



YEAR 8 SUBJECT SELECTION BOOKLET

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YEAR 8

A Jesuit education prioritises the development of the whole person, not just a specialised dimension of it. The renewed Year 8 curriculum now has space for core learning, time for creativity and growth as well as opportunities for choice.

Year 8 is a key time for academic and personal development.

Year 8 Curriculum Makeup

- Students study a set of **compulsory core subjects**
- They continue the Jesuit liberal arts curriculum through the study of Arts, Music and Languages **Major Studies**
- Choice in the **elective** pool to curate their curriculum and to enhance choice, voice and agency

Compulsory Subjects (Core)						Major Studies			Electives
Religious Education	English	Mathematics	Science	Humanities (History & Geography)	Health & Physical Education	Language Choose 1 from Latin French Italian Japanese	Arts 1 semester of Drama and 1 semester of Art	Music	Choose: 1 Commerce and Enterprise Elective 1 Technologies and Innovation Elective 1 Magis Elective 1 Numeracy in Action Elective NOTE: Second Language in place of the Magis Elective and Numeracy in Action



ELECTIVES

Select ONE from each pool		Select ONE from each pool (or second language)	
Commerce & Enterprise	Technologies & Innovation	Magis Elective	Numeracy in Action
<p>Options:</p> <p>Australia and the Global Economy</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Financial Management Over the Business Cycle</p>	<p>Options:</p> <p>Electrotechnologies OR</p> <p>Mechanical Engineering</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Product Design, Community outreach programme</p>	<p>More of what captures students personal interest</p> <p>Writing the Future: AI Adventures in SciFi (ENGLISH AND TECHNOLOGY)</p> <p>Wanderers: Stories of Global Interconnection (ENGLISH AND HUMANITIES)</p> <p>Dance (DRAMA AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION)</p> <p>Digital Art and Design (ART, VCD AND TECHNOLOGY)</p> <p>The Art of Science (ART, MEDIA AND SCIENCE-BIOLOGY)</p> <p>Chaos, Murder and Mayhem in Victoria (HISTORY)</p> <p>Managing and Planning Australia's Urban Future (GEOGRAPHY AND DESIGN)</p> <p>Australian Landforms and Landscapes (GEOGRAPHY)</p> <p>Democracy, Justice and Law (CIVICS)</p> <p>Psychology (SCIENCE)</p> <p>Faith & Science (RELIGION AND SCIENCE)</p> <p>Care of our Common Home (RELIGION AND SUSTAINABILTY)</p> <p>Sonic Innovators (MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY)</p> <p>Advanced Music Performance (MUSIC)</p>	<p>Applied and extended learning in Mathematics</p> <p>Statistics (MATHS)</p> <p>Data Science (MATHS AND SCIENCE)</p> <p>Maths, Extending in Problem Solving (MATHS)</p> <p>Computational Thinking (MATHS AND TECHNOLOGY)</p> <p>Rockets & Energy (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)</p>

ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

COMMERCE AND ENTERPRISE ELECTIVES:

Students should **select one** of the following -

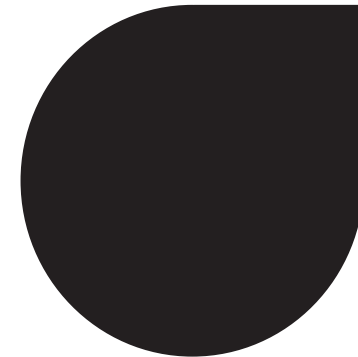
Australia in the Global Economy

Australia in the Global Economy aims to give students an in-depth understanding of Australia's position within the global economic landscape. The course explores the concepts of needs and wants, consumer-producer interactions, trade, opportunity cost, market influences, economic performance indicators, resource utilisation, democratic decision-making, government roles, Australian citizenship, and global connections. By analysing these topics, students will understand Australia's role in the global economy and its impact on various aspects of society.



Financial Management Over the Business Cycle

Financial Management Over the Business Cycle aims to equip students with a foundational understanding of various economic concepts and financial principles. The course explores Australia's position in the global economy, economic indicators, financial risk management, and the changing work environment. Students will gain insights into the importance of economic performance, financial decision-making, and enterprising behaviours.



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

TECHNOLOGIES & INNOVATION ELECTIVES:

Students should **select one** of the following -

Electrotechnologies

Students explore the world of electrotechnologies through the practical approach of assembling different circuits integrated with peripheral actuators. This elective assumes little to no knowledge of electrotechnologies, students are taught about circuit components, how to assemble circuits and how to solder. Simple skills build across the semester in smaller tasks while they build confidence in practical work, they have the option of extension through the building of more complex projects.



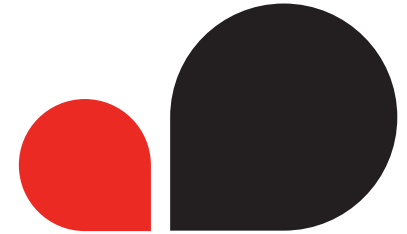
Mechanical Engineering

In this practical course, students will explore the use of different materials and workflows for producing parts and assembling mechanical systems. They will be exposed to a simple design process to take a concept to production in materials such as timber and plastic. This elective assumes little to no prior knowledge of working with practical materials or the design process. There is a focus on learning basic construction skills in operating tools and machinery safely, students will employ a combination of traditional hand skills as well as general machinery and manufacturing technologies such as laser cutter.



Product Design, Outreach and Community programme

In this subject, students create products and devices for use in under-privileged schools or community groups. Using a variety of technologies and materials and working from a design brief, students will design and build the device, meeting all constraints including applicable health and safety requirements suitable for the end user. As a part of the development process, students will create appropriate user documentation. At the end of the semester, the products will be donated to the school or community group. This programme works in conjunction with Religious Education and Faith and Service to identify needs and opportunities, examples can include recycling programs, circular economy opportunities and producing products for charity fundraising.



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

MAGIS ELECTIVES:

In the selection process, students are encouraged to choose three courses they find interesting, intriguing, what captures their interest and, think about which content areas they would like to study more of. Their Magis elective for 2024 will be one of the three selected. Classes are created based on the students' elective preferences, which could lead to differing demands, resulting in subject running multiple times or potentially being offered only once, or not at all.

The Magis elective is not run in Tutor class groups. This allows the students to learn from a wider range of students, maximising their overall development.

Writing the Future: Ai Adventures in SciFi (ENGLISH AND TECHNOLOGY)

This writing elective delves into the captivating world of SciFi literature while exploring the cutting-edge realm of AI technology for creative writing. Students will analyse classic and contemporary SciFi works, exploring themes of humanity and the impact of advanced technology.

Ai Adventures empowers students to envision the future responsibly, becoming informed digital citizens in the AI era. Through collaboration with AI, they'll hone their writing skills, adapting language to different contexts. Discussions on digital citizenship and responsible technology usage will address ethical AI dilemmas, such as copyright and intellectual property rights. Students will engage in individual and collaborative writing tasks, applying SciFi elements and ethical AI use to create imaginative stories, aligning with VCAA's Literacy, Literature and Language capabilities. This unit positions students as proficient writers, critical thinkers, and responsible Ai users. They will embrace the art of storytelling and thrive in the dynamic digital landscape.



Wanderers: Stories of Global Interconnection (ENGLISH AND HUMANITIES)

In this Literature elective students explore the profound relationship between humanity and its interconnectedness with place and space, transcending temporal and geographical boundaries through stories and literature. Wanderers fosters critical reading and interpretation through analysing diverse narrative styles and voices. The unit delves into global themes of interconnection, belonging, and cross-cultural communication. Students examine how historical and social contexts shape literature, exploring narratives across different time periods and regions. Students respond to ideas and issues of place and interconnection through creative and analytical writing. The unit promotes critical thinking by reflecting on how physical locations and environments impact identities and interactions. By weaving diverse narrative voices with global themes, this elective provides a transformative and enriching experience, fostering thoughtful global citizens who embrace diverse perspectives.



Dance (DRAMA AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION)

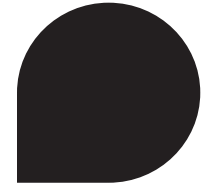
This elective is focused on developing physical skills, coordination, fitness, and rhythmic and expressive movement through a range of dance styles including hip-hop, street dance, contemporary dance, ballet and musical theatre.

Students will learn basic dance vocabulary and develop technical skills that will increase their core strength, flexibility, fast footwork and agility. The boys will view the work of professional dance ensembles and companies to inspire their own dance style, compositions and choreography. Students will select music to choreograph and explore the interpretation of lyrics through movement. The boys will present an ensemble performance piece for an audience at the end of the semester.



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

MAGIS ELECTIVES:



Digital Art and Design (ART, VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY)

This elective is focused on experimentation with the creation of digital content across a range of disciplines. Students will combine traditional and contemporary art and design methods to create immersive artworks. This may involve digital drawing and photography, projection, light, animation and sound. Students will consider innovations in art and design to inform the implementation of design thinking strategies for individual projects. Stimulus tasks will draw from creative industry-based experiences and personal interests which may include participation in exhibitions, performances and/or workshops.



The Art of Science (ART, MEDIA AND SCIENCE - BIOLOGY)

This elective offers a unique blend of art and science. Inviting students to explore the intersection of digital technology in art, and its links to biology, using technology. The fusion of biology with digital art opens a world of possibilities, allowing students to represent, model, and interpret biological phenomena through creative digital media. By employing visual languages, students will create interactive digital artworks that reflect biological processes such as cell division, patterns in nature, evolution, or human anatomy. The course cultivates an understanding of biological sciences while also developing crucial digital design thinking skills, demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of modern learning.



Chaos, Murder and Mayhem in Victoria (HISTORY)

Students will explore some of the little-known parts of Victoria's history and discover some of the wild and surprising moments that are easily overlooked. Students will discover how, after having maintained and nurtured this environment for countless generations, Victoria's Indigenous peoples experienced two significant experiences of chaos: the land rush and the gold rush. These social, cultural and environmental revolutions created a sustained period of upheaval that was experienced by Indigenous and European people in different ways. Students will also investigate some of the consequences of these revolutions, including the emergence of the Kelly Gang. Students will then explore a couple of more recent episodes of mayhem in Melbourne: the 1917 Food Riots and the Police Strike in 1923.



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

MAGIS ELECTIVES:



Managing and Planning Australia's Urban Future (GEOGRAPHY AND DESIGN)

Students will complete an investigation into the current issues around urbanisation, cementing their understanding from their core humanities studies. They will learn about the impacts of urbanisation, specifically focusing on the urban heat island effect and urban sprawl within Melbourne. Using Melbourne 2030 as a guide, the students will learn about how to manage urban populations and will also create a plan about how to sustainably manage our growing urban population. They will investigate the methods of decentralising urban centres, 20-minute neighbourhoods and walkable neighbourhoods. Students will also design their own city with these methods in mind, referring to environmentally sustainable design concepts.



Australian Landforms and Landscapes (GEOGRAPHY)

Students will complete an in depth study into the different landforms that make up Australian landscapes. They will learn about the geological processes that created Uluru and Kata Tjuta in the Northern Territory, the Kimberleys in Western Australia, the Great Barrier Reef in Queensland, and the Great Dividing Range in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. They will also learn about the importance of these landforms to the Indigenous people of those regions and the Indigenous stories behind the formation of them. Students will then learn about the current impacts people are having on these environments and some of the local and state responses to protecting the environments.



Democracy, Justice and Law (CIVICS)

Students will start by learning about the Australian government, our democracy, and the Australian Constitution. They will learn about how the constitution was created and how it can be changed. Students will then learn about active participation and referendums, drawing on the recent voice to parliament referendum. Following this, students will learn about Australia's legal system, common law in Australia and Australia's court system before completing a more complex investigation into civil and criminal law. Students will complete excursions to Victoria's parliament and courts to contextualise their learning in action.



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

MAGIS ELECTIVES:



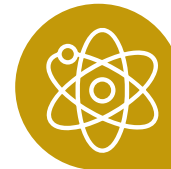
Psychology (SCIENCE)

In this course, students will have the chance to conduct research relating to the impact of technology on human psychology, they will look at this through both a positive and negative lens using prompts such as; frontiers of research and developments involving the human brain and consciousness such as understanding consciousness and perception and recording memories and dreams, and, the negative impact of technology on human psychology such as the effects of internet usage on the brain, gaming addictions from a biological, psychological, social causation. Across the course they will focus on how research is done in a psychological context, and students will learn how analyse raw data and present it to an audience. They then create, carry out and evaluate their own piece of research in the school. This will be the culmination of their learning and will combine all the research and theory skills they have developed throughout the course.



Faith & Science (RELIGION AND SCIENCE)

This course will develop students' analytical, writing and discussion skills. It will also provide opportunities for students to reflect on their personal beliefs and deepen their understanding of the interplay between faith and reason. The driving question for this course is whether faith and science are compatible. Students will explore topics such as: Faith and reason, Christian contributions to Science, Creation and the Big Bang Theory, Explaining the Mysteries of the Universe, Intelligent Design and Evolution and Ethics in science. Activities will draw on a range of resources including Saint Pope John Paul II's encyclical 'Fides et Ratio'.



Care of our Common Home (RELIGION AND SUSTAINABILITY)

This course will offer students an opportunity to examine and explore the important areas of sustainability and stewardship. Students will have an opportunity to draw on Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching principles to consider how we might be better stewards of the Earth and all creation – the environment and the people. Students will be challenged to develop a practical response to an environmental issue and justify it from a Catholic perspective. This course hopes to build students' knowledge as global citizens and unpack themes from Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si: On the Care of Our Common Home'. There will be important links to the consideration of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

MAGIS ELECTIVES:

Sonic Innovators (MUSIC AND TECHNOLOGY)

Sonic Innovators focuses on creating and performing music using a computer. Using the software Ableton Live and a MIDI keyboard or Launchpad, students will turn their computer into an instrument where they can trigger and loop sounds, notes, phrases and beats for live performance. Using loops, students learn basic music production techniques to create songs in a modern style. Students also learn some simple digital DJing techniques to smoothly present a set of songs. This elective extends on the music technology covered in the Major Study Music classes and can lead into the Year 9 & 10 and VET Music Industry classes but is not a requirement.



Advanced Music Performance (MUSIC)

This elective is a practical course for keen musicians wanting to extend their instrumental learning and practice. The course caters to students who are already studying an instrument and are committed to regular practice. This course will provide an additional space for developing musical phrasing, ensemble technique and performance practice. Students will be required to bring their instruments to class as they engage in masterclasses and group instrumental compositions. This elective could lead into the Yr 9 & 10 and VCE Music Performance elective course, but is not a requirement.



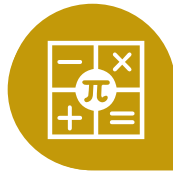
ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

NUMERACY IN ACTION ELECTIVES:

Numeracy in Action electives offer applied and extended learning in Mathematics. Numeracy skills intersect science and technology, through these electives students are able to engage with a variety of different problem solving scenarios and in doing so the applications of maths. The courses are not streamed, they are explicit opportunities to apply, extend and enrich students with opportunities to see mathematics in daily life, and through the practice and application their numeracy skills are deepened and enhanced. Students should select the course that peaks their interest, each course provides opportunities to practise an area of applied mathematics that is linked directly to their mathematics coursework, each course promotes engagement and relevance in maths. Students should **select one** of the following -

Statistics (MATHS)

There are many real world applications of statistics, in this course students will use data to explain and respond to a student developed inquiry question, for example a rhythm for a genre of music, or a scientific research prompt (growth of mould, cell growth or pathogen) and then develop a series of proofs using formulas and data sets that demonstrate evidence of solutions or predictions.



Data Science (MATHS AND SCIENCE)

Data science is like a detective game, where you use maths, science, in conjunction with analytical and computer skills to find hidden clues in a wide range of information. These clues help people make important decisions, make plans and projections. In this course students will gather all kinds of data and look for opportunities for data leveraged decisions, such as optimising manufacturing and supply chains, health care, weather predictions for agriculture and tracking physical data for athletes. Just like how technology has permeated many aspects of life at a fast rate, data is everywhere, and that's why data science as a tertiary pathway and occupation is growing at light-speed. In this course students will learn why working in data science is the coolest job of this century!



Maths, Extending in Problem Solving (MATHS)

This course will provide students time and practice in problem solving. Each topic is linked to the core strands of Maths; Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability - in each topic students explore different strategies for problem solving such as; making models, looking for patterns, substituting with simpler numbers, trial and error and working backwards.



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

NUMERACY IN ACTION ELECTIVES:

Computational Thinking (MATHS AND TECHNOLOGY)

In this course students will use a variety of technologies to apply computational thinking as a problem-solving method to solve complex problems. Through the course learning will include; logical reasoning, algorithms, decomposition, abstraction and patterns, and generalisations. Students will look at a combination of real world and abstract examples to think computationally. This course uses concepts in Digital Technologies to build upon their learnings in Statistics and Probability strand in the Mathematics curriculum. Students will also engage with the Australian Mathematics Trust Computational and Algorithmic Thinking competition.



Rockets & Energy (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

This elective presents an exhilarating opportunity for students to learn about the science behind rocket propulsion and the different forms of energy involved. It explores the fundamental principles of physics and engineering, as well as the chemical reactions that enable rockets to launch and travel through space. Through hands-on experiments and engaging discussions, students will dive into the exciting world of rockets. They will investigate how rockets transform chemical energy into kinetic energy, and how potential energy is used during flight. Students will make a rocket to learn the principles behind rocket design and the role that aerodynamics plays in space travel. The course will provide a practical understanding of energy conservation and transformation, highlighting its relevance to the real-world application of rocket science.



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

LANGUAGE ELECTIVES:

Students should **select one** of the following -

French

The French Program at Xavier College is designed to establish strong learning skills and habits, to provide a sound foundation for future language studies and to promote intercultural understanding. French is one of the rare languages to be spoken today in all continents, it is the official language of the Olympic Games and many International Organisations and the language of Diplomacy and Commerce in many countries, offering many opportunities workwise. The English language contains 30% of French derived words, which makes the study of French a powerful tool for developing depth and breadth in understanding and using English. Studying French develops students' thinking, analytical, problem solving and literacy skills, which are transferable to all other subjects, and participates in the cognitive, personal and social development of the individual. At VCE level, French is the third highest scaled subject across all learning areas and has contributed over the years to some of the highest results in Year 12, opening many doors for students' University pathways.

FR

Italian

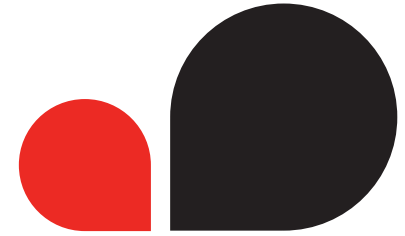
The Italian Program at Xavier College is designed to establish strong learning skills and habits, to provide a sound foundation for future language studies and to promote intercultural understanding. Italian is founded in ancient Roman society and culture and is spoken today, besides Italy, in many communities in Australia, the United States and Europe, offering opportunities workwise in a variety of fields. Studying Italian develops students' thinking, analytical, problem solving and literacy skills, which are transferable to all other subjects, and participates in the cognitive, personal and social development of the individual. At VCE level, Italian is a well scaled subject and, as such, can contribute generously to reaching a high level of general achievement in Year 12, opening varied doors for students' University pathways.

ITA

Japanese

The Japanese Program at Xavier College is designed to establish strong learning skills and habits, to provide a sound foundation for future language studies and to promote intercultural understanding. Japanese is a complex language based on ancient characters and founded in a remarkable society and culture where the notions of discipline and manners are an art of living. With Japan located in the Asia-Pacific Region, speaking Japanese can be an attribute workwise, particularly in Commerce. Studying Japanese develops students' thinking and analytical skills, which are transferable to all other subjects, and participates in the cognitive, personal and social development of the individual. Japanese is the fourth highest scaled subject across all learning areas and can contribute generously to reaching a high level of general achievement in Year 12, opening varied doors for students' University pathways.

JPN



ELECTIVES - OVERVIEW

LANGUAGE ELECTIVES:

Students should **select one** of the following -

Latin

The Latin program at Xavier College begins in Year 7 and is continuing the Jesuit tradition of teaching the classical languages. The value of Latin is not restricted to a knowledge of the language alone. Latin provides a strong foundation for English vocabulary and grammar and is a subject that can play an important part in the cognitive and character development of young adolescents. It encourages attention to detail, diligence, and perseverance; trains the use of memory; develops the ability to analyse, deduce, and problem solve (thinking skills which students can usefully apply to their other subjects); and is extremely valuable in teaching close concentration and the discipline of real intellectual effort. Latin is also one of the highest-scaled VCE subjects. The performance of Xavier students in VCE Latin has often been a decisive factor in securing their admission to some of the more highly selective tertiary courses.

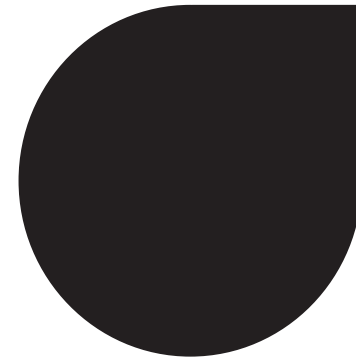


Languages and Internationalism

Language is essential to both literacy and culture. This course builds students literacy and language capability by using a cultural lens for subject matter and topics. Teaching in the course is practical, students will use a variety of resources that are multi-modal and cover; viewing, writing, speaking, listening, reading and grammar.

The aim of this course is to create an understanding of the links between Languages and Internationalism and the ways in which they interrelate in our multicultural society and historically. The course also emphasises how languages contribute to defining personal and cultural identities. Being an essential component of international and personal relations, Languages are at the centre of our cultural and historical exploration of the global world we live in and thus central to the course.

Conditional Requirement - This course is for students who have not previously studied a language as they are new to our college or, learning diversity.



YEAR 5 - 12 LANGUAGES

LANGUAGES

