



aitken
COLLEGE
In Mind and Spirit

Year 8 Electives Booklet 2026

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Choosing Elective subjects

All students currently in Year 7 need to choose their elective subjects for Year 8, 2026 in the week beginning Monday 28 July. The accompanying information provides a brief summary of the subjects offered.

As students' progress through the secondary school, they are given more and more choice about which subjects they study. The compulsory (core) subjects in Year 8 are: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Indonesian, Life Skills, Physical Education, and Religion and Values Education.

The electives at Year 8 are intended to give students exposure to four of the Arts/Technology areas, and to help them learn to make informed choices about which subjects they enjoy and want to pursue in senior years. Each elective subject is studied for one semester. **All students in Year 8 are required to choose TWO subjects from the Arts electives and TWO subjects from the Technology electives, plus a reserve subject from each category.** The reserve subjects will be allocated in the event that constraints with the timetable and class sizes prevent students from getting their first choices.

Arts subjects	Technology subjects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama • Media • Music Performance • Visual Art • Visual Communication and Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Technology • Food Studies • Music Technology • Product Design • STEM

The electives are not prerequisites for later study so students will not 'miss out' on subjects which may be needed for particular career pathways. Students will be given their first two choices in each group (Arts & Technology) whenever this is possible within the constraints of the timetable and class sizes.

Web Preferences is an internet application which allows students to enter their subject preferences online. **Instructions on how to access the Web Preferences site, which opens on Monday 28 July, and individual login details will be emailed to students before then. All selections must be completed by Friday 1 August.** Choices can be altered up to three times. After this, the system will lock out the student and they will need to contact Mr Blue.

Once students have made their choices, they will be asked to enter the email address of a parent or guardian. This will generate an email to the parent/guardian with the list of selected subjects. The parent email will include a link for the parent to click on, to approve the student's subject choices. **Parents are asked to complete this approval by Friday 8 August.**

Any questions about the electives or the subject selection process should be directed to Ms Bose or Mr Blue.

Key Dates for Selection of Electives

Date	Activity
Monday 21 July	Electives information communicated to students and parents
Monday 28 July	Web Preferences portal opens
Friday 1 August	Web Preferences portal closes
Friday 8 August	Parental approval of student's subject choices due

2026 Elective Offerings

ARTS ELECTIVES

Drama

In Year 8 Drama you will explore the use of voice and body, understand the elements of Drama and develop a variety of skills through a series of performances and activities. Performance elements may include improvisation, collage drama, comedy/clowning and Gothic Theatre. You will create mini performances, incorporating stage crafts skills such as the use of sound, costume, props and lighting, culminating in a performance to an audience. You will be required to attend a selected Aitken College theatre production during the semester as part of your course work, for which a discounted ticket will need to be purchased. This will occur outside normal school hours.

Media

In Year 8 Media, students are introduced to media codes and conventions, media production technologies and techniques, and the media production process. Students will develop their digital production, documentation and organisation skills as they work through tasks in a range of media forms. A theoretical understanding of the function of media will be developed through the detailed analysis of examples of media products. This theoretical understanding will then be embedded directly into the creative production of students' own media products.

Students will complete learning activities to gain skills in the use of industry standard production software including Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premier Pro. Through the completion of project-based assessment tasks, students will document their use of technology and their journey through the media production process in digital folios. These tasks include image production and video production outcomes that will contribute to students' achievement in the subject.

Music Performance

Year 8 Music Performance is a hands-on subject designed to develop your musical skills through performance, whilst incorporating the learning of technique, notation and other forms of musicianship as part of the process of practical music making. As the name suggests, performance is the cornerstone of this subject; **students wishing to study Music Performance should be undertaking music lessons, either through the school or privately.** You will present a performance at the end of the semester in which you perform the works that you have learnt throughout the unit, either as a soloist or as a member of a group.

Visual Art

Year 8 Visual Art is a practical subject. There is an emphasis on tactile, hands-on experiences designed around open-ended topics of your choosing. This elective encourages you to examine the world around you and to draw upon your own interests while developing technical skill. Inspirational artworks align with practical units to broaden the understanding of style, and/or an artist's use of materials and techniques. You can expect to complete a design process which allows you to develop ideas and technical skill before completing final artworks. Two and three-dimensional artworks are produced which involve the use of carving tools, a printing press and more complex ceramic construction. You are unique; you have opinions; you will be encouraged to represent these in visual form.

Visual Communication and Design

Year 8 VCD aims to broaden your understanding of how designers work, and the impact clever, functional design has on our everyday life. Designers work in the fields of Communication (Graphic) Design (posters, packaging, logos), Industrial Design (fashion, engineering, object/furniture, automotive) and Environmental Design (architecture, landscape, set, display, and interior design). This course introduces you to the industry, and the processes involved to resolve a final product or presentation.

You will learn to follow the design process to record inspiration, develop concept ideas, refine, and present. You will use Adobe Illustrator to develop exciting, imaginative designs for a product, your designs Cricut and/or laser cut. You will be complete drawing activities, producing your own symbols for purpose, including pictograph, concept related symbols and/or logos. In a consumer world, ethical and sustainable design is important, with these concepts introduced.

TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

Digital Technology

In Year 8 Digital Technology you will be able to extend your coding knowledge using a variety of software programs using a general-purpose programming language such as Python to create and test your own digital solutions and create algorithms. You will develop your knowledge of programming robots to solve a variety of real-life scenarios and challenges, developing your understanding of computational thinking and using problem-solving methodologies to create digital solutions.

Food Studies

The Year 8 Food Studies course is divided into two units. In the first unit, you will explore 'The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating' (AGHE) to gain an understanding of nutritional needs and healthy eating. You will prepare simple, healthy dishes in line with the AGHE. The focus will also be on your development of cookery skills and application of the knowledge you have gained to produce a healthy product for teenagers. In the second unit, you will undertake an investigative project based on Asian cookery, using the design process to complete a design folio and produce a dish from within the realm of Asian cookery. You will be exposed to traditional Asian dishes and cooking methods from a range of different food traditions.

Music Technology

Year 8 Music Technology introduces you to the world of digital composition and sound design. You will use music technology such as GarageBand and Logic to create original compositions. You will learn and develop your understanding of the elements of music and how to manipulate these in composition. You will study how the elements of music appear in a variety of musical styles and how they have been manipulated to create mood and character. You will learn about compositional devices such as repetition, contrast and variation and then apply these in your own compositional practice. You will compose music by learning how to sample, record and edit audio, program and edit MIDI, program original beats using common techniques, automate instruments, add effects and sync pieces of audio and/or MIDI notes together.

Product Design

Year 8 Product Design introduces you to the product design process, which you will use to design, make and evaluate products from a range of materials. You will be encouraged to think innovatively and creatively to solve problems and engage with technology, whilst understanding the potential impact products can have on our lives and our planet. You will learn how to work safely in the workshop using a range of power and hand tools and will have the opportunity to explore “new technologies” such as laser cutting.

STEM - Designing for a Smarter, Sustainable Future

In this hands-on STEM subject, students explore how science, technology, and design can solve real-world problems. They will create wearable tech using smart textiles, investigate sustainability through fashion and materials, and program robots or drones to assist in disaster recovery. Students also design future-focused homes and cities using 3D modelling and renewable energy concepts. Across all modules, students apply coding, engineering, and design thinking to develop innovative solutions for a smarter, more sustainable world.

Where To Get Help



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