

# From the Principal



## Introducing a new school program

**As the principal of Doncaster Secondary College, I am proud to announce a new and exciting school program that will undoubtedly enrich the educational experience of our students.**

Commencing 2024, our College will implement a program that is purposefully designed to empower our students to reach their full potential.

Allow me to highlight a few key aspects:

- The College day will shift from a 4 x 75-minute period timetable to a 5 x 60-minute period timetable.
- Increased instruction time for literacy and numeracy development in the Junior School, with the option of additional support or extension electives.
- The introduction of 'Managing Me' in the Junior School - a dedicated class that explores personal & social capabilities and career planning.
- A renewed Year 9 program characterized by real-world application of STEM, design-thinking, leadership, entrepreneurship and the building of community relations.

- Increased frequency and instruction time for senior school classes to achieve a deeper understanding of their subject areas.

The new school program is the result of extensive research, consultation with external stakeholders and collaboration with our school community. I thank everyone for their valuable input.

The following pages describe how the new school program will operate within each sub school. More detailed information will be provided in the year-level handbooks, to be published in term 3.

**Glenn Morris**  
Principal



**Years 7 & 8**

## Junior School Program

“Our vision is to shape all our Junior School students to be healthy, positive and resilient learners who have the literacy, numeracy, personal and social capabilities required to be successful in the future.”

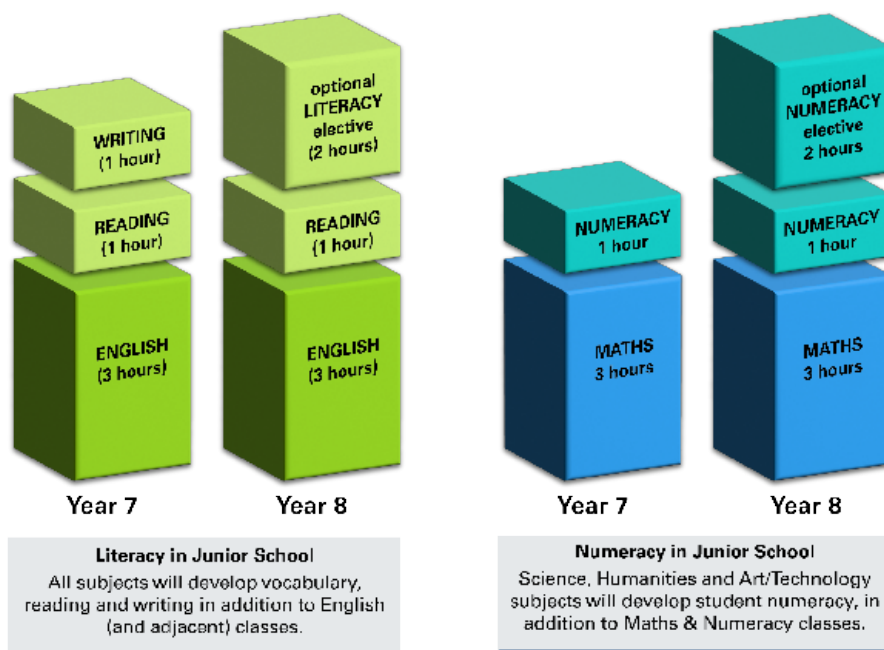
**Belinda McGee**  
**Assistant Principal, Junior School**



Literacy, numeracy and personal & social capabilities will be nurtured and consolidated in the new Junior School curriculum.

Students enrolling in Junior School come from different stages in their learning. Our role is to identify their learning needs and deliver a program that will consolidate and master the essential skills of literacy, numeracy, and personal & social capabilities. Establishing a strong foundation in these skills will set up a student’s success in all areas of life. The new Junior School program places student literacy and numeracy at its core by providing more English (and English adjacent) and Mathematics (and Maths adjacent) classes.

### Literacy & Numeracy Instruction time per week



Commencing in 2024, the Junior School program will replace the DiSCovery program with **‘Managing Me’**. Personal and social capability development is the core focus area of this subject and these skills will be explored further in Health & Physical Education and English. Managing Me is a dedicated class for daily goal setting and planning, learning reflections, building community connections, and the introduction of a Career Action Plan.

In Year 8, students select two electives from the Art & Technology area. Students do have the option to pursue an elective in Literacy Support or an Extension subject (in STEM, English or Mathematics).



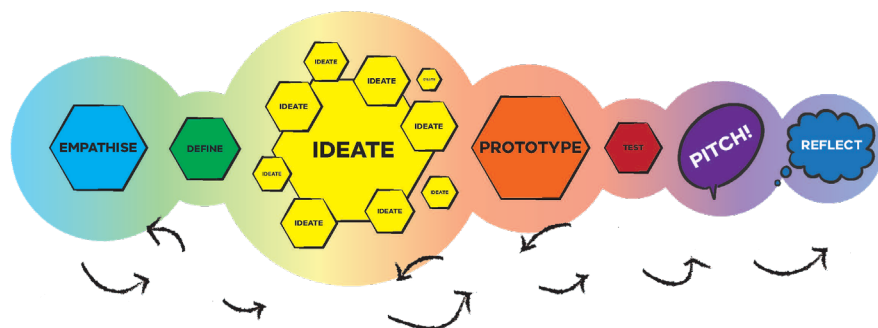
Year 9

## Middle School Program

“Our vision is to empower learners to have a strong sense of self so that they have the capabilities to become active and engaged members of the community.”

**Elisha Sadikay**  
**Assistant Principal, Middle School**

Middle School, Year 9, is a time of social and emotional change and is a defining period of growth in a student’s learning journey. In this important year, the program has been designed with an emphasis on exploration and inquiry, design thinking and real-world applications of learning, leadership and community partnerships. Students become socially aware, inclusive and ethical critical thinkers while also building a strong self-concept that helps them begin to determine their future pathway.



### The Design Thinking Process: applying collaboration, creative thinking & problem solving to solve real-world problems

The MYSELF program has been enriched with a new focus on **Design Thinking principles**, which will support learners to become critical thinkers who can respond effectively to a range of challenges in fields such as health, community, art, environment, entrepreneurship and STEM.

Learners develop these capabilities through opportunities for meaningful decision-making, leadership, healthy risk-taking and real-world applications of learning.

Strong community involvement will not only provide a range of valuable life skills and learnings, but also introduces students to the concept of **active citizenship**.

At year 9, the new **‘Managing Me’** subject becomes a targeted careers education program. This program empowers students to explore pathways while honing crucial self-management and self-awareness skills. Through introspective activities, students will uncover their strengths and interests, and gain insights into our senior school programs, educational pathways and careers. This comprehensive exploration aims to foster a clear sense of purpose, propelling students towards the relentless pursuit of academic and vocational excellence of Senior School.





Years 10 - 12

## Senior School Program

“We relentlessly pursue academic and vocational excellence and meaningful pathways.”

**Gina Carroll**  
Assistant Principal, Senior School

Students enter Senior School at a pivotal point in their learning journey. Before undertaking Years 11 and 12, we will ensure our students have the attributes to achieve their future goals. The Year 10 program is defined by extensive 1:1 career interviews, course counselling and work experience to further enhance pathway development. Our students are empowered to forge their own individual pathway through Years 11 and 12.

The adoption of a 5 x 60-minute College timetable in 2024 will see our senior school students benefit from increased face-to-face teaching time to 240 minutes per subject.

**Year 10** students will complete six subjects each semester, meeting four times per week per subject, with increased access to their teachers.

The **VCE program** at Doncaster Secondary College proudly delivers a high standard of academic tuition, allowing students to pursue their preferences and reach their potential. From 2024, Year 11 students will complete five subjects instead of six. Students following this pathway will benefit from an enhanced focus and deeper understanding of their VCE subjects.

Students who complete a Unit 1 and 2 subject in Year 10 can elect to complete a sixth VCE subject. The diagram below illustrates the options available to students seeking to compliment their VCE students with an accelerated VCE program.

### VCE Pathways

#### Program for Deeper Learning

**YEAR 12 CURRICULUM**  
(5 subjects)

**YEAR 11 CURRICULUM**  
(5 subjects)

**YEAR 10 CURRICULUM**  
(6 subjects)

#### Accelerated VCE Program options

4 subjects + completed Accelerated VCE Unit 3/4, or  
+ Additional VCE Unit 3 & 4, or  
+ External studies (ie. VSV or Languages)

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+ Accelerated VCE Unit 1& 2