.

Future Pathways: Italian can support further study in senior secondary Italian and pathways in education, interpreting, translation, tourism, hospitality, international business, diplomacy and other globally connected industries.

Students complete cultural food investigations, recipe development, nutritional analyses, design tasks and evaluations. These assessments evaluate their understanding of nutrition and global food cultures.

Elective: Leadership and Performance (LEAP)

The Year 9 Leadership and Performance Program (LEAP) develops students' understanding of advanced training principles, personal performance and fitness development. Students apply this knowledge to their chosen sporting pursuits at club or elite levels while also experiencing new and emerging sports beyond the general Physical Education curriculum. Students develop a personalised training and fitness program and investigate factors that influence sporting performance, including nutrition, training methods, time management and sports psychology. The course provides a challenging environment in which students develop discipline, leadership and a commitment to improving their performance.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete training programs, fitness analyses, research tasks and reflections that assess their understanding of training principles, nutrition and performance.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in fitness testing, training sessions and a range of sports. Assessment focuses on skill development, fitness, application of training principles, leadership, teamwork and personal improvement.

Future Pathways: LEAP can support further study in Physical Education and pathways in professional sport, coaching, fitness, personal training, sports science, physiotherapy, sports psychology and health promotion

Elective: Media Arts A (Hollywood Horror)

Year 9 Media A develops students' skills through the strands of Explore, Create and Respond. Students explore Hollywood horror media, analysing how genre conventions, representations and audience expectations influence meaning and shape media productions.

Working individually and collaboratively, students plan and produce audiovisual works such as movie trailers and promotional posters. They experiment with camera techniques, sound, lighting and editing technologies to communicate ideas creatively and develop their production skills.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete media analyses, production plans and reflective evaluations that assess their understanding of genre, representation, audience and production choices.

Practical Assessments: Students create promotional media products, including movie trailers and posters. These assessments evaluate their planning, technical skills, creativity, collaboration and ability to engage an intended audience.

Future Pathways: Year 9 Media A provides a foundation for Year 10 Media and senior secondary Media Production and Analysis. Media can support future pathways in filmmaking, photography, animation, advertising, journalism, broadcasting, social media, digital content creation and other creative industries.

Elective: Media Arts B (Superhero Media)

Year 9 Media B develops students' understanding of media through the strands of Explore, Create and Respond, with an emphasis on collaboration. Students explore superhero media, analysing how form, genre conventions and audience expectations influence meaning and shape media productions.

Working individually and collaboratively, students plan and produce audiovisual works such as movie trailers, television programs and promotional posters. They experiment with camera techniques, sound, lighting and editing technologies to communicate ideas creatively and refine their production skills.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete media analyses, production plans and reflective evaluations that assess their understanding of genre, form, audience and production choices.

Practical Assessments: Students create superhero-themed media products, including trailers, television segments and posters. These assessments evaluate their planning, technical skills, creativity, collaboration and ability to engage an intended audience.

Future Pathways: Year 9 Media B provides a foundation for Year 10 Media and senior secondary Media Production and Analysis. Media can support future pathways in filmmaking, photography, animation, advertising, journalism, broadcasting, social media, digital content creation and other creative industries.

Elective: Materials Design Technology: Food A (Food Trends)

Year 9 Materials Design Technology: Food A focuses on Food Trends, examining adolescent nutrition and the impact of food choices on long-term health. Students investigate how society, culture and current trends influence diets, eating habits and lifestyle choices. They critically evaluate popular food trends and creatively adapt meals to make them healthy and appealing.

Students develop practical skills by designing and preparing recipes using fresh ingredients, varied techniques, utensils and appliances. They also strengthen their understanding of nutrition, safe food practices and effective presentation.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete research, recipe development, nutritional analyses, design tasks and evaluations. These assessments evaluate their understanding of nutrition, food trends and healthy decision-making.

Practical Assessments: Students prepare, cook and present a variety of healthy dishes. These assessments evaluate their food preparation skills, organisation, safety, creativity and ability to follow and adapt recipes.

Future Pathways: This course can support pathways in hospitality, cookery, nutrition, dietetics, food science, health promotion and food product development.

Elective: Materials Design Technology: Food B (International Foods)

Year 9 Materials Design Technology: Food B focuses on International Foods, exploring adolescent nutrition and the influence of culture on food choices and long-term health. Students examine how different cultures have shaped Australian cuisine and their own food traditions while developing an appreciation of diverse ingredients, cooking methods and dining practices.

Students design and prepare culturally diverse dishes using fresh ingredients, varied techniques, utensils and appliances. Through practical activities, they develop safe food-handling practices, creativity and confidence in producing and presenting international foods.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete research, recipe development, nutritional analyses, design tasks and evaluations. These assessments evaluate their understanding of nutrition, food trends and healthy decision-making.

Practical Assessments: Students prepare, cook and present a variety of culturally diverse dishes. These assessments evaluate their food preparation skills, organisation, safety, creativity and use of different ingredients and cooking techniques.

Future Pathways: This course can support pathways in hospitality, cookery, nutrition, dietetics, food science, tourism and food product development

Elective: Materials Design Technology: Jewellery

Year 9 Materials Design Technology: Jewellery introduces students to the design and production of wearable jewellery and accessories. Students develop skills in sketching, problem-solving, filing, soldering, attaching findings, buffing and texturing metal. Students create individual designs using metal and glass. They explore hammering, shaping and soldering techniques for metalwork, as well as glass slumping and fusing, to produce original jewellery pieces.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Design briefs, research, concept sketches, project documentation and evaluations.

Practical Assessments: Skill exercises and completed jewellery pieces using metal and glass techniques.

Future Pathways: Jewellery design, visual arts, product design, fashion, metalwork and other creative industries.

Elective: Materials Design Technology: Metal

Year 9 Materials Design Technology: Metal develops students' knowledge of metalworking processes, tools and equipment. Safety is central to the course as students learn to use hand tools and machinery associated with the metalwork industry.

Students undertake lathe, sheet-metal and fitting work and may use oxy-acetylene and MIG welding equipment to heat, forge, bend and join project components. They apply the design process to develop and construct projects, with opportunities to individualise their work.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Design briefs, research, technical drawings, project documentation and evaluations.

Practical Assessments: Skill exercises and completed projects demonstrating safe and accurate metalworking techniques.

Future Pathways: Metal fabrication, welding, engineering, automotive trades, construction and advanced manufacturing.

Elective: Materials Design Technology: Wood

Year 9 Materials Design Technology: Wood introduces students to woodworking equipment, materials and manufacturing processes. Students follow the design process to develop creative and practical solutions while learning the importance of safe workshop practices.

Through the design and manufacture of relevant projects, students develop their hand-tool skills before progressing to selected power tools that improve accuracy and efficiency. They apply their growing knowledge to plan, construct and evaluate completed products.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Design briefs, research, technical drawings, project documentation and evaluations.

Practical Assessments: Skill exercises and completed projects demonstrating safe, accurate and effective woodworking techniques.

Future Pathways: Carpentry, cabinetmaking, furniture design, construction, architecture, product design and manufacturing.

Elective: Money and Life Skills (Adulting 101)

Year 9 Money and Life Skills develops the practical financial knowledge and life skills students will need beyond school. Students learn about earning an income, budgeting, saving, taxation and banking while exploring everyday expenses such as rent, bills and loan repayments.

Through practical activities and real-world simulations, students develop financial literacy, problem-solving and informed decision-making skills. They learn to create budgets, compare financial options and manage the responsibilities and challenges associated with independent living.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete budgets, financial plans, case studies, research tasks and reflections demonstrating their understanding of personal finance and responsible decision-making.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in real-world simulations involving employment, income, banking, taxation, household expenses and financial choices.

Future Pathways: This course supports future independence and pathways in Economics and Business, accounting, finance, banking, business management, entrepreneurship and financial planning.

Elective: Music A (Contemporary)

Year 9 Music A develops students' musical skills through the interconnected strands of Explore, Create and Perform. Students listen to and analyse music from different styles, cultures and contexts, examining how musical elements and stylistic features communicate meaning. They compose and refine musical ideas using digital technologies and traditional notation.

Students perform on their chosen instrument or voice, focusing on solo performance skills. Through regular rehearsal and feedback, they develop their technique, expression, musical accuracy and confidence. Previous participation in Year 8 Music or experience through private music tuition is recommended to support success in this course.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete listening analyses, music theory activities, compositions and reflective tasks that assess their musical knowledge, creativity and understanding of musical elements.

Practical Assessments: Students complete solo performances and technique exercises that assess their accuracy, expression, confidence and ability to respond to feedback.

Future Pathways: Year 9 Music A provides a foundation for Year 10 Music, senior secondary Music courses and further study in the performing arts. Music can support future pathways in performance, songwriting, composition, music production, sound engineering, education, arts administration, event production, broadcasting, film, television and other creative industries.

Elective: Music B (Modern)

Year 9 Music B develops students' musical understanding through the interconnected strands of Explore, Create and Perform, with a strong emphasis on collaboration and ensemble work. Students listen to and analyse music from different styles and contexts, examining how musical elements, style and purpose shape meaning.

Students compose and arrange musical ideas using their developing knowledge of music theory and notation. Through ensemble rehearsals and performances, they build teamwork, rehearsal strategies, technical skills and confidence across a range of musical styles. Previous participation in Year 8 Music or experience through private music tuition is recommended to support success in this course.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete listening analyses, music theory activities, compositions, arrangements and reflective tasks that assess their musical knowledge and creative thinking.

Practical Assessments: Students complete ensemble performances and technique exercises that assess their accuracy, expression, collaboration and rehearsal skills.

Future Pathways: Year 9 Music B provides a foundation for Year 10 Music, senior secondary Music courses and further study in the performing arts. Music can support future pathways in performance, songwriting, composition, music production, sound engineering, education, arts administration, event production, broadcasting, film, television and other creative industries.

Elective: Outdoor Education

Year 9 Outdoor Education immerses students in practical recreational activities that promote adventure-based learning, environmental awareness and essential life skills. Students participate in activities such as snorkelling, bodyboarding, navigation and camp cooking while learning to engage safely and responsibly with natural environments.

Through individual and group challenges, students develop resilience, teamwork, problem-solving, confidence and decision-making skills. The course encourages an appreciation of the natural environment and prepares students to plan for and respond to challenges in outdoor settings.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete activity planning, safety, environmental awareness and reflective tasks that demonstrate their understanding of responsible outdoor participation.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in snorkelling, bodyboarding, navigation, camp cooking and other outdoor activities. Assessment focuses on practical skills, safety, teamwork, resilience and problem-solving.

Future Pathways: Outdoor Education can support further study and pathways in outdoor recreation, tourism, environmental education, conservation, emergency services, adventure guiding and community recreation.

Elective: Physical Recreation

Year 9 Physical Recreation engages students in a range of recreational sports and aquatic activities, with an emphasis on lifelong participation, teamwork and skill development. Students explore activities that promote physical fitness, personal enjoyment and positive social connections in a fun and active environment.

The course has a strong practical focus, allowing students to develop water safety and aquatic skills while building confidence, cooperation and motivation. A small theoretical component supports students' understanding of safe and effective participation in recreational activities.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete brief planning, safety and reflective tasks related to recreational and aquatic activities.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in recreational sports and aquatic activities. Assessment focuses on participation, skill development, water safety, fitness, teamwork and cooperation.

Future Pathways: Physical Recreation can support further study in Physical Education, Outdoor Education and pathways in sport, recreation, fitness, aquatic services, community programs and tourism.

Elective: STEM – First Lego League

Year 9 STEM - LEGO League allows students to investigate real-world problems through science, engineering and innovation. Using the FIRST LEGO League framework, students explore how science and technology can address environmental, sustainability and community challenges. Students apply scientific inquiry and the engineering design process to design, build and program autonomous LEGO robots. Working collaboratively, they test and refine solutions while developing critical thinking, creativity, communication and problem-solving skills.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students maintain a STEM Design Portfolio documenting their research, scientific investigations, design ideas, testing results, data analysis and reflections. They also plan and present an innovative solution to the annual FIRST LEGO League challenge.

Practical Assessments: Students design, build, program and refine an autonomous robot to complete a series of missions. Assessment focuses on scientific inquiry, engineering design, coding, problem-solving, innovation, teamwork and communication. Students may showcase their work through participation in a FIRST LEGO League competition.

Future Pathways: STEM LEGO League can support further study and pathways in science, engineering, robotics, programming, digital technologies, product design, environmental science and other STEM-related industries.

Elective: Stephen Michael's Foundation: Rising Leaders

The Year 9 Rising Leaders elective develops students' confidence, leadership and wellbeing through sport, the arts, mentoring and community-focused activities. Students strengthen their teamwork, communication and decision-making skills while exploring resilience, positive behaviours and what it means to lead by example. Through practical and creative projects, students discover their strengths, learn to collaborate and develop the confidence to contribute positively to the College and wider community. Activities may include sport, coaching, umpiring, creative arts, cultural connection and community initiatives, providing varied opportunities for every student to develop and demonstrate leadership.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete leadership reflections, project plans and evaluations demonstrating their understanding of teamwork, communication, wellbeing and effective leadership.

Practical Assessments: Students participate in sporting, creative, cultural and community-based projects. Assessment focuses on participation, leadership, creativity, communication, teamwork, resilience and the ability to support others.

Future Pathways: Rising Leaders can support pathways in sport, the arts, coaching, education, youth work, community development, health promotion, recreation and leadership roles.

Elective: Visual Arts A (2D)

Year 9 Visual Arts A focuses on creating two-dimensional (2D) artworks, which are produced on a flat surface and have height and width. Students explore how artists from different cultures, times and places use visual art language, conventions and processes to communicate ideas and perspectives.

Students experiment with themes, materials and techniques to develop their creativity, technical skills and artistic confidence. They plan, develop and create resolved artworks using drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed-media techniques while documenting and reflecting on their creative process.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete artist investigations, artwork analyses and reflections that develop their visual arts vocabulary, critical thinking and written communication skills.

Practical Assessments: Students complete observational drawings, visual research, design development, colour studies, media experiments and resolved 2D artworks.

Future Pathways: This course provides a foundation for Year 10 Visual Arts, senior secondary Visual Arts courses and pathways in fine art, illustration, graphic design, animation, photography and other creative industries.

Elective: Visual Arts B (3D)

Year 9 Visual Arts B focuses on creating three-dimensional (3D) artworks. Students explore how artists from different cultures, times and places communicate ideas through sculpture and other three-dimensional forms.

Students experiment with materials, techniques and processes to create original artworks that communicate personal meaning. Projects may include ceramics, papier-mâché creations, architectural forms, masks or symbolic sculptures, developing students' creativity, problem-solving skills and craftsmanship.

Types of Assessment

Written Assessments: Students complete artist investigations, artwork analyses and reflections focused on sculptors, ceramic artists and cultural art practices.

Practical Assessments: Students complete drawing and design development, colour and material experimentation, and resolved 3D artworks.

Future Pathways: This course provides a foundation for Year 10 Visual Arts, senior secondary Visual Arts courses and pathways in fine art, sculpture, ceramics, architecture, product design and other creative industries.

Feedback and Grading

Feedback on Student Progress

Students and parents/caregivers will receive the following:

- Semester One Report
- Semester Two Report
- Education Conferences (Semester 1)

Student achievement in each subject will be reported using the SCSA Reporting Guidelines. Parents are encouraged to regularly check SEQTA Engage to check their child's academic progress.

Grading

The grades that may be awarded are shown below:

A – Excellent Achievement

B – High Achievement

C – Sound Achievement

D – Limited Achievement

E – Inadequate Achievement

You can seek further information about this on the SCSA website; <http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au>



Other

Holidays during term

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to arrange holidays during College holiday periods. Teachers are not required to provide work for students taking extended holidays during term. Students must catch up on missed learning and complete in-class assessments upon their return. Assessments available online remain due on the same date as for other students. Extended absences must be advised in writing to College Administration.

Interschool Sport

Year 9 students at Our Lady of Mercy College will be given the opportunity to display their sporting talents throughout the year in the Athletics and Cross-Country Inter House Carnivals. Through a selection process students will have an opportunity to represent the College in these fields as well as represent the College in many other disciplines through the ACC and School Sports WA programs. Students who participate in these events, as representatives of the College, will not be penalised for being out of classes for the events.

Music (Instrumental Lessons)

Students can undertake specialist instrumental tuition in piano, guitar (classical, electric or bass), drums or voice. Flute and Cello may also be available where there is sufficient interest. Lessons incur an additional cost and are held once a week for 30 minutes on a rotational timetable to minimise students missing the same subject.

To enrol, students or parents and caregivers should contact Amelia Kaitani for an enrolment form outlining fees and conditions. Once returned, the relevant tutor will arrange lesson times and term invoicing. Enrolment continues each term and into the following year unless the College or tutor is advised otherwise.

Contact: Amelia Kaitani via email: Amelia.Kaitani@cewa.edu.au.

Christian Service Learning Program

The Year 9 Christian Service Learning Program enables students to put their faith into action through activities supporting community organisations and charitable initiatives. Through preparation, service and reflection, students develop empathy, compassion, responsibility and an understanding of social justice while using their gifts to make a positive difference.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN is an annual online assessment of literacy and numeracy completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The tailored assessment adjusts the difficulty of questions according to students' responses.

Year 9 students complete assessments in:

- Reading
- Writing
- Conventions of Language
- Numeracy

Students who achieve the required Year 9 NAPLAN score may prequalify for the corresponding Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA) component in Years 10–12:

- Numeracy: 570
- Reading: 572
- Writing: 594

Contact Information

If you require further information or assistance, please use the list below to contact the relevant person/organisation.

Staff Name	Position	Email
Mrs Maree Maughan	Vice Principal	Maree.Maughan@cewa.edu.au
Mr Brad Tudor	Deputy Principal – Middle School	Brad.Tudor@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Karyn Cronin	Deputy Principal – Senior School	Karyn.Cronin@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Natasha Hart	Director Teaching and Learning	Natasha.Hart@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Meredith McCarthy	Head of Year 8	Meredith.McCarthy@cewa.edu.au
Mr Michael Grove	Head of Wellbeing	Michael.Grove@cewa.edu.au
Ms Melissa Ryan	Head of Catholic Identity	Melissa.Ryan@cewa.edu.au
Admin	Administration	admin@olmca.wa.edu.au
IT Help	ICT Support	ithelpdesk@olmca.wa.edu.au
Mrs Maria Basson	Head of Learning Support	Maria.Basson@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Lisa Todesco	Head of The Arts	Lisa.Todesco@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Marta Widzynski	Head of English	Marta.Widzynski@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Sabrina Gaffney	Head of Mathematics	Sabrina.Gaffney@cewa.edu.au
Mr Russell Manchip	Head of Humanities & Social Sciences	Russell.Manchip@cewa.edu.au
Ms Fiona May	Head of Science	Fiona.May@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Renae Pere	Head of Health & Physical Education	Renae.Pere@cewa.edu.au
Mr Zachery Cope	Head of Technologies	Zachery.Cope@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Addy Godwin	Head of Religious Education	Addy.Godwin@cewa.edu.au
Mrs Abbey Piggott	Head of Careers	Abbey.Piggott@cewa.edu.au
Elective Choice Login Details	https://my.edval.education/login Families will be sent codes directly from EDVAL (Please check spam/junk folders)	
School Standards and Curriculum Authority (SCSA)	www.scsa.gov.au	