

Year 9 Curriculum Handbook 2026



**OUR LADY
OF THE
SOUTHERN
CROSS
COLLEGE**



VISION STATEMENT

To guide the young people entrusted to us through their journey in faith and knowledge so that they may know the value of their own lives and contribute positively to the community and world in which they live.

OUR MISSION

Our Lady of the Southern Cross will strive to:

- Establish and promote an ethos of teaching and learning excellence where all strive to continually develop the individual's spiritual, academic, social, cultural and physical potential;
- Provide opportunities for parents and caregivers, as the primary educators of our young people, to work in partnership with our College;
- Develop a shared understanding of Christian faith and life in the Catholic tradition by living Christ's values;
- Encourage self-discipline with a caring and positive attitude;
- Promote a sense of respect, inclusiveness and compassion for others;
- Promote responsible stewardship of our College environment and resources; and
- Foster unity and trust between our College, Catholic parish, other faiths and wider community with integrity, acceptance and goodwill.
- Promote Catholic Social Teachings which are embedded in all subject areas of Human Dignity, Stewardship of Creation, Community and the Common Good, Subsidiarity, Solidarity.

PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK

In this handbook you will find specific information about various subjects, facilitating students in making well-informed decisions regarding their subject choices that allow them to explore possible pathways.

Entering Year 9 signifies an important change in a student's educational journey at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College moving into the Senior Years Sector of the College.

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL SENIOR YEARS

As students transition into the Senior Years Sector of our College, they will encounter increased academic demands and expectations. In this stage, individuals are required to take greater responsibility for their learning and the results they achieve. Although parents, guardians, and teachers provide essential guidance and support, academic success is ultimately determined by the student's commitment to their studies, the development of effective study habits, consistent goal setting and pursuit, as well as perseverance when faced with challenges.

Achieving success in all aspects of life requires students to not only excel in their academic endeavours but also actively participate and engage in their classes at the College.



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Teachers, our Careers Development Practitioner, members of the College Leadership Team and I are very happy to answer questions and provide further information to support you to make well-informed decisions about subject selections.

At Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, we are dedicated to offering a diverse and enriching curriculum that caters to our student's needs and aligns with their chosen pathways.

Consider this handbook a stepping stone. Our teachers are available to provide any information you may require regarding each of the subjects. Please feel free to contact myself for information and assistance. Please also note that we will endeavour to offer all subjects, however, the timetable and subject offerings will be dependent on the combination of student numbers and resourcing.

Rodney Spain

Assistant Principal Senior Years





2026 KEY SUPPORT PERSONNEL TO SENIOR YEARS STUDENTS

Simone Forbes

Middle Leader – Maths

Email: simone.forbes@twb.catholic.edu.au

Sara-Jayne Rogers

Middle Leader – English and Humanities

Email: Sara-Jayne.Roger@twb.catholic.edu.au

Leah Parker

Middle Leader – Science and Technologies

Email: leah.parker@twb.catholic.edu.au

Tyron Fraser

Middle Leader – Pedagogy and Engagement

Email: tyron.fraser@twb.catholic.edu.au

Jodie Biggar

Middle Leader – Pedagogy and Engagement

Email: jodie.biggar@twb.catholic.edu.au

Dean Garside

Career Development Practitioner

Email: dean.garside@twb.catholic.edu.au

Rodney Spain

Assistant Principal – Senior Years

Email: rodney.spain@twb.catholic.edu.au

Cate Brennan

Deputy Principal – Mission & Identity

Email: cate.brennan@twb.catholic.edu.au

Peter Cuskelly

Principal

Email: peter.cuskelly@twb.catholic.edu.au

Please note: Appointments can be made with all the above staff members via the College Office. Simply contact the office by phone or in person, let them know your name and contact details, as well as the purpose of the appointment and who will be in attendance.



CHOOSING SUBJECTS FOR YEAR 9

Religion, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Health and Physical Education comprise the six compulsory areas of study for students in Year 9.

Therefore, our students will complete mandatory subjects and then have the opportunity to select elective subjects.

Students entering Year 9 will select 3 full year elective subjects they wish to study during the next year.

It is a matter for the College to determine when or if particular subjects will be studied as the student's allocation depends on staffing and resources.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College has implemented the Australian Curriculum Version 9.0. Detailed information on the Australian Curriculum can be accessed on the ACARA website: <https://v9.australiancurriculum.edu.au/>.

It is important to choose your subjects carefully as your decisions may affect your future success at College.

As an overall plan, we suggest you choose elective subjects:

- which match your thoughts about possible career and employment goals
- which reflect your interests and abilities
- in which you have previously received good results
- that you enjoy spending time engaging in outside of class time
- which develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes that will be useful in your life
- which allow you to ensure a balance with school and outside commitments

It is important to remember that students are individuals and that their needs and requirements in subject selection will be quite different from those of other students.

This means that it is unwise to either take or avoid a subject because:

- someone told them they will like or dislike it
- their friends are or are not taking it
- they like or dislike the teacher

Subject selection will be completed online with the link being available directly to students via email. An email will be sent to each student's school email addresses from noreply@selectmysubjects.com.au with the subject line of "Your Web Preferences Access Guide". Students will be required to enter their parents email address so that parents can sign electronically to acknowledge that subject choices have been made collaboratively with student and parent. Acknowledging these elective choices is an important step in our subject selection process. We strongly recommend that both students and parents/guardians add noreply@selectmysubjects.com.au as a Contact in the email application. This will reduce the likelihood of the email landing in their Spam/Junk folder.



Elective Subjects

Elective subjects in Year 9 comprise a variety of ACARA curriculum areas. This handbook has been produced to help students plan a Course of Study which will provide a balanced education across Key Learning Areas and provide greater opportunity for success.

The Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Curriculum consists of a set of year long subjects from which students can choose according to their own needs and abilities.

Students entering Year 9 will nominate 3 elective units they wish to study during the next year.

PLEASE NOTE: An elective's viability to be included will also depend on the availability of staff, resources and student interest.

SUBJECT OFFERINGS

Our subject offerings for 2026 are:

Year 9 Electives

3 lines

3 lessons / week

120 mins

Line 1	Line 2	Line 3
Design Tech - Materials	Design Tech - Food	Ag Science
Legal/Business	Digital Technologies	Design
Music	Drama	PE Volleyball Specialisation
	Geography	Visual Art

Please be aware in 2026 the following levies, additional to College Fees, are attached to the below subjects.

Design Tech – Food \$210 per year

Design Tech – Materials \$210 per year

Below is a list of the 2025 Subject Teachers and a brief of what each subject offers. These teachers along with the Middle Leaders of Curriculum, are best suited to answer questions from students and parents.



Elective Subject	Who to contact for more information?
Agricultural Studies This course is designed to introduce students to the subject of Agricultural Production. They will learn that to produce crops and livestock successfully, people must manage the land and animals in balance with nature to ensure continued high production. Agricultural Studies and Practices will be covered in the subject.	Mr Christopher Coman chris.coman@twb.catholic.edu.au
Design Think Differently. Create Boldly. What if your ideas could shape the future? In Design, you'll explore how to solve real-world problems in creative, unexpected ways. Whether you're reimagining spaces, inventing something useful, or drawing inspiration from nature, this subject is all about thinking like a designer—curious, clever, and courageous. You'll work on hands-on projects, use digital tools to bring your ideas to life, and learn how to design with people and purpose in mind. No experience needed—just a willingness to explore, experiment, and make things better. Design helps you build skills that are useful everywhere - from school to future jobs, and even everyday life. You'll learn how to think creatively, work in teams, and turn ideas into action. Where could it lead? That's up to you. But if you enjoy imagining, making, and improving the world around you—this is where it starts.	Ms Leah Parker Leah.Parker@twb.catholic.edu.au
Design Technology – Food Cook Creatively Love food? Curious about how meals are made in the real world—from airlines to food trucks? In this subject, you'll explore the exciting world of food design and innovation. You'll learn how to create meals that are tasty, practical, and packed with personality. Across the year, you'll: • Design and cook meals • Explore trends such as grill like a pro • Create your own street food business idea! You'll work in teams, experiment with flavours, and solve real-world food	Ms Leah Parker Leah.Parker@twb.catholic.edu.au



challenges. It's hands-on, creative, and full of opportunities to learn skills that go beyond the kitchen—like planning, budgeting, teamwork, and design thinking. Where can it lead? Food Tech builds skills for careers in hospitality, nutrition, business, design, and more. Whether you want to be a chef, run a café, or just impress your mates with your cooking—this subject is a great place to start.	
Design Technology – Materials There is nothing more rewarding than making your own item from scratch. Join our INTAD team and experience producing some interesting creations. Industrial Technology allows students to develop production techniques through the use of different materials and technologies. Technology in its broadest sense incorporates equipment from a simple handsaw through to 3D printers and design being controlled from a drawing you have created on your laptop. Students will be given opportunity to focus on production skills and less on design although students will be required to evaluate products they produce with consideration of the aesthetics and functionality. Enjoy the pleasure of making useful items in a range of materials from timber, sheet metal and plastic and at the completion of the course you will have exciting new products and skills to take home.	Mr Jon Stam Jon.stam@twb.catholic.edu.au
Digital Technologies Learning in Digital Technologies focusses on further developing understanding and skills in computational thinking such as precisely and accurately describing problems and the use of modular approaches to solutions. It also focusses on engaging students with specialised learning in preparation for vocational training or learning in the senior secondary years. In Year 9, students consider how human interaction with Artificial Intelligence, networked systems introduce complexities surrounding access to, and the security and privacy of, data of various types. They interrogate security practices and techniques used to compress data, and	Mr Rodney Spain Rodney.spain@twb.catholic.edu.au



learn about the importance of separating content, presentation and behavioural elements for data integrity and maintenance purposes. They are introduced to robotics, web design and coding using varied resources.	
Drama In Drama, students develop essential skills such as, focusing on creative expression, critical thinking, and collaboration. They engage in group projects to devise and perform original works, enhancing teamwork and communication abilities. The program includes partnerships with Queensland Theatre, offering students invaluable workshops led by industry professionals. These sessions provide insights into the practical aspects of performance, production, and the diverse career pathways within the arts. By exploring contemporary issues through drama, students learn to express their perspectives and engage with societal challenges, fostering empathy and cultural awareness. This holistic approach not only cultivates artistic talents but also prepares students to become informed 21st-century citizens, equipped to use their creativity for positive change in their communities. Overall, Drama offers a rich learning experience that bridges classroom knowledge with real-world application, empowering students in their personal and artistic journeys.	Miss Tamara Creeley Tamara.Creeley@twb.catholic.edu.au
Geography Year 9 Geography is the study of the natural Earth and the social science of people, place, and wellbeing. This subject invites students to explore biomes and food security through local investigations in Dalby and global comparisons, while developing core geographical inquiry skills. Students learn to question, research, and analyse data using real-world case studies like Toowoomba. They then examine environmental change and management, focusing on First Nations Australians' custodial responsibilities and environmental worldviews. Field experiences at Girraween National Park and the Sunshine Coast allow students to compare country and coastal	Mrs Sara-Jayne Rogers Sara-Jayne.Rogers@twb.catholic.edu.au



towns, culminating in a rich exploration of human wellbeing and interconnections across diverse landscapes.	
Legal / Business Year 9 Legal/Business begins with Legal Studies, where students explore the Australian legal system, including the role of courts, the difference between criminal and civil law, and how laws protect rights and responsibilities. Students create engaging vlogs and write persuasive essays to advocate for legal reform, developing their understanding of justice and civic participation. In Semester 2, the focus shifts to Business Studies, where students investigate ethical and sustainable business practices, including First Nations enterprises. They analyse marketing strategies, evaluate business decisions, and design their own business concept, building skills in financial literacy, teamwork, and innovation.	Mr Tyron Fraser Tyron.Fraser@twb.catholic.edu.au
Music In Music, students will develop essential skills through analysis, performance, and original composition, fostering technical mastery and critical expression. The curriculum explores diverse musical applications, starting with analysing and performing Pop Rock music, whereby students will focus on technical polish and collaboration. This foundation builds confidence through a dedicated Performance module, focusing on stage presence and effective practice habits. The curriculum also encourages social awareness through Protest Music songwriting, teaching students how to write music effectively about issues that matter to them. Finally, the program connects music to technology in the Film Music unit, where students learn to analyse and compose music for real-world visual media. Overall, Music offers a rich learning experience that bridges foundational knowledge with artistic innovation, empowering students in their personal and professional journeys.	Miss Sophie Twidale Sophie.Twidale@twb.catholic.edu.au
Physical Education Specialisation – Volleyball Volleyball Specialisation Program provides students with an advanced understanding of	Mrs Lisa Lincoln Lisa.Lincoln@twb.catholic.edu.au



the game. Strong focus is placed on the essential skills, rules, rotations, teamwork, and sports-specific fitness throughout practical lessons. Theoretical aspects covered in Year 9 include sports psychology and sports nutrition to enhancing performance, healthy and safe choices, tournament organisation and game promotion, through being a coach/leader/mentor. Students will organise and officiate a one day mini volleyball tournament for our Year 5 and 6 students. The aim is to provide students with the tools to be successful at any level, from lifelong learners to elite athletes.

Visual Art

In Year 9 Visual Art, you will explore the world of art-making. Art is all around us from the graphics we see on screen to the patterning on our clothes.

Across the year, you will:

- Create artworks in both 2D and 3D—drawing, painting, sculpture, and digital art
- Learn practical skills to bring your ideas to life, from composition to refining your technical skills
- Respond to client-style briefs, generating ideas and exploring how artists work in real-world contexts
- Analyse and evaluate other artist's work
- Curate and present your artwork for gallery and online audiences

You'll experiment with materials, explore symbolism and storytelling, and reflect on how your art connects with others. It's hands-on, expressive, and full of opportunities to build confidence and creative thinking.

Visual Art builds skills for future pathways in fine arts, illustration, graphic design, concept arts, animation and more.

Ms Vicki Knight

Vicki.Knight@twb.catholic.edu.au



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