

YEAR 9

SEMESTER BULLETIN



2025 SEMESTER 2

Welcome to a brand new semester filled with opportunities to grow, learn, and achieve! Whether the students are returning with goals in mind or still finding their stride, this is the perfect time to reset, refocus, and make the most of the months ahead. This semester promises exciting challenges, engaging projects, and new chances to connect with knowledge, with each other, and with themselves.

At the beginning of a fresh semester, it's important to encourage our girls to embrace the challenge of new learning by having the courage to take risks. Learning can be uncomfortable, but it is often amidst the discomfort, or even struggle of doing something new that our most valuable learning occurs.

Having the resilience to keep working, trying, and learning from the experience takes courage. We encourage all students to take advantage of the after-school tutorial program offered at the College. We also encourage each family to check in with your daughter and ensure she is using the Learning Journal as a planning tool. The Year 9 Assessment Calendar is another important resource families can access to support the girls on their academic journey. This is available through the school website. Have you got the assessment dates somewhere visible at home?

Navigating friendships is another area that can demand similar courage and resilience. At this stage of the Year 9 journey, it is not uncommon for friendship dynamics to shift. This can be a challenging time for the girls and their families.

Making new friends or developing existing friendships requires give and take, it also takes risk, as students open themselves up to the possibility of change. We encourage students to consider how they can "Connect" to take the initiative and extend the welcoming hand of friendship to others in our school community.

We understand that from time to time, students may need to be away during the school term. If your child has a planned absence, it's important that a *Term Time Absence* form is completed in

advance. This helps the College support your child and ensure we're aware of any time they'll be away.

If a student misses an assessment due to illness or another valid reason, they are required to complete a *Special Provisions* form (available on the College website). This form allows us to arrange an alternative time for the assessment to be completed fairly. Without this form, students may risk not receiving a mark or even failing the task, so we encourage all families to be proactive in supporting this process. Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly and supporting your child's learning journey.

As students continue to grow and face increasing academic and social pressures, the influence of social media can be both powerful and distracting. While technology is a big part of teen life, it's important that it doesn't take priority over sleep, study, or face-to-face connection.

We encourage parents to take an active role in helping their child develop healthy habits by setting boundaries around social media use, especially during homework time and before bed. Even small changes, like phone-free time in the evenings or using screen timers, can make a big difference in focus, wellbeing, and academic success. Teenagers need our help to build balance and strong habits that will benefit them well beyond Year 9.

Already this year, we have seen a number of Year 9 students take part in a range of sporting and cultural activities. Semester Two continues to offer many opportunities for our Year 9 students to engage in the College community. We strongly encourage all students to find something outside of the classroom to get involved with, as it is a great way to have some fun whilst developing a connection with others in the year level and the wider College community.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your daughter's wellbeing at school.

After school opportunities

Monday/Tuesday - Humanities/English - Library

Tuesday/Wednesday - Maths - E02/E03

Save the Date

Friday, 15 August - Year 9 Combined School's Touch Football Carnival, more information to come soon!

Mrs Nadine Orman

Pastoral Middle Leader - Year 9

LEARNING & TEACHING

Welcome to Semester Two at SMMC!

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.

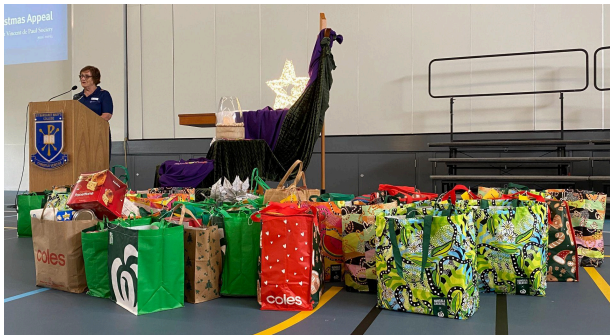
Year Level Retreats:

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.

Service Activities:

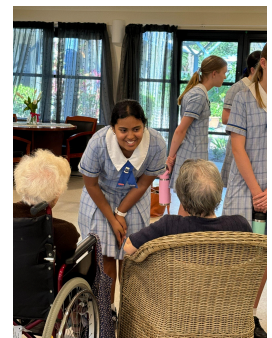


Good Neighbour Day will see us once again working with Wellington House and Penola Place. The gift of community service involves small teams of students, with a staff member, going out to clean the homes of people in need in our parish area. This is a lovely way to spend constructive time with members 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 9	
Unit 3: <i>Exploring Faith Traditions</i>	Students evaluate and draw conclusions about the significance of foundational beliefs in the lives of believers. They analyse perspectives on the understandings of God (YHWH, God, Allah) in the monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam). They examine three foundational beliefs of Christianity: the Incarnation, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Assessment: Digital Presentation
Unit 4: <i>More Than Words</i>	Students consider and decide how the application of Biblical criticism helps the reader's understanding, interpretation and use of Old Testament and New Testament texts. Assessment: Response to Stimulus Exam

Mrs Rachel Harrison
Assistant Principal - Identity & Mission

ENGLISH

Welcome to Term Three! In Unit Three, students will analyse a class novel. The focus of the analysis will be character and plot development. (The novel was issued to students last term).

In Unit Four, students will explore a range of issues that are currently in the media. This will allow students to deeply explore and analyse an issue that they feel is important in their world. They will respond to an article on a current issue and write an opinion piece that provides another perspective on the issue that persuades their audience to accept their point of view.

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

In Term 3, students in Year 9 Science will explore the cycles that occur on Earth and how matter is circulated through a variety of different forms, both through and within different spheres. They are introduced to the concepts of conservation of matter and energy and begin to develop a more sophisticated view of energy transfer. They explore these concepts as they relate to the global carbon cycle.

The girls will then progress into a Biology unit on how the role of body systems in regulating and coordinating the body's response to a stimulus, and describe the operation of a negative feedback mechanism. Students will appreciate that all body systems work in an inter-related way to contribute to the health of the entire organism. This unit will focus on the role of feedback systems in the human body that detect and respond to change, including the damage made by invading pathogens and the body's ability to defend itself against that damage. Students will begin by looking at how the brain provides a critical link between the nervous and endocrine systems. Then the girls will look in depth at the structure and function of the human nervous system.

A female scientist that played an important role in examining how the human body works is Dr Linda Buck - A Nobel Prize-winning biologist. Linda discovered how our sense of smell works at the molecular level. Her work has deepened our understanding of how the brain processes sensory information.

Students will finish the year with a unit on reproduction where they will describe the form and function of reproductive cells and organs in animals and plants, and analyse how the processes of sexual and asexual reproduction enable survival of the species.

Each term, the girls will complete an assessment targeting specific scientific skills that have been the focus of one unit, and unit tests to gauge their understanding of the content covered.

Year 9 Science teaching staff for Semester Two are:

9.1	Yvonne Cox
9.2	Matthew Brescianini
9.3 & 9.4	Renee Deuble
9.5	Katherine Truntic

Mrs Belinda Coombe
Curriculum Middle Leader - Science

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The HPE theory lessons in Term Three will be studying a Women's Health Unit, which addresses a range of issues relating specifically to women's health. Term Four will see the students study a Risk Taking Behaviours unit where they investigate a risky situation and propose three different strategies in response to the situation.

In Term Three practical lessons, the Year 9 students will be participating in a range of Fitness and Community Fitness activities off-campus to engage in a range of activities as well as a range of fitness tests to evaluate and propose strategies to improve life-long health.

During Term Four, practical lessons will focus on Aerobics and the students will have the task of creating and performing an Aerobics Routine with a small group of their peers.

Students are reminded to make sure they are prepared and in the correct uniform for all practical lessons, and that application and effort in all practical activities are essential.

Teachers:

9.1	Michael Dear
9.2	Mitchell Bebb
9.3	Rebecca Little
9.4	Michael Dear
9.5	Mitchell Bebb

Mrs Kim Cameron
Curriculum Middle Leader - Health and Physical Education

FOOD & TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY

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

Food Design

In Term Three, students focus on a very popular trend, Convenience Meal Kits. Students will design and produce a meal for one person that meets the constraints of a company, such as Hello Fresh. As part of the journey, students will design and print a menu card that will be included with the meal. It will show lists of steps, utensils, and ingredients. Students will also

investigate food trends driven by changing social behaviors and how these influences impact upon everyday families and the changes we have seen over time. Students will make predictions about what the next twenty years of food culture will be. Perhaps drones will deliver our groceries or bugs may become a mainstream food?

In Term Four, the unit High Tea with a Difference focuses on food safety and hygiene within the hospitality industry. Students will apply this knowledge to research, design, and prepare a high tea tailored to the preferences and needs of a specific client - a staff member from SMMC. This task will be completed in pairs, encouraging collaboration and teamwork. Throughout both units, students will document their learning and application of the design process through a written and visual folio.

Teachers: Mrs Wallis (9 FTE.1 & 9 FTE.3) & Mrs Krause (9 FTE.2)

Textile Design

Students will discover their own design aesthetic by investigating existing fashion designs and then using this knowledge plus pattern construction skills to produce a unique skirt. Throughout the Term Four, they will participate in skill development focussing on acquiring different artisan and machine textile skills and techniques. It will be a unit with many opportunities for hands-on learning. Students will document their knowledge and understanding, and apply the design process in a written and visual folio. This is a taste of what Fashion is about in Senior.

The final unit in Term Four is a community design sewing project. The student's challenge is to investigate and produce a Christmas stocking to meet the needs and interests of a client, namely families at Ronald McDonald House. The stockings will be gifted to children staying there. All materials will be provided by the College.

In both units, students will document their knowledge and understanding, and application of the design process in a written and visual folio.

Teacher: Ms Bell

Ms Tanya Krause

Curriculum Middle Leader - Food & Textile Technology

HUMANITIES

This semester, your daughter has moved into her second Humanities subject, History. All year 9 classes will be learning about the Making of the Modern World, with a focus on Britain's Industrial Revolution. In this unit, students build on and develop their understandings of historical inquiry in the context of the making of the modern world. They investigate how life changed between the late seventeenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century through the study of the Industrial Revolution, including the causes and effects of the development, and by making links to the Australian experience during this time of rapid industrialisation. This unit provides opportunities for students to develop historical understandings, particularly focused on the key concepts of evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy and significance.

In Term 4, all year 9 classes are continuing their History studies by examining Australia's history. They are exploring how and why Australia was settled by Europeans, the impacts of that settlement on Indigenous Australians, early migration to Australia and Federation. They will also complete a depth study of World War I, especially focussing on how this conflict affected life at home in Australia and the conscription debate.

Our BECC students are continuing their studies of Business and Economics & Civics and Citizenship. By the end of this semester, they will have covered Australia's political system, the

concept of the global economy, strategies to achieve success in business, and the responsibilities of participants in the workforce.

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 to have enthusiastic, creative and experienced teachers working with the Year 9s this semester. Mrs Sarah Daniels will continue to work with 9HIS.1 and 09HIS.5. Ms Florinda Battistel teaches 9HIS.2 and 09HIS.3. Ms Kath Burke is the teacher of 9HIS.4. Year 9 CVC is in the capable hands of Mrs Justine Lyons. 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 are committed to helping your daughter succeed in Mathematics. We believe Maths is more than just numbers - it's a foundation for future opportunities, especially in STEM, and a powerful way to build confidence, resilience, and problem-solving skills.

While natural ability plays a role, success in Maths is mostly about consistent effort, asking for help when needed, and maintaining a growth mindset. Our most successful students:

- ✨ Stay engaged by completing set work and reviewing regularly.
- ✨ Seek help early through questions, tutorials, or Math Online.
- ✨ Believe in improvement - because Maths is a skill that gets better with time and practice.

As we move into the second half of the year, Year 9 students will explore key concepts that lead into Year 10. In Term 4, they will nominate their 2026 Maths pathway:

- Students aiming for Health Sciences, Engineering or Technology should strive for a B or higher to be eligible for Prep Methods.
- Students considering Nursing, Teaching or Psychology are encouraged to aim for a minimum C to confidently access General Maths.

All Year 9 students will sit a Semester 2 exam in Term 4 to help build their exam readiness.

Thank you for the ongoing support you give your daughters at home. Together, we can help them build the habits and confidence they need to thrive - both in Maths and beyond.

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.

Digital Technologies

Students kicked off the semester by exploring Expert Systems and their role in modern society. Building on this knowledge, they will create their own expert system in the form of a text-based interactive "Guess Who" game, using the versatile Python programming language. This project introduces key coding concepts in a fun and meaningful way.

In the second half of the semester, the focus shifts to Data. Students will be introduced to spreadsheets, uncovering their powerful capabilities for data analysis. They'll then work with real survey data, transforming raw numbers into actionable insights that could help improve procedures within the College community.

Design & Technologies

This semester, the Year 9 Design & Technologies class will take on a new design challenge, applying graphic design principles through a human-centred design approach. Students will create designs for a real client - our College's First Nations Unit - and will be guided by appropriate Indigenous cultural protocols as they develop meaningful designs that promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, cultures, and traditions.

In Term Four, students always look forward to the highly practical Chair Design Unit. Using computer-aided design (CAD) software and the laser cutter, they will design and construct a custom chair for a preschool-aged child. This unit encourages creativity, precision, and problem-solving, while also building fine motor skills as students work with materials and simple tools. The project focuses on producing a chair that is both structurally sound and visually engaging.

Ms Catherine Jago

Curriculum Middle Leader - Technologies

LANGUAGES

Year 9 language students have a fun and busy semester ahead with a range of learning activities. As our Year 9 students approach subject selection for Year 10, we hope they will seriously consider continuing to develop their language skills. Having the ability to speak additional languages creates global opportunities here in Australia and overseas. No one ever regrets having learned a second (or third) language!

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.

Italian

In Italian this semester, our topics will be about making arrangements to go out with friends and music. Students will learn how to talk about what they like to do and how to arrange an outing with friends. They will also learn how to talk about their musical preferences and describe a musician or band.

Japanese

Students will learn how to talk about their favourite sports and hobbies, and confidently describe how they spend their spare time. They will continue practicing their basic conversation skills and learn about celebrating important Japanese festivals.

Mrs Cathy Spencer

THE ARTS

Art

Year 9 Art students have begun work on a unit entitled "Prints with Purpose". In this unit, the students will be using contemporary printmaking techniques to stand up for a cause that matters to them. They will design and create a print that communicates a message or raises awareness through displaying these prints around the college.

In Term 4, the students will be studying the unit "Glow Up". They will be expanding upon their claymaking skills but also think conceptually to tell a story of their choice. The student works will feature lights in their clay work to create a lantern effect both enhancing their artwork and the communication of their story.

Dance

This semester, Year 9 Dance will begin their dance journey with a unit entitled "All That Jazz". We have been learning about the History and development of Jazz dance and about many different influencers of the Jazz style, specifically looking at the infamous Bob Fosse. The girls will be exploring a range of different Jazz styles before learning and being invited to perform a Jazz dance at the Maggies Festival of the Arts on the 22nd of August. They will then continue to expand their knowledge of the Elements of Dance in the unit titled "I am, you are, we are Australian" by analysing different dance pieces. The girls will explore the theme of identity and, more specifically, Australian identity by describing, interpreting and evaluating dance pieces from several different genres. They will learn the history of Australian dance and develop an understanding of how dance reflects one's culture and identity. They will then explore the theme of Australian identity through the creation of their own contemporary dance works all highlighting how we can reflect on our identity and our own story that is influenced from the society we live in.

Drama

The Year 9 Drama students will be studying with Mrs Edwards and Mrs Trueman. This semester, the girls have begun exploring the mysterious world of Australian Gothic Theatre. This is a relatively new and developing form of theatre in Australia and deals with gothic themes. The girls have been learning about what makes theatre dark and impactful, looking to use sound and lighting in their own interpretations of the OZ Goth classic, "Children of the Black Skirt". They will be analysing professional actors in action and their use of the form (and Elements of Drama) before interpreting the script in performance themselves. Following this, the girls will focus on the process of taking a script from Page to Stage. At the end of the Semester, they will present their polished group performances.

Music

In Year 9 Music students continue to rock, but with a focus on how rock is fused with World Music. They will investigate traditional music styles from Aboriginal to Japanese, African to Irish, discovering new instruments, techniques and scales. They will compose their own rock song, fused with World Music traits of their choice. Students will also continue to develop aural and performance skills, and to further their ability to analyse and respond to music.

Mr Chris Davis

Curriculum Middle Leader - The Arts

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

This time of year is full of excitement and growth as students prepare for the transition into what lies ahead in the next year.

As we begin Semester 2, ***Informed decisions today lead to opportunities and employability success tomorrow.*** This year has seen the growth of the career development framework from 9-12, which has empowered our students with the skills and knowledge to make informed decisions that are essential for lifelong learning and career decision making.

Career Development in Year 9

Students will continue to develop skills as part of the Career Development 4-week mini-unit, earning Skill Building Micro Credentials and participating in Virtual Work Experiences. Students have completed and are encouraged to share their *Resumes* with their parents for feedback and to keep their unique 'The Career Department' login details somewhere safe, so that they can continue to explore the content, as they progress through the year.

Mrs Marianne Milani

Career Development Practitioner and Teacher

ASSESSMENT CALENDAR

To access the Year 9 Assessment calendar **CLICK HERE**