

YEAR 8

SEMESTER BULLETIN



2024 SEMESTER 1

LEARNING & TEACHING

Welcome back to another exciting year of secondary schooling at SMMC.

By now, most of your daughters are very familiar with what it means to be a 'secondary student'! 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 8 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, often reflection on your daughter's Semester Two report card in Year 7 can be a starting point for these conversations.

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](#)

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

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.



CALENDARICAL EVENTS

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



UNIT 1: THE TRINITY

In Year 8, students engage with a variety of images and words that express the mystery of the Trinity, the fundamental Christian belief that God is relational in nature. They describe how words and images are used to represent the mystery of the Trinity.

Assessment: In-class folio of works

UNIT 2: COVENANT

In this first unit, students will consider and organise Old Testament covenant narratives and the actions and messages of some Old Testament prophets. Students identify the unique relationship between God and God's people.

Assessment: Exam

UNIT 3: RITUALS, BELIEVERS & BELIEFS

Students will identify the significance of initiation rituals in the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) for the faith journey of believers.

Assessment: Video creation Project

Mrs Rachel Harrison
Assistant Principal - Identity & Mission

ENGLISH

Welcome to Year 8 English!

I would like to begin this welcome by introducing our highly experienced teacher team for Year 8:

8ENG.1	Amanda May	amay@smmc.catholic.edu.au
8ENG.2	Sarah Heerschop	sheerschop@smmc.catholic.edu.au
8ENG.3	Florinda Battistel	fbattistel@smmc.catholic.edu.au
8ENG.4	Meg Taylor	mtaylor13@smmc.catholic.edu.au
8ENG.5	Jodie Bonaventura	jbonaventura@smmc.catholic.edu.au

We will begin the year by exploring the value of fairytales and animated texts in their world. Students will examine how intertextuality can enhance and deepen meaning. In Term Two, students will study a novel. This will be issued early in Term One to allow students to read it independently before the unit begins. Please encourage your daughter to read daily.

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

Reshma Sauyani*, CEO of 'Girls Who Code,' emphasises the importance of inspiring girls to persevere and embrace bravery over perfection in the learning process. Learning can be challenging, uncomfortable, and even frustrating; repeated failures may impact confidence if learners haven't adopted a Growth Mindset approach, acknowledging "I can't do this yet" or "What can I do to improve," instead of settling for "I just can't do maths" (Helen Hindle, n.d.).

Cultivating a Growth Mindset enables your daughter to grasp that talents and abilities evolve with time, mistakes serve as chances for growth, and resilience and effort are the keys to success. Encouraging her to persist in her math journey not only maintains avenues for potential math-related careers but also strengthens her character for other challenges, where she'll need to exhibit resilience.

In 2019, computer scientist Dr. Katie Bouman achieved a ground-breaking feat by creating an algorithm that constructed the first photo of a black hole, located 55 million light years from Earth. Dr. Bouman and her MIT team worked on this algorithm for years, facing numerous failures and moments of self-doubt. Yet, through resilience and continuous improvement, they achieved success.

This academic year, our focus in Mathematics is to continue developing resilience and nurturing a growth mindset. We welcome Mrs Louise Martin (8MAT.1) to our Year 8 team. Also in this team are Ms Irina Korshunova (8MAT.2), Ms Lisa Hamilton (8MAT.3), Ms Leah Daniel (8MAT.4), and Ms Anna-Luisa Bertocchi (8MAT.5).

The image below captures the joy we find in teaching Mathematics - witnessing the moment when your daughter realises she can overcome challenges in the subject.



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!

In Term One, the students in Year 8 Science classes will be studying a Physics unit on 'Energy'. They will be learning about the different types of energy, in particular the difference between stored energy and kinetic energy. The students will look at how energy is transformed, transferred, and conserved. They will develop their STEM skills as they design, build and test a Gravity Buggy. This unit will be assessed by a test which will include the skills of data analysis.

This is followed by the Earth Science unit 'Rocks'. This unit focuses on the rock cycle and how the various types of rocks form. The students investigate how the various types of rocks are continuously being transformed from one type to another, and how to identify the main types of rocks.

In Term Two, the rocks unit is followed by a focus on 'Tectonic Plates'. This involves learning about tectonic plates, volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Students develop a greater understanding of why geological natural disasters occur. They will look at the impact of these natural disasters and how early detection methods using modern technology have reduced these impacts. Students will research and present information on one of these topic areas for their assessment piece.

This will be followed by a cross-curricular STEM project looking at Indigenous knowledge of Fire management linked to their experiences at the Year 8 Cultural camp. Finally, the term ends as they investigate the fundamental biology topic on 'Cells', as the basic units of life. They will be learning how to use microscopes safely and effectively and learning to complete scientific drawings whilst using the microscopes.

Mr Ben Naughton

Curriculum Middle Leader - Science

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

The HPE theory unit in Term One focuses on Alcohol and Drug Education. Students will investigate a range of licit and illicit substances and the harmful effects these have on the body. They will explore the common reasons for substance abuse, the health issues that are caused by this use and the legal issues surrounding substance abuse. Students will also explore positive strategies that can be used by them for smart decision-making.

During Term Two students will explore Food and Nutrition to develop an understanding of how to apply healthy eating principles to their own and others' health. This unit addresses the role of food and nutrition in enhancing health and wellbeing to support students in making healthy, informed food choices. They explore the contextual factors that influence eating habits and food choices.

This work will be integrated with the Term One physical activity of Aquatics. In Year 8, the Aquatics unit focuses on stroke correction and aims to develop the students' Freestyle, Breaststroke and Backstroke. This will help them prepare for the Swim and Survive aquatics unit in Year 9. Students are required to wear a sun safety shirt over their swimmers.

In Term Two, the students will participate in a range of Court and Field Sports with an emphasis on developing teamwork and communication skills, as well as their physical skills.

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 8 HPE Teachers are:

8.1	Michael Dear	8.2	Jason Gray	8.3	Michael Dear
8.4	Jason Gray	8.5	Rebecca Little		

Mrs Kim Cameron

Curriculum Middle Leader - Health and Physical Education

HUMANITIES

Welcome to Year 8 Humanities for 2023!

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. This year at SMMC your daughter will complete one semester of History. She will also have the opportunity to complete one term of Business and Economics, and one of Geography in Semester Two.

This semester all classes will be studying History. Classes will be learning about Europe from the fall of Rome and into the Middle Ages this term. Special focus is given to the system of feudalism that replaced Roman laws as well as the spread of Christianity that changed societies across Europe. Students examine social changes in Europe brought about by the rapid growth of towns and trade as well as the Crusades. And, quite topically, we will be looking at the arrival of the Plague, and students will be able to look at its spread, its impact, and how people coped. For assessment, this term students will investigate sources with view to shedding light on an aspect of the Middle Ages.

In the second term, all Year 8 will explore the Asian world through an in-depth study of Shogunate Japan. They learn about Japan's social structure, the arts and the Samurai. They will conclude the term with an exam.

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 fantastic blend of enthusiastic, creative and passionate teachers working with the Year 8s this year. Mrs Sarah Daniels will take 08HIS.1. Ms Kath Burke will be working with 08HIS.2. Ms Florinda Battistel will be working with 08HIS.3. Mr Nori Yamada as the class teacher for 08HIS.4. 08HIS.5 will be taught by Ms Sarah Heerschop.

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. We will also be encouraging our students to be mindful of the waste that they create and look at ways in which we can repurpose ingredients into other food solutions. Keep an eye out for the Banana Challenge in Term Two.

Students will use the phases of design thinking to create new food solutions. They will empathise (understand the consumer/client), define the problem, ideate ideas, create prototypes, test, and then refine their design. Thus, in Term One, a healthy handheld lunch item for teenage consumers will be the focus. The students will collaborate as a pair to complete this challenge, they will be busy brainstorming potential ideas and then trial their best solution.

They will also investigate a Food Design Company to identify how companies are creating and refining everyday products to better meet the needs of clients, for example, a whisk that flattens and takes up less room in the kitchen drawer.

In the second part of the semester, the unit, 'War on Waste' will challenge students to design and produce a trending 'Use it up Menu item' product to show how they can demonstrate sustainability and healthy eating. This unit uses many resources from the Oz Harvest Feast Program. An increasing range of culinary and food analysis skills will be developed throughout the semester. Students will become more food literate by being able to identify how they can incorporate the Australian Guidelines to Healthy Eating into their everyday foods. Food Design & Technology also helps to develop students' literacy and numeracy skills as they need to read and follow recipe steps, measure and weigh ingredients, and perhaps, modify ingredient amounts to change the serving size.

We love to see what the students cook at home and encourage them to share their photos and recipes with their teachers.

Teacher: Mrs Ivy Trueman

TEXTILE 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.

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 the skin from the sun?

Our first unit, 'Zip it Up' supports our environmental focus by challenging students to design and produce a lined zippered pouch that uses small scraps of fabric from the stash in the Textile Room. (As well, we aim to throw minimal amounts of scrap fabric in the bin.) A colour scheme of crazy patch will be on one side of the pouch and on the reverse side, a stitched brand mascot that the students will design. Students will also learn how to insert a zip, and some hand stitching, as well as, further developing their sewing skills from Year 7.

The students will document the phases of design thinking, including investigating, generating ideas, prototyping, and evaluating in a project folio. We are very excited for this new unit to see the amazing ideas the student's design.

In the second part of the semester, our focus will be on denim and different techniques that can be used to create products to be sold at local handmade markets. To understand environmentally friendly natural fibres, we will investigate the benefits of cotton and wool and the emerging technology associated with these fibres. Other learning activities include making felted soap, scrunchies from leftover fabric, and friendship bands.

Teacher: Ms Janice LoMonaco

Mrs Wendy Owens
Curriculum Middle Leader - Food & Textile Technology

DIGITAL & DESIGN 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 8 at St Margaret Mary's College, the Technologies curriculum encompasses four diverse subjects. Students have the opportunity to choose two of these subjects during the year. Both of the Information Technology (IT) - based subjects emphasize a hands-on approach to address real-world problems using technology. Lessons will be centered around active engagement, involving research, planning, and creation. Each subject will introduce a major project, providing students with the opportunity to complete it within the class. While there is no regular scheduled homework, teachers may occasionally assign small tasks or request students to finalise any unfinished classwork at their own pace throughout the term. This approach ensures a practical and dynamic learning experience for the students.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

This semester the students will be learning how to solve real-world problems with digital solutions. They will identify problems, and work collaboratively to create appropriate solutions. In Term One the students will gain an insight into how older Australians use technology. They will conduct interviews to discover areas where a digital solution could improve the lives of their stakeholders. This will begin the design process and lead to the creation of a digital prototype.

In the second half of the semester, we look at microcomputing. This Technology can be used to learn a range of concepts and applied to a variety of solutions. The students will design, build and program a BBC Micro:bit to complete a real-world task. This unit will give them an opportunity to discover how microcomputing can be used to create better futures and improve lives.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGIES

In Year 8 Design & Technologies Term One students solve a range of problems. Term One will see us venture into the Tiny House Movement by designing a fully equipped house on a minimal floor plan. Students will investigate how to make the most out of a limited space. They will draw a scaled floor plan and learn how to use Australian Standards to inform their design work. This Unit is situated in the greater global context of housing insecurity, and students will investigate how communities around the world cope with housing shortages.

In Term Two, the students are challenged to design with and for people as their design stakeholders. Students will use a circular design process to engage with their stakeholder/s and design a low-fidelity prototype using sketching techniques. Their design process will be informed by stakeholder feedback, and students will be required to respond to their stakeholder/s' needs and wants. St Margaret Mary's College is partnering with the Prep students at Marian Catholic School for this project.

Ms Cathy Jago

Acting Curriculum Middle Leader - Technologies

LANGUAGES

Saluti/Konnichiwa/Greetings!

Language students this year will have the benefit of three lessons a week, this should allow for increased progress in their skills.

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 each of the languages, students will be developing their ability to talk about themselves and their lives through topics such as Family, Leisure and School. They will also enjoy learning about the culture of their chosen language.

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

We look forward to sharing our passion for language and culture.

Mrs Cathy Spencer

Curriculum Middle Leader - Languages

THE ARTS

ART

Year 8 Art will enjoy a semester of Art. In Unit One, the students will create a mixed media merged landscape work inspired by an environment that is important to them.

In Unit Two students will explore sculptural techniques and create an artwork to represent a form of energy.

In Unit Three students explore portraiture and colour using the Young Archie entries as inspiration.

DANCE

The Year 8 Dance classes, led by Mrs Amy Bent, will build on their knowledge of the Elements of Dance this semester as they participate in various practical and theory activities. With a focus on Contemporary Dance, students will explore how dance can be used to tell a story or convey meaning, and how dance is an important aspect of First Nations culture. We hope to invite Glen Thomas from Cowboys House back to work with the students. He has delivered a fun and engaging dance workshop for the students over the past few years and we would like to maintain this partnership. The students will complete three assessment tasks over the course of the semester, beginning with a Contemporary performance that they will learn as a class. They will then work on a written Responding task that looks at a dancework by Bangarra Dance Theatre. Finally, the classes will choreograph their own dances using the knowledge and skills they have gained throughout the semester.

DRAMA

Year 8 Drama with Mrs Jennie Edwards and Mr Chris Davis will continue developing the students' understanding of the Elements of Drama. The students will watch a live-recorded production by ATYP (Australian Theatre for Young People) and analyse a scene in their written responding task. Students will then bring stories to life with a storytelling unit in Term Two. Students will explore various scripted Australian Indigenous stories and Asian tales. They will also work with the Conventions of Storytelling. At the end of the Semester, they will present their polished group performances. All Year 8 Drama students are strongly encouraged to join our Junior Drama Club which is an extracurricular opportunity for students to further enhance their dramatic skills and have fun!

MUSIC

Students in Year Eight Music will continue to develop their music-making skills in the semester-long unit, 'Major Hits and Minor Moods'. They will examine how 'hit' tunes use the elements of music to tell a story or create a mood and they will try their hand at writing their own melodies. Lots of practical time will be spent singing and playing instruments. Who knows? The next Australian Idol could be discovered at SMMC!

Mr Chris Davis

Curriculum Middle Leader - The Arts

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

To access the Year 8 Assessment calendar [CLICK HERE](#)

[College Website](#)

[College Calendar](#)

[Library Times](#)



St Margaret Mary's College
SHWCASE

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

St Margaret Mary's College

The poster features a young woman in a blue school uniform and hat. A QR code is located in the bottom left corner, with a yellow arrow pointing to it. The background is dark blue with white and yellow text.