

YEAR 7

SEMESTER BULLETIN



2024 SEMESTER 1

LEARNING & TEACHING

Year 7 at any school can be at times a challenging starting point for Secondary Education.

At SMMC we aim to provide your daughter with a quality, contemporary education which utilises data and evidence to provide the best possible learning outcomes for your child. Our skilled and engaging teachers aim to structure their curriculum so that Year 7 students continue with their foundational subjects such as Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Health & Physical Education and Humanities, whilst being introduced to more specialised curriculum in the Arts, Languages and Technologies. This is a year for growth and for consolidating interest in subject areas. I encourage all parents to make contact with your daughter's teachers should you have any questions regarding what they are learning and how we can best meet her needs. This semester student will undertake NAPLAN online from the 13-19 March. We believe that our curriculum delivery is direct preparation for these Reading, Writing, Conventions of Language and Numeracy tests. However, students will do some preparation in terms of making them familiar with the online platform along with some targeted support in Numeracy and the skills underpinning Writing. Should parents wish to look at the online platform, they are encouraged to take a look at the Public Demonstration Site linked [here](#).

To assist parents with preparation for the year ahead, here are some key contacts for staff who are leading curriculum areas at our school.

Curriculum Area	Curriculum Leader	Email address
Religious Education	Rachel Harrison (Assistant Principal Identity & Mission)	rharrison6@smmc.catholic.edu.au
English	Correna Neumann	cneumann1@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Maths	Irma Lapico	ilapico@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Science	Ben Naughton	bnaughton@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Humanities	Kath Burke	kburke4@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Health and Physical Education	Kimberly Cameron	kcameron1@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Arts	Chris Davis	cdavis3@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Digital & Design Technologies	Cathy Jago (Acting)	cjago3@smmc.catholic.edu.au

Food & Textiles Technologies	Wendy Owens	wowens@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Languages	Cathy Spencer	cspencer@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Senior Pathways and VET	Katherine Truntic	ktruntic@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Inclusive Education	Paula Gabrielli	pgabrielli@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Career Development Advisor	Marianne Milani	mmilani2@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Indigenous Education	Louise Martin	lmartin20@smmc.catholic.edu.au

Other useful curriculum links can be found below:

- [Curriculum @ SMMC](#)
- [Attendance and Absence During Term Time](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)

I look forward to meeting all the Year 7 students and their parents as the year progresses.

Ms Kath Hunter
Deputy Principal - Teaching & Learning

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

YEAR-LEVEL RETREATS



Year 8 reflect on Sisterhood, while Year 11 workshop Leadership, considering the footprints they will leave behind.



SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Project Compassion fundraising begins our year, World Down Syndrome Day & odd socks, Pride Week is a highlight and we spend a few evenings creating Birthing Kits for the Zonta Foundation - supporting women around the world that we may never meet.



CALENDRIAL EVENTS

Gatherings for such things as Lent, Harmony Day, Samaritan Day, Advent/Christmas.

PRE-UNIT: WELCOME TO OUR SACRAMENTAL COMMUNITY

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.



UNIT 1: ENCOUNTERING PRAYER & JOURNEY IN FAITH

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.

Assessment: Prayer portfolio

UNIT 2: SACRAMENTAL COMMUNITIES

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.

Assessment: Exam

Mrs Rachel Harrison
Assistant Principal - Identity & Mission



ENGLISH

Welcome to Year 7 English!

I hope that your daughters are settling into their English classes and high school. This term is proving to be very busy so far with NAPLAN preparation and new units of work as we begin to implement Australian Curriculum V9. If you have any issues or concerns, please touch base with your daughter's classroom teacher.

7ENG.1	Lincoln Miller	lmiller11@smmc.catholic.edu.au
7 ENG.2	Kathryn Beplate	kbeplate5@smmc.catholic.edu.au
7ENG.3	Meg Taylor	mtaylor13@smmc.catholic.edu.au
7ENG.4	Jodie Bonaventura	jbonaventura@smmc.catholic.edu.au
7ENG.5	Keeley O'Connell	koconnell@smmc.catholic.edu.au

In their first English unit, students will prepare for the NAPLAN narrative and persuasive writing that will take place in Week 8. To prepare for narrative writing students will examine texts that represent identity through reading and comprehending autobiographical and personal recount texts. They will read and view autobiographical texts representing childhood such as Roald Dahl's *Boy-Tales of Childhood* or *Matilda* and Taiki Waititi's semi-autobiographical film *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*. These texts will be used to build reading, comprehension and writing practices required for NAPLAN in week 8.

Term Two will focus on the short story genre and how to engage your audience.

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!

Mrs Correna Neumann
Curriculum Middle Leader - English

MATHEMATICS

Welcome to our SMMC community, Year 7 Students and Parents!

This year, we aim to create an environment where your daughter can approach learning with courage, fostering a growth mindset in Mathematics. We're shifting away from limiting beliefs like "I just can't do maths" and embracing an empowering mindset of "I can't do this yet" or "What can I do to improve?" (Helen Hindle, n.d.). We believe that talents and abilities can be developed over time, viewing mistakes as valuable opportunities for growth and learning. Success, in our view, is a result of sustained effort and resilience.

As your daughter transitions from primary school to high school, a significant change in our approach revolves around how we handle homework in Mathematics. Homework is now seen as a crucial tool for strengthening learning and kickstarting the development of revision, practice, and study skills. It's important to note that as your daughter progresses through her educational journey, the demand for these skills will increase. Therefore, it's crucial to nurture and develop these skills gradually each year rather than expecting them to be automatically present when needed.

To keep you well-informed and engaged, each student will receive a Term One outline, with an electronic copy available on Google Classroom. This will be a helpful reference to understand the concepts covered in each lesson, especially in the case of absences or if you'd like to stay informed about your daughter's learning trajectory. During lessons, the learning intentions will be clearly stated, providing students with a roadmap to success. We are committed to offering constructive feedback through formative quizzes, actively encouraging and appreciating sustained effort. Our dedication extends to after-school tutorials on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, providing an additional layer of support and time for consolidation.

Throughout our lessons, your daughter will be encouraged to be an active participant in the learning process - asking questions, independently reviewing and correcting errors, and completing consolidation tasks to strengthen acquired skills. In moments of difficulty, we encourage you to guide your daughter to consult her 'rule book' for examples and consider attending after-school tutorials.

A warm welcome to Louise Martin, our new addition to the College! She'll be taking charge of 7MAT3. Louise joins our experienced Year 7 team, which includes Irina Korshunova (7MAT.1), Claire Tidmas (7MAT.2), Lisa Hamilton (7MAT.4), and Leah Daniel (7MAT.5). Together, they bring a wealth of experience and diverse teaching styles, ensuring a comprehensive and enriching learning environment for your daughter. We're excited about the prospect of a fantastic and growth-filled academic year together!

References:

Helen Hindle. (n.d.). Growth Mindset Maths. Retrieved from <https://www.growthmindsetmaths.com/>

Ms Irma Lapico
Curriculum Middle Leader - Mathematics

SCIENCE

Welcome to SMMC Science 2024!

During Term One, the students of Year 7 will be learning about safety in the laboratory, and how to use equipment correctly, as many of them experience working in a laboratory for the first time this term. There are many pieces of scientific equipment they have probably never seen before, including the all-important Bunsen burner. They will work towards gaining their Bunsen burner licence, as well as learn to use other important pieces of equipment that are regularly used in the lab. Following this orientation of the lab and some development of important data analysis skills, the students will complete a practical test.

This is followed by 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. The students will learn the 7 levels of classification and the binomial naming system for identifying species. Students will complete a test to assess their progress in this unit.

In Term Two, the focus is on the Physics-based unit 'Forces'. The students will learn how to identify, measure, and classify forces. They will see how two or more forces may be combined to make a stronger force or to cancel each other out completely. There is also a focus on gravity and how its effects can be felt on Earth and in space. The assessment will require the students to apply the Scientific method to investigate changing variables related to force.

Mr Ben Naughton
Curriculum Middle Leader - Science

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome to Health and Physical Education for Semester One, 2024.

During Theory lessons in Term One 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 One, as we focus on settling them into high school and explore one of their biggest transitions to date.

During Term Two 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 around dealing with changes during puberty.

In practical activities, Term One 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 Two, students will be participating in a range of Athletics events including Discus, Shot Put, Javelin, Long Jump, Triple Jump and Track Events.

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 Kim Cameron
- 7.3 Rebecca Little
- 7.4 Rebecca Little
- 7.5 Michael Dear

Mrs Kim Cameron
Curriculum Middle Leader - Health and Physical Education

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 Florinda Battistel will take 07HUM.1. Mrs Kathryn Beplate teaches 07HUM.2. Mr Peter Leete is the class teacher for 07HUM.3, and Mr Nori Yamada will teach 07HUM.4 and 07HUM.5. If you have any questions about your daughter's Humanities subjects, please contact her class teacher.

Mrs Kath Burke

Curriculum Middle Leader - Humanities

FOOD & TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY

FOOD DESIGN

Take a risk
And be amazed at what happens next

Creativity is about doing something where you don't know the outcome, that means it's about taking a risk. It is the ability to come up with unique and novel ideas that have not been explored before. Creativity is not just about generating new ideas; it is also about combining existing ideas in new and innovative ways. In design, creativity is used to explore and generate a wide range of solutions to a problem.

This year in the SMMC Food & Textiles Department we are encouraging our students to **take a risk** with their learning. If no risks were ever taken in the food industry, consumers would never have experienced the tantalizing flavour of salted caramel or enjoyed the range of gluten-free products.

During the five-week unit 'MasterChef Kitchen', 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 such as Mini Pizzas, Spaghetti Bolognese, and Apple Crumble (a take-home dish) will be produced during the double lesson each week. The students will be challenged to use their creativity and knowledge about the Australian Guidelines to Healthy Eating to design and produce a nutritious muffin for a healthy snack. We hope families benefit from their child learning these valuable lifelong skills by preparing some meals at home. The students will then move to Textile Design or vice versa.

Teacher: Mrs Ivy Trueman

TEXTILE DESIGN

If no risks were ever taken in the textile industry, where would we have been without Velcro being invented to secure openings or long-sleeved swimsuits and rashies to help protect against damage to our skin from the sun?

The challenge for Year 7 Textiles is to produce a calico backpack-style bag that showcases a chosen fabric painting technique in five weeks. 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 (hopefully not too often).

The unit also supports our environmental focus by encouraging students to use these bags, instead of relying on plastic bags to carry items. Also, the fabric paint used, Liquid Radiance, is environmentally friendly as excess paint does not end up going down the drain.

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: Ms Florinda Battistel

Mrs Wendy Owens

Curriculum Middle Leader - Food & Textile Technology

DESIGN & DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Designing and creating with people at the heart.

Greetings as we embark on yet another academic year! We are looking forward to a year brimming with learning and chances to contribute positively to our community, through immersive, hands-on learning experiences. This term, we extend a warm welcome to two new educators joining our department. Alongside Mrs Rita Archard, Mrs Irina Korshunova, and Mrs Courtney Batten, let's welcome Mrs Ivy Trueman and Mrs Cathy Jago to our team.

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 students 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 College, 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 students 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, the students in 7.3 and 7.5 will complete their Digital Technologies rotation. In the initial unit, they will embark on an exploration of 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 students will venture into general-purpose coding, utilising spreadsheets to craft a fully interactive quiz centered 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.

MEDIA

In Media this semester, the students in 7.4, under the guidance of Mrs Korshunova, will be actively involved in producing concise 'How-To' videos. These videos serve a practical purpose, as they are tailored to assist the newest members of our college in navigating the transition to high school. Covering a range of topics such as printer usage, email etiquette, and the process of nominating for Block Sport, these videos will not only be an engaging project for the students but also provide valuable information to their intended audience. This real-world application of media skills adds a meaningful dimension to their coursework.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGIES

The students in 7.2 and 7.5 will complete their Design & Technologies rotation this semester with Mrs Trueman and Mrs Jago. 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.

Ms Cathy Jago

Acting Curriculum Middle Leader - Technologies

LANGUAGES

Saluti/Konnichiwa/Greetings!

This semester students will begin their language experiences for the year. Over the year the students will have the opportunity to learn about the language and culture of either Italy or Japan.

In Semester One, Italian and Japanese, students will be learning to talk about themselves, their friends, families and things they like. They will also start to develop their general knowledge about Italy and Japan.

They will have access to the language learning website Education Perfect and have fun learning through playing on sites such as Quizlet and Kahoot. The learning platform Education Perfect will be used in class and tasks might be set for homework. Ask your daughter to show you how it works, it's a great learning tool!

In Term Two, we will be having our Languages Movie Night so watch out for information about this.

We look forward to sharing our love of languages and cultures with your daughters.

Mrs Cathy Spencer

Curriculum Middle Leader - Languages

THE ARTS

ART

Year 7 will enjoy one term of Art with Mrs Prue Hendle as part of their Arts rotation. They will explore the work of Indigenous 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 Mr Chris Davis. During this time, the students 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. Coming up on Friday, 8 March we have our 'Showcase', which enables future Maggies to experience what schooling is like at St Margaret Mary's College. We hope our newest Maggies would love to be involved in some way showing the students what we enjoy here at SMMC.

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 students 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 students 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. 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'. By the end of term students will compose melodies to suit a storyline then perform them in groups with actions. It all "Sounds Exciting!"

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

To access the Year 7 Assessment calendar [CLICK HERE](#)

[College Website](#)

[College Calendar](#)

[Library Times](#)



St Margaret Mary's College
SHOWCASE

Join us this
International
Women's Day
for our College
Showcase
Friday 8 March
3.30pm – 6pm



A promotional poster for St Margaret Mary's College Showcase. The poster features a young woman in a blue school uniform and hat. The text on the poster includes the college name, the event title 'SHOWCASE', the date and time 'Friday 8 March 3.30pm – 6pm', and a QR code with a yellow arrow pointing to it. A search bar at the bottom right contains the text 'St Margaret Mary's College'.