

YEAR 7

SEMESTER BULLETIN



2026 SEMESTER 1

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Religious Education is a significant component of the entire Religious Life of the College package. All teachers at St Margaret Mary's College contribute to this, as do our students, with various opportunities also offered to families.

The Religious Life of the College is lived out in a variety of ways:

Daily Prayer:

All Students from Year 7 to Year 12 begin the year writing prayers to contribute to their Pastoral Care Class Prayer Book. They are very creative and beautifully written. Throughout the year, our Year 7 students participate respectfully in a variety of prayer experiences



Service Activities:

Project Compassion fundraising begins our year followed by World Down Syndrome day. Harmony Day is a highlight and we spend the week celebrating the many cultures that enhance our College community.



Calendrical Events:

Gatherings for such things as Lent, Stations of the Cross, Harmony Day, Samaritan Day, Advent/Christmas.



Religious Education outline

| Year 7 | |
|---|---|
| <p>Pre-Unit: <i>Welcome to our Sacramental Community</i></p> | <p>We are mindful that our Year 7 students come to us from many different schools across the Townsville region or even further afield - both State and Catholic. We welcome this diversity through the thoughts and experiences of each student and firmly believe that it enhances the Religious experiences our students take part in. Therefore, students start the year working through a 2 week Pre-Unit where they explore the history of St Margaret Mary's and what makes us such a unique community to be part of.</p> |
| <p>Unit-1: <i>Encountering Prayer & Journey in Faith</i></p> | <p>Students evaluate and draw conclusions about the significance of prayer, ritual, sacraments and sacred texts for the faith journey of believers, personally and communally. Students investigate the relationship between the Sacraments of the Church, the life and ministry of Jesus, and the faith journey and life experiences of believers.</p> <p>Assessment: Prayer portfolio</p>  |
| <p>Unit-2: <i>Sacramental Communities</i></p> |  <p>Students will explore and describe ways in which St Margaret Mary's College is a Faith Community. They will also consider how sacred texts reflect the audience, purpose and context of their human authors and evaluate how sacred texts are significant within the faith journey of believers.</p> <p>Assessment: Exam</p> |
| <p>Unit 3: <i>Journeys of Faith</i></p> | <p>Students evaluate and draw conclusions about the significance of prayer, ritual, sacraments and sacred texts for the faith journey of believers, personally and communally.</p> <p>Assessment: Student devised pamphlet</p> |

ENGLISH

Welcome to Year 7 English! I hope that your daughters are settling into their English classes and high school. This unit will introduce students to the writer's toolbox to cover grammar, spelling, parts of speech, language choices and writing to communicate. Lynda Mullaly Hunt's novel, titled *Fish in a Tree*, will focus on reading for understanding using reading practices such as the mind's eye, predicting, and the "Eagle & the Wolf". Students will have opportunities to strengthen their spelling knowledge, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure and vocabulary.

There will be a focus on narrative structure and understanding the power of imagery in creative writing. Students will experiment with sentence types and starters in story writing. Segways in the novel will provide students with "writing gems" to construct micro fiction or flash fiction. Also, students will discuss the dominant concepts of bullying and acceptance. These discussions will culminate in writing a persuasive response using basic persuasive language devices in PEEL paragraphs. This will ensure students are familiar with the conventions of the persuasive as well as narrative genres in preparation for NAPLAN in week 7. If you have any issues or concerns, please touch base with your daughter's classroom teacher.

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7 ENG.2 Emma Ellevsen ellevsen2@smmc.catholic.edu.au

7ENG.3 Keeley O'Connell koconnell@smmc.catholic.edu.au

7ENG.4 Angie Stallard astallard1@smmc.catholic.edu.au

7ENG.5 Amanda May amay@smmc.catholic.edu.au

Term 1- Writer's Toolbox & Micro fiction

(Written- Short Story- Using "Fish in a Tree" as a springboard)

Term 2- Power of Speculative Fiction

(Written- WALL-E blog/article)

Tips for success in English:

1. Read daily. Encourage your daughter to read each day - even if it is only for 10-15 minutes. Reading daily is an excellent way to improve comprehension, writing and spelling skills. There are many [websites](#) and resources that outline the benefits of reading. Our school library is stocked with the latest and some of the greatest books available, and the friendly staff will help with recommendations. Each week, there will be time for reading in class.
2. Complete homework! If there is no set homework for English, your daughter should focus on revising the work completed in class.
3. Ask questions. If your daughter is unsure of any work to be completed, please contact her teacher.
4. Engage in class discussion.
5. Join a debate team! Further information regarding our school debate teams will be released shortly.
6. Take the opportunity to compete in one of the many public speaking competitions that we are involved in. Further information on these opportunities will be available over the next few weeks.

I hope that your daughter enjoys Semester One!

Correna Neumann - Curriculum Middle Leader English

SCIENCE

Welcome to high school Science at St Margaret Mary's College. This is an exciting time for our young ladies as they experience being in a high school Science lab for the first time. During Term 1, the students of Year 7 will be learning about safety in the laboratory, and how to use equipment correctly. There are many pieces of scientific equipment they might have never seen before, including the all-important Bunsen burner.

Maria Merian was a German-born naturalist and scientific illustrator. Maria had a keen interest in insects and would observe them closely which gave her remarkable insights into the way they really lived. Many of her classifications of insects are still valid today and her exquisite painting of plants, animals and insects have been widely admired through the centuries. Maria emerged as one of the leading entomologists of her day. She made remarkable discoveries about the metamorphosis of insects. (Source: A mighty Girl, 2024) The main underlying point to Maria's story is the curiosity that Maria had in insects. Curiosity and the ability to question is one of the foundational aspects of Science. It is what allows us to then investigate why it is so.

Just as Maria investigated insects, our girls in Year 7 will explore the Biology topic of 'Classification'. They will investigate the requirements for life, the different types of living organisms, the differences between organisms and how organisms are classified according to their characteristics. In Term 2, the girls will continue exploring the diversity of life on Earth and the intricate web of relationships that sustain ecosystems. They'll learn how energy flows through food chains and food webs, and how human activity can impact these delicate systems. Through hands-on investigations and model-building, students will develop a deeper understanding of how living and non-living components interact in the environment. Students will complete a research investigation on a claim related to an important role that an organism plays within an ecosystem.

Year 7 Science teaching staff for Semester One are:

- 7.1 – Georgia Stayte
- 7.2 – Rebecca Little
- 7.3 – Ashleigh Rhodes
- 7.4 – Yvonne Cox
- 7.5 – Cat Ryan

We look forward to fostering your daughter's curiosity in Science.

Belinda Coombe – Curriculum Middle Leader, Science

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome to Health and Physical Education for Semester 1, 2026. During Theory lessons in Term 1 students will be introduced to Health Education as they explore their own health and wellbeing through the dimension of health. Students will only complete a formative theoretical assessment in Term 1, as we focus on settling them into high school and exploring one of their biggest transitions to date. During Term 2, students will learn about the human body and explore how it changes through the lifespan. Students will complete an investigation report to provide advice to other adolescents on dealing with changes during puberty.

In practical activities, Term 1 will focus on modified games and challenge activities, as well as a range of fitness testing. Students will be involved in a range of games and challenges aimed at improving both their physical skills and their interpersonal relationships, such as teamwork and communication.

In Term 2, students will participate in a range of net sports such as Badminton, Newcombeball and Volleyball.

Students in Health and Physical Education are reminded that participation in practical lessons is compulsory. If a student can't participate in practical activities for any reason, they must provide their classroom teacher with a note of explanation from a parent/guardian.

Year 7 HPE Teachers are:

- 7.1 Georgia Stayte
- 7.2 Hannah Norford
- 7.3 Katanya Cottone
- 7.4 Mitch Bebb
- 7.5 Anna Franzmann

Kim Cameron – Curriculum Middle Leader, Health & Physical Education

FOOD & TEXTILES TECHNOLOGIES

FOOD SPECIALISATIONS

**Step outside your comfort zone,
Explore the unknown,
And discover the wonders that await.**

Creativity is about embracing the unknown and taking risks. It involves generating unique and original ideas that have yet to be explored. However, creativity isn't just about coming up with something new—it's also about reimagining and combining existing ideas in innovative ways. In design, creativity plays a crucial role in exploring and developing diverse solutions to a given problem.

This year, the SMMC Food & Textiles Department is challenging students to step beyond their comfort zones and embrace new learning experiences. Innovation is key in the food industry—without it, we wouldn't have discovered the tantalizing taste of salted caramel or protein-enhanced snacks. In addition, we are encouraging students to be mindful of food waste, exploring creative ways to repurpose ingredients into innovative and sustainable food solutions.

During the unit, 'Paddock to Plate', students will learn how to apply safety and hygiene practices in a kitchen. They will read and follow recipes and develop culinary skills, such as measuring ingredients, using a knife to cut, slice, and dice.

Food solutions include Bush Tomato Pizzas and Cinnamon Myrtle Apple Crumble (a take-home dish) will be produced during the double lesson. The students will be challenged to use their creativity and knowledge regarding Native Australian ingredients and The Australian Guidelines to Healthy Eating to design and produce a Stir Fry. We hope families benefit from their child learning these valuable lifelong skills by preparing some meals at home.

Teachers: Ivy Trueman and Nadine Orman

TEXTILE TECHNOLOGIES

The challenge for Year 7 Textiles is to produce a Tote-style bag that showcases a chosen natural dying technique. The students will begin with a blank canvas: 2 pieces of calico. To achieve a finished solution, they will learn how to safely operate a sewing machine and iron, fabric scissors, and an unpicker.

The unit also supports our environmental focus by encouraging students to use these bags, instead of relying on plastic bags to carry items.

Textile Design is a great subject to learn. Some of the wonderful benefits of learning how to manipulate fabric and materials include the development of literacy, numeracy skills, and problem-solving, relieving stress, improving hand-eye coordination, and can just make us feel good about ourselves by providing a sense of achievement.

Teacher: Hannah Bell

Tanya Krause – Curriculum Middle Leader, Food & Textiles Technologies

HUMANITIES

Welcome to high school Humanities at SMMC! We will work with your daughters to help them to see that the Humanities are alive and well, and are very important to our understanding of what happens in our world, particularly in these uncertain times Your daughter will complete three Humanities subjects across Year 7: Civics and Citizenship; Geography; and History.

This semester, all Year 7 students are studying Civics, then Geography. In Civics, students will investigate how laws and society function in Australia and look at what rights and responsibilities citizens have. This will encourage students to look at democratic government, and their role in making change happen. Your daughter will look at Water in Geography. This unit focuses on water as an example of a renewable environmental resource, and develops students' understanding of the concept of environment, including the ideas that the environment is the product of a variety of processes, that it supports and enriches human and other life in different ways and that the environment has its specific hazards.

To be able to do her best in her Humanities subjects, it is recommended for your daughter to:

- Bring all required materials to class, including her Learning Journal!
- Complete all classwork and homework
- Work effectively on assessment in class time provided
- Meet all assessment checkpoints
- Be proactive and ask questions, or when necessary, for help from her teacher

We are lucky enough to have a wonderful, enthusiastic and capable team of teachers working with the Year 7s this year. Ms Kath Burke will take 07HUM.1. Mrs Emma Ellevsen teaches 07HUM.2. Ms Keeley O'Connell is the class teacher for 07HUM.3, Mr Lincoln Miller will teach 07HUM.4 and Ms Sophie Horan is working with 07HUM.5. If you have any questions about your daughter's Humanities subjects, please contact her class teacher.

Kath Burke – Curriculum Middle Leader, Humanities

MATHEMATICS

Over the Australia Day weekend, Katherine Bennell-Pegg was named the 2026 Australian of the Year. She is Australia's first woman astronaut and the first Australian to qualify as an astronaut through Australia's own space program.

In interviews, Bennell-Pegg shared that even when she was at school, she knew she wanted to be an astronaut. It started with curiosity — looking up at the stars and asking, “*what if?*” She has also spoken about how Australia can miss out on great talent when students step away from STEM subjects as soon as learning feels challenging.



Katherine meeting a young space enthusiast in W.A.
Credit: International Space Centre

What really stood out to me was her comparison to sport. In Australia, we are often encouraged to “give it a go” on the sporting field, even if we are not the strongest player. Yet in maths, many students start to doubt themselves when things feel hard. Bennell-Pegg’s message is a powerful reminder that challenge is not a sign to stop — it is a sign that learning is happening.

What stood out to me most was her comparison between Australians’ willingness to “give it a go” in sport — even when we might be the weakest on the field — and the way students can shy away from maths when learning feels hard. Her message encourages us to bring that same “give it a go” mindset into STEM, backing ourselves to persist through difficulty and stay connected to maths, science, technology and engineering. After all, it is often in those moments of challenge that the most meaningful growth happens.

At SMMC, we warmly encourage your daughter to lean into the challenges of high school Mathematics and to back herself by attending tutorials whenever she feels unsure. Seeking support from her teacher or other Mathematics teachers is a positive and proactive step, and through this extra guidance we can help her build confidence, strengthen her understanding, and keep future opportunities in Mathematics open.

Our Year 7 Mathematics team includes Anna Franzmann (7MAT1), Hannah Norford (7MAT2), Kylie Wallis (7MAT3), Lisa Hamilton (7MAT4) and Leah Daniel (7MAT5). These dedicated educators bring a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the classroom, and together, we’re excited to support your daughter in her journey of growth and achievement.

We are very much looking forward to working with you and your daughter this year. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me or your daughter’s Mathematics teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Irma Lapico – Curriculum Middle Leader, Mathematics

DIGITAL & DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES

Designing and creating with people at the heart.

The Australian Curriculum Technologies subjects are built around solving problems. Our students will be given opportunities to seek out ways to help others and improve products, practices, or procedures all while considering the environmental and social impacts of their solutions as well as the choices of materials and methods of production.

The girls will delve into a spectrum of technology concepts, enhancing their twenty-first-century skills. They will actively participate in invaluable and in-demand experiences that can shape their future careers. As they tackle problem-solving scenarios, students will employ a diverse set of industry-standard software and hardware, fostering confidence in the selection and application of various techniques.

In Year 7 at St Margaret Mary’s, the Digital & Design Technologies curriculum includes three distinct subjects studied on a rotational basis, each spanning one term. These subjects adopt a hands-on approach to address real-world problems through the application of technology. Lessons will be dynamic, emphasising learning through active engagement, including research, planning, and creation. Each subject will present a significant project for the girls to undertake during class. While there is no standard homework schedule, teachers may assign occasional small tasks or ask students to complete any unfinished classwork at their own pace throughout the term.

Digital Technologies

During this semester, students in 7.3 and 7.5 will complete their Digital Technologies rotation. Students will explore the inner workings of a computer, metaphorically “lifting the lid” to unravel its components. This foundational knowledge will serve as a basis for their major project—an interactive quiz game. In this exciting endeavour, the girls will venture into general-purpose coding, utilising spreadsheets to craft a fully interactive quiz centred around computers. The students will have the creative freedom to choose their own themes for the quiz, compiling a set

of questions and answers related to various computer-related topics. This hands-on experience promises to be both educational and engaging for the participants.

Design & Technologies

The girls in 7.1 and 7.2 will complete their Design & Technologies rotation this semester. In Year 7, students learn how to use the design process to create sustainable solutions to real-world problems. Students will each choose an environmental sustainability issue as their focus for the term. The first stage of the design process involves analysing and defining the problem. After which, students engage in ideation and iteration, devising multiple design ideas to combat the problem. Students pitch their designs to the class, presenting key ideas and information.

Cathy Jago - Curriculum Middle Leader, Digital & Design Technologies

THE ARTS

VISUAL ART

Year 7 will enjoy one term of Art with Mrs Hendle as part of their Arts rotation. They will explore the work of First Nations artists from Central Australia and how they tell stories with their pottery. Lessons will also include an introduction to ceramics and clay building methods. Our young artists will then get their hands dirty designing, constructing and painting their own Story Pot.

DANCE

Welcome to our newest Maggies! Students will be studying Dance with Miss Catherine Ryan as part of their Arts term rotations. During this time, the girls will explore Safe Dance Practices and expand their movement vocabulary. Throughout the term there will be a focus on the Elements of Dance through practical and theoretical activities. In the assessment task, students will learn a dance routine as a class then have the opportunity to create their own movements working cooperatively with a small group. Everyone is kindly asked to please wear their sport uniform for their Dance lessons.

DRAMA

Our Year 7 students will begin their Drama journey at SMMC with a term-long unit that focuses on Improvisation. Combined with fun games to assist in group work and cooperation skills, the girls will learn about the Elements of Drama and begin developing skills to make their own dramatic scenes. Guaranteed to have them thinking on their feet! If Drama lessons aren't enough, all Year 7 students are encouraged to come along to Junior Drama Club which is an extracurricular opportunity for girls to further enhance their dramatic skills and have fun!

MUSIC

In Year 7 all students will experience a term of studying Music with Ms Suzy Sheriff or Mrs Kylie Wallis. I hope all the budding singers and instrumentalists are ready to continue developing their performance skills or to learn new ones. Perhaps some can join our choir or guitar ensemble, or have individual lessons on piano, violin, guitar and voice in school time. Maybe too some can perform at the annual "Showcase" on the 13th of March. By the end of term students will compose melodies to suit a storyline then perform them in groups with actions. It all "Sounds Exciting!"

Jennie Edwards – Curriculum Middle Leader, The Arts

LANGUAGES

Konnichiwa!

This semester, students will begin their language learning journey with Japanese. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of the Japanese language while also exploring aspects of Japanese culture and everyday life.

Some students may have studied Japanese during primary school, which is a wonderful foundation to build upon. For those who are new to the language, this is absolutely fine - learning will begin with the basics, ensuring that all students feel supported and confident as they progress.

Students will learn how to talk about themselves, their friends, their families, and will also begin to build general knowledge about Japan, including cultural traditions and daily life.

Students will have access to the online language-learning platform Education Perfect, which will be used primarily for homework tasks. Learning will be further supported through engaging activities using platforms such as Quizlet and Kahoot.

We look forward to sharing our love of the Japanese language and culture with your daughters and supporting them throughout their language-learning journey

Marita Townsend - Curriculum Middle Leader, Languages

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