

YEAR 7

SEMESTER BULLETIN



2025 SEMESTER 2

Welcome back to Semester Two. It is hard to believe the Year 7s are the same girls who walked through the gates on the first day this year. Over the last six months, they've enthusiastically embraced what it means to be a high school student and shine like Maggies. A highlight for me was the Year 7 Camp on Magnetic Island. I loved seeing the girls push themselves out of their comfort zones and embrace challenges. I was also impressed by the way they supported their teammates to conquer their fears.



The second half of the school year will be busy, yet fun, with many special events such as the Athletics Carnival, Maggies Festival of the Arts, the Year 7 Retreat, Samaritan Day and our Awards Evening. Samaritan Day holds a special place on the College calendar and begins with a beautiful liturgy, which allows each of us to reflect upon what it means to be a Maggie and how we can contribute to our school community. The Awards Evening allows us to formally recognise those students who always strive to do their best academically and show community spirit.

It has been wonderful seeing the girls develop positive study habits and using their Learning Journal to record upcoming assessment and homework. Here are a few study tips to reinforce at home:

1. **Study routine** - Allocate a certain time of day for homework and study. Stick to this schedule every day and it will soon become a habit
2. **Set positive, realistic goals for the semester** - Setting goals and dedicating time to achieve them will help students stay motivated and help them work towards the results they want. The best time to set these goals is when they're feeling refreshed and re-energised at the start of the term
3. **Good study space** - Create a designated area for study where students can focus without distractions

4. **Using the Assessment Calendar** - The Year 7 Assessment Calendar is available via the SMMC website under the 'Our College' tab. It is a handy tool for both students and parents to keep track of all due dates
5. **Using the Calendar** - The Calendar contains all College events and activities during the semester. It can be accessed via the SMMC website under the 'Parents' tab

As more and more of our Year 7 students are accessing devices and using social media for socialising and entertainment, it is important that parents continue to monitor their child's online presence and use of social media. The Office of the eSafety Commissioner website - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents> - is a valuable source of advice for parents in relation to online safety. I encourage you and your daughter to make the time to sit together this term and look through their phone, discuss the apps they are using, find out who they are talking to and the kinds of interactions that are happening.

Upcoming Events for Semester Two

Please mark your calendars for the following important dates:

- **Friday, 25 July** - Athletics Carnival - Townsville Sports Reserve
- **Wednesday, 30 July** - Mashed Theatre - *Teenager*, 11:00am - 12:00pm
- **Friday, 22 August** - Maggie's Festival of the Arts - Performance Evening
- **Friday, 5 September** - Student Free Day
- **Thursday, 18 September** - Year 7 Retreat (no classes)
- **Friday, 19 September** - Samaritan Day (no classes), Last Day of Term Three
- **Tuesday, 7 October** - First Day of Term Four
- **Thursday, 20 October** - Awards Evening
- **Friday, 28 November** - Last Day of Term Four

We look forward to a productive and enjoyable second semester. Together, we can ensure that our Year 7 students continue to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me (phendle2@smmc.catholic.edu.au) or your daughter's Pastoral Care teacher.

Mrs Prue Hendle

Pastoral Middle Leader - Year 7

LEARNING & TEACHING

What a wonderful Semester One our Year 7 Maggie's have had. We are so excited to see all they will achieve in Semester Two. Students have settled into our community well and have experienced life as a secondary student and I am sure they are eager to tackle Semester Two.

I encourage all parents to review Semester One Reports with your daughters and set some goals for Semester Two. Pastoral Care Teachers are a wonderful support in this space should you need any support with attendance or pastoral issues. Attending school each and every day is vitally important in order to ensure your daughter receives the very best opportunities for success here at SMMC. It is also vital that students are present for all assessments. The College is unable to reschedule assessment pieces for students who leave for holidays early. For easy reference, our assessment policy and calendars are linked [here](#). These will be available from the end of Week 2.

To assist parents with preparation for the semester 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	Belinda Coombe	bcoombe1@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	cjago3@smmc.catholic.edu.au
Food & Textiles Technologies	Tanya Krause (acting)	tkrause3@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 Practitioner	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](#)

Once again, please do not hesitate to contact either the Curriculum Leaders or myself if we can assist in any way.

Wishing you the very best for Semester Two.

Ms Melissa Pearce
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:

Throughout the year, our students participate respectfully in a variety of prayer experiences within Pastoral Care and Religion lessons. This includes opportunities to write prayers, participate in Christian Meditation and college liturgies.

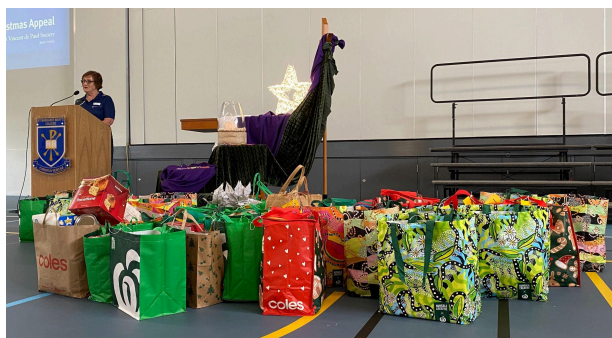
Year Level Retreats:

This semester, our Year 7, 11 and 12 students have retreat days. During our retreats, great things happen. Students are encouraged to: disconnect a little from their daily school life; find time for reflection; get to know themselves and each other better; recharge; rejuvenate; and my favourite - strengthen their friendships. The St Margaret Mary's retreats are themed in a way that sees students grow through each experience.

Year 7 Retreat is titled '*Walking Together*', and during the day the students will engage in a range of activities, including individual and communal prayer, meditation and a mini pilgrimage where they will journey through key aspects of our College story.



Service Activities:



Good Neighbour Day will see us once again working with Wellington House and Penola Place. The gift of community service involves small teams of students, with a staff member, going out to clean the homes of people in need in our parish area. This is a lovely way to spend constructive time with members of our local community. Our Samaritan Angels are gifting their time on Friday afternoons to create 'fiddle blankets' for the dementia ward at Townsville University Hospital, felt hearts for the Kindness Project and our beginner sewers are learning sewing skills from Mrs McCarthy by creating bunting. Christmas card making and taking our choir to Loreto House for a Christmas concert is always a highlight of our year. While collecting Christmas food items and packing them for the St Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal will also be part of our Term 4 Social Justice program.

Calendrical Events:

Save the dates for the following:

Catholic Education Week: 27 July - 1 August;

Samaritan Day: 19 September;

Graduation Liturgy: 21 November;

Christmas Liturgy: 28 November.

Religious Education outline - Semester Two

Year 7	
Unit 4: <i>Christian Morality</i>	Students examine and explain the significance of Church teaching and basic principles of Christian morality for the way believers live out their faith, personally and communally. Assessment: Informative Pamphlet
Unit 5: <i>Common Beginnings</i>	Students determine some ways in which Christianity shares common beginnings of faith with the other monotheistic religions (Judaism and Islam). Assessment: Poster
Unit 6: <i>Life of the Church & Communities</i>	Students differentiate ways in which the faith of believers is expressed, professed and lived out in different communities, past and present. They investigate the beginnings of the Christian faith (c. 6 BCE – c. 650 CE) and explain the role of key people and events in its development. They propose reasons for change and continuity in the life of the Church and religious communities over time and place. Assessment: Assignment

Mrs Rachel Harrison
Assistant Principal - Identity & Mission

ENGLISH

Welcome to Semester Two! In Term Three, students will read and conduct an in-depth study of a novel. We will be examining various elements of the novel, including setting, characters, symbolism and themes/concepts. The focus of the unit is on analysing texts and finding examples and quotes from the text to support ideas. Students will also learn about the structure of PEEL paragraphs and how to incorporate evidence (examples and quotes from the novel) into their paragraphs.

Term Four will see students explore the importance of their voice in the world today.

Please remember, as per the College's Assessment Policy, that if your daughter is absent on the day of assessment and cannot submit their work to Turnitin, upon their return to school, they will need to complete an application for Special Provisions. If your daughter will be absent for assessment due to a holiday or sporting commitments, they need to submit their work on or before the due date.

Mrs Correna Neumann
Curriculum Middle Leader - English

SCIENCE

Rachel Carson was a pioneering ecologist whose groundbreaking book, *Silent Spring* (1962), exposed the dangers of pesticides on ecosystems. Her work sparked a global environmental movement and led to policy changes that still protect wildlife today. Carson's legacy reminds us that science can be a powerful voice for nature - and that one person's curiosity and courage can change the world. Just like Rachel Carson, students will start the Semester 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.

Following ecology, students will investigate states of matter. They will use particle theory to describe the arrangement of particles in a substance, including the motion of and attraction between particles, and relate this to the properties of the substance. They will be looking at different states of matter and how particles behave when a solid, liquid or gas, including the transitions between states. Students will investigate how substances combine and how they can be separated using techniques like filtration, evaporation, and chromatography. This unit builds foundational knowledge in the properties of matter and introduces students to the scientific method through practical experiments. Dorothy Hodgkin was a Nobel Prize-winning chemist who used X-ray crystallography to reveal the structures of vital molecules like penicillin, vitamin B12, and insulin. Her discoveries revolutionised medicine and biochemistry. Despite working in a male-dominated field, Hodgkin's brilliance and perseverance opened doors for generations of women in science.

Year 7 Science teaching staff for Semester 2 are:

7.1 and 7.5 Yvonne Cox

7.2 and 7.3 Amanda May

7.4 Matthew Brescianini

We are excited to see our students grow as young scientists - asking questions, testing ideas, and discovering the wonders of the natural and material world.

Mrs Belinda Coombe

Curriculum Middle Leader - Science

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The HPE theory lessons this semester will focus on Healthy Relationships. Students will be investigating different types of relationships and the significant physical, social, behavioural and emotional impact that relationships can have on an individual. Students will be tasked with a range of activities throughout the semester aimed at understanding these effects and developing strategies to deal with conflict. Their assessment task is an exam on the concept covered.

During Term Three, the Year 7 students will be participating in a Field Sport - Gaelic Football (5 weeks) and a Court Sport - European Handball (5 weeks) in their practical lessons.

In Term Four, students will learn a range of skills related to Volleyball. A modified version of the game called Newcombe Ball will be used to allow students to access and develop the skills used in Volleyball. Students will revisit their Fitness test results from Term One and identify areas of growth.

Students are reminded of the importance of active participation in all practical lessons. If a student is not able to participate, they must bring a note of explanation from a parent or guardian.

Teachers:

7.1 Rebecca Little

7.2 Georgia Stayte

7.3 Anna Franzmann

7.4 Renee Deuble

7.5 Margot Cook

FOOD & TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY

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

Food Design

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, 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 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-style tote 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 go 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 making us feel good about ourselves by providing a sense of achievement.

Teacher: Ms Bell

Ms Tanya Krause

HUMANITIES

This semester, your daughter will commence her study of Ancient History, with a focus on the Deep Time History of Ancient Australia in Term 3. Term 4 sees each class examine different civilisations, so she may study Ancient China, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece or Ancient Rome. Assessment in Term 3 will be a research task and presentation on an aspect of life in Deep Time Australia, while in Term 4, students will complete an exam.

Students will use these studies as an opportunity to develop their critical thinking, writing and research skills, as they get to examine aspects of each ancient society.

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

- Bring all required materials to class
- Complete all classwork and homework
- Work effectively on assessment in class time provided
- Hand in a plan or draft of assessment
- 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 Humanities teachers working with the Year 7s this semester. Ms Kath Burke will continue working with 07HUM.1. Ms Rachel Walsh is excited to be working with 07HUM.2. Mrs Sarah Daniels is looking forward to working with 07HUM.3 and 07HUM.5, and Ms Florinda Battistel is class teacher for 07HUM.4.

If you have any questions about your daughter's Humanities subject, please first contact her class teacher.

Mrs Kath Burke

Curriculum Middle Leader - Humanities

MATHEMATICS

Empowering Girls in Mathematics at SMMC.

At St Margaret Mary's College, we're passionate about helping every student thrive in Mathematics. We know that when girls feel confident in their mathematical thinking, they're not only building a solid foundation for success in STEM pathways - they're also learning how to problem-solve, think critically, and persevere when things get challenging.

Our senior students consistently achieve strong results in Maths, but it's important that our younger girls understand that this doesn't come down to "natural talent." It's the result of consistent effort, resilience, and the relationships they build with their teachers along the way.

So what sets successful Maths students apart?

✨ They're Active Participants

Maths isn't a subject you can watch from the sidelines. It requires consistent effort - completing classwork, attempting homework (even when it's tricky), and spending time revising key skills before assessments. The more they practise, the more confident they become.

✨ They Ask for Help

We all get stuck sometimes - and that's okay! The key is what happens next. Do students ask questions in class? Drop into tutorials after school? Make use of resources like Maths Online?

Or do they wait until the night before an exam and panic? The best learning happens when students are proactive - especially if they've missed class time.

✨ **They Back Themselves**

Having a growth mindset - believing that maths ability can improve with effort - is powerful. It helps students stay positive, take risks, and keep going when they hit a hurdle.

As parents, one of the most valuable things you can do is help your daughter become fluent with her times tables. This might sound simple, but it lays the groundwork for so much of what she'll encounter in high school Maths. As Sarah Duggan explains, "Not cracking basic times tables in primary school and having this knowledge at your fingertips, then tackling maths at higher levels is like trying to read without knowing how to decode" (Education HQ, 2024).

At SMMC, empowering girls in mathematics isn't just about academic success - it's about building confidence, resilience, and a love of learning that lasts a lifetime. Together, as teachers and parents, we can support our girls to challenge stereotypes, tackle tough problems, and see themselves as capable young women with the skills to succeed in any pathway they choose.

Let's help them approach Mathematics with confidence - and take on the world with courage and curiosity.

Ms Irma Lapico

Curriculum Middle Leader - Mathematics

DIGITAL AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES

Welcome to Semester Two!

We're excited to begin another semester filled with valuable learning experiences and opportunities to make a positive impact in our community.

This semester, we're pleased to welcome Mr Mitch Bebb to the department. He joins our dedicated team of educators: Mrs Irina Korshunova, Ms Margot Cooke, Mr Theo Koulakis, and Mrs Cathy Jago.

Students will explore a variety of technology concepts while developing essential 21st-century skills. Through hands-on, real-world problem-solving, they'll engage with valuable and in-demand experiences that can support their future careers. Along the way, students will work with industry-standard software and hardware, building confidence in choosing and applying a wide range of tools and techniques.

Digital & Design Technologies

At St Margaret Mary's College, Year 7 Digital & Design Technologies is delivered through a rotation of three engaging subjects - Digital Technologies, Media, and Design & Technologies - each studied for one term.

Each subject takes a hands-on approach, encouraging students to solve real-world problems through the use of technology. Lessons focus on active learning, with students researching, planning, and creating as they work through their projects.

A major in-class project will be set for each rotation. While there is no regular programmed homework, teachers may occasionally ask students to complete small tasks or finish classwork at home, as needed.

Digital Technologies

This Semester, students in 7.3 will complete their Digital Technologies rotation with Mr Theo Koulakis. They will begin the unit by "lifting the lid" on computers - exploring the internal components and understanding what makes a computer work.

This foundational knowledge will lead to their major project: designing and coding an interactive quiz game using spreadsheets. Students will select their own quiz theme and create a set of questions and answers based on computer-related topics, giving them their first hands-on experience with coding and digital logic.

To wrap up the term, students will also learn how to get the most out of Google Search, using a range of practical tips and tricks to improve their research skills.

Media

This Semester, 7.5 will be working with Ms Margot Cooke to create short 'How-To' videos designed to support our newest students as they transition to high school. These videos will have a real audience and may cover helpful topics such as how to use the printer, email etiquette, or how to nominate for Block Sport.

Multimedia production is a valuable skill that students will continue to build upon throughout their time at St Margaret Mary's College. In this unit, students will gain hands-on experience with graphic creation, planning and storyboarding, filming, and editing, all aimed at producing informative and engaging tutorials.

Students will use the College's tablets for most video and audio content, but may also use personal devices at home to record voiceovers. Any files created at home must be downloaded and sent electronically to school for use in the project.

Design & Technologies

This term, 7.4 will complete their Design & Technologies rotation with Mr Mitch Bebb. In this unit, students will learn to apply the design process to develop sustainable solutions to real-world environmental issues.

Each student will select a specific environmental sustainability issue to focus on for the term. The process begins with analysing and clearly defining the problem. From there, students will move into ideation and iteration, generating multiple design ideas and refining them as they work toward a creative and practical solution.

This unit encourages critical thinking, innovation, and a strong understanding of how design can contribute to a more sustainable future.

Ms Catherine Jago

Curriculum Middle Leader - Technologies

LANGUAGES

Language learning is so fantastic for personal and intellectual growth, and the Year 7s have engaged enthusiastically with the experience so far this year.

In Japanese this semester, students will build on their self-introduction skills and knowledge of the alphabet. They will learn basic conversational skills, including how to make plans with a friend to do an activity in their town.

Italian topics in Semester 2 are Food and Leisure Activities. Students will learn to talk about their eating habits and what they like to do in their free time.

We will be having our SMMC Languages Movie Night in Week 2 of Term 3. In Week 7 of Term 3, there is Languages Speech Night, which allows students to show off their Japanese and Italian skills in a non-competitive environment.

The limits of my language are the limits of my world. – Ludwig Wittgenstein

*Mrs Cathy Spencer
Curriculum Middle Leader - Languages*

THE ARTS

Art

Year 7 will enjoy one term of Art 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

This Semester, 7.1 (Term 3) and 7.5 (Term 4) will study Dance with Mrs Amy Bent. During this time, the girls will explore Safe Dance Practices and the Elements of Dance through various practical and theoretical activities, culminating in an assessment task where students will work in groups to present a dance routine learnt in class.

Drama

This semester, students in 7.3 (Term 3) and 7.4 (Term 4) will study Drama with Mrs Bent, in a unit focused on Improvisation. Students will begin exploring elements of drama - role, relationship, and situation - through unscripted drama that encourages thinking on their feet. Students will begin developing skills to make their own dramatic scenes, and spend time examining and responding to examples of improvisatory drama, such as in scenes from "Thank God You're Here."

Music

The Year 7 Music unit "Sounds Exciting" ensures that all students have the foundation for further studies in Music. Students revise rhythms, pentatonic scales and how to read notation on the treble staff. They have the opportunity to play various instruments, including keyboard, ukulele and guitar. The group task requires students to compose and perform short melodies for characters in a fairy tale.

*Mr Chris Davis
Curriculum Middle Leader - The Arts*

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

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