



NOTRE DAME
COLLEGE

To Seek, To See, To Respond



Year 8
Subject Guide

2020

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Introduction

Notre Dame College aims to instil a love of lifelong learning in each of our students and also equip them to be good citizens in a rapidly changing world. Students in Year 8 will continue to experience a range of subjects from each of the Learning Areas, building on from the Year 7 programme.

Students will undertake 8 core subjects as well as have the opportunity to select subjects of their own choice from the Arts and Technologies Learning Areas. Project-Based Learning (PBL) is the educational approach in which students gain knowledge and skills by working for an extended period of time to investigate and respond to complex questions, problems, or challenge. Students will engage in rigorous projects related to the themes of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and Humanities and Social Science (HASS).

This handbook provides a guide to the Year 8 Programme at Notre Dame College. If you have any difficulty using this guide, or have any questions, please contact the staff listed throughout the subject handbook. Best wishes for a successful year at Notre Dame College.

John Cortese

Principal

Kristine Walker

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Susan Nabbs

Director of Learning and Teaching

Click on a subject to be directed to the description

Contacts

Learning Area Contacts



English

Han Slosarski
han.slosarski@notredame.vic.edu.au



Health and Physical Education

Joel Bunce
joel.bunce@notredame.vic.edu.au



Languages

Alexandra Cormican
alexandra.cormican@notredame.vic.edu.au



Mathematics

Lena Cross
lena.cross@notredame.vic.edu.au



Project Based Learning

Myra Hardy
myra.hardy@notredame.vic.edu.au



Religious Education

Nathan Carroll
nathan.carroll@notredame.vic.edu.au



Science

Sarah McKinnon
sarah.mckinnon@notredame.vic.edu.au



Technology

Terry Cormican
terry.cormican@notredame.vic.edu.au



The Arts

Casey Fogarty
casey.fogarty@notredame.vic.edu.au



The Humanities

Chris Segrave
chris.segrave@notredame.vic.edu.au

Other Contacts

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Kristine Walker
kristine.walker@notredame.vic.edu.au

Director of Learning and Teaching

Susan Nabbs
susan.nabbs@notredame.vic.edu.au

Learning Enrichment

Kathryn Sait (Years 7 - 9)
kathryn.sait@notredame.vic.edu.au

Junior Heads Of House

Cr

Crane

Leanne Lemon
leanne.lemon@notredame.vic.edu.au

Je

Jennings

Wendy Watt
wendy.watt@notredame.vic.edu.au

Ke

Kennedy

Jacqui Hudgson
jacqui.hudgson@notredame.vic.edu.au

Mc

McGann

Josie Hamilton
josie.hamilton@notredame.vic.edu.au

Ma

MacKillop

Tim Davis
tim.davis@notredame.vic.edu.au

Mu

Mungovan

David Cuzens
david.cuzens@notredame.vic.edu.au

General Information

Subject Selections Online

Subject selections are to be made online by students using Web Preferences. Students should ensure they complete their subject selections by the due date to have the best chance of being allocated to subjects of their choice. However, students' subject selections will not be valid until all the required re-enrolment documentation and Web Preference Receipt has been submitted to the College.

Course Restrictions

The availability of any subject is dependent upon sufficient numbers of students wishing to undertake that subject. Some subjects also have limits on class size.

Re-enrolment

If students are unsure about returning to Notre Dame College, we would ask them to please complete the subject selection process online just in case they do return.

Year 8 Camp

The year 8 camp is a three day/two night outdoor education experience. It is held at Valley Homestead near Myrtleford and aims to develop our students' resilience, persistence and teamwork. It also prepares students for the Outdoor Learning Programme in Year 9. Students complete activities such as hiking, bush cooking, abseiling, climbing and flying fox.



All Core Subjects are year length and studied by all students

Religious Education

SUBJECT CODE
08RED

Students begin deepening their understanding of Jesus and themselves. We look at Jesus in two ways. Firstly, as the historical figure, examining his cultural history, the Roman occupation of Judea and provide students with a context for Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection. Then we look at Jesus as the Christ – the Messiah, His divinity and how He is alive today, calling us into an encounter with Him. We look at Jesus' parables of the Kingdom, particularly the Sower and the Seed and the Wheat and the Tares. Then the most central Christian premise – the resurrection, and how this can make a difference in both this life and the next. By looking at what the cross of Christ calls us to, students are invited to see that they are part of a much bigger story, helping “His kingdom come on Earth as it is in Heaven”. Students will also question their own desires and motivations, asking themselves, “What is a good life?” and “Where are the choices I'm making now taking me?”

English

SUBJECT CODE
08ENG

English is at the core of the curriculum because it enables students to become effective communicators in an increasingly connected world. Developing from the foundations of Year 7, students will engage deeply with their studied texts, honing their ability to write analytically, comparatively, persuasively and creatively. In addition to written assessments they will also deliver oral presentations, actively enhancing their communication skills. Students will engage with a variety of fictional texts: *Tomorrow When The War Began* – John Marsden (novel), *The Rabbits* – John Marsden & Shaun Tan (picture book) and *The Sapphires* - Wayne Blair (film). They will also develop the critical skill of understanding persuasion in the media. From their study of how language is used in different contexts, for different purposes, they will also develop the ability to write creatively in response to a studied text.

Mathematics

SUBJECT CODE
08MAT

Maths Pathway is a computer based programme that supports the way mathematics is taught in schools. The teaching model is research-driven and has been developed to support success for all students in mathematics. In the classroom, students will be tested at their current levels of understanding across the Curriculum. This is done so that their education programme is tailored to their needs. In class, the students and teacher work together in regular learning cycles to increase math skill. There is an emphasis on student development and growth, with effort and accuracy being a focus.

Science

SUBJECT CODE
08SCI

In Year 8 Science, students build on their scientific knowledge and inquiry skills. Students complete one topic in each of the following areas; biological science, physical science, chemical science and earth science. Students investigate forms of energy such as light and sound. They explain how energy can be transferred and transformed. Students also apply the particle model to explain the properties of matter. They investigate differences between physical changes and chemical reactions and complete a series of experiments to record evidence of chemical change. Students will learn how to represent reactions as simple word equations. In Science, students also plan their own practical investigations. This includes designing, conducting and presenting their findings. For biology, students use microscopes to investigate a variety of cells. They discuss cell structure and function and investigate how cells work together to create organs and how organs work together to form body systems. Students complete a heart dissection to build on their understanding of the circulatory system. They also complete a more detailed study of the reproductive system. Students investigate the rock cycle including the various rock forming processes. The sustainable use of resources such as fossil fuels is also considered in this area of study.

