



aitken
COLLEGE
In Mind and Spirit

Year 9 Electives Booklet 2026

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Choosing Elective subjects

All students currently in Year 8 need to choose their elective subjects for Year 9, 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 9 are: English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Indonesian, Life Skills, Physical Education, Religion and Values Education, and Service Project.

The electives at Year 9 are intended to give students exposure to many subject 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.

Students will study two electives each semester and are requested to make FIVE choices, in preference order. The fifth choice is a reserve subject in the event that constraints with the timetable and class sizes prevent students from getting all of their first choices.

The Year 9 Elective subjects for 2026 are:

- Agriculture and Horticulture
- Commerce
- Computer Programming
- Digital Technology
- Drama
- Environmental Science
- Food Studies
- Media
- Music Performance
- Music Technology
- Product Design
- Product Design (CAD)
- The Universe and Us
- Visual Art
- Visual Communication and Design

The electives are not prerequisites for later study so students will not ‘miss out’ on subjects which may be needed for particular career pathways.

It is recommended that students discuss their choices with their parents and teachers. The relevant Heads of Faculty can be contacted if students have detailed questions about subjects.

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 Mackrell.

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 Touma.

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

Agriculture and Horticulture

In this subject, you will be introduced to the agriculture and horticulture industry in Australia. This is a highly practical subject in which you learn basic skills in animal and plant management that have a focus on sustainable and ethical practices. Sustainable practices in society and agricultural industries will underpin the concepts learnt throughout the semester. This is a highly practical subject so be ready to embrace outdoor learning. Assessments will include business design, field work, and practical experiments. This elective provides a good background for further studies into VCE Agriculture and Horticulture.

Commerce

Year 9 Commerce provides you with information about our legal system so that you can understand your legal rights and the way elections operate. You will also learn how to manage your personal finances and how to make money. Issues such as investing your money, budgeting and taxes will be examined. This elective provides a good background for studies in Accounting, Economics, Legal Studies, and Business Management in VCE.

Computer Programming

The Year 9 Computer Programming elective enables you to develop your coding skills and knowledge. This course allows you to learn new skills designing and testing algorithms using object-oriented programs. You will develop skills in designing and creating digital solutions as well as developing your understanding of computational thinking and using problem-solving methodologies.

Digital Technology

In Year 9 Digital Technology you will further develop your computational thinking and problem-solving skills to define and solve problems and create your own digital products. You will create content for the web using a range of different media including video, audio, graphics and animations. You will have the opportunity to learn to code websites using HTML and CSS to create interactive designs that best showcase your content and inform your audience.

Drama

You will explore the many production roles which work together to create theatre. Apart from directing and acting, you will develop skills in a variety of stage crafts including Sound, Lighting, Set Design, Costume, Props and Stage Management. A range of scripts will introduce you to a variety of theatre styles such as Realism/Naturalism, Comedy, Theatre as Social Action and Australian/Indigenous Drama. The semester will culminate with a performance to an audience. You will also be introduced to Theatre Criticism to reflect on the production studied.

Note: for this subject, **you are required to provide and wear Drama Blacks. You will also 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 be purchased. This will occur outside normal school hours.**

Environmental Science

The Environmental Science elective offers exciting opportunities for you to explore the relationships between humans and the environment. You will learn the significance of renewable and non-renewable energy sources and their impacts on the Enhanced Greenhouse Effect. In this subject, you develop an understanding about the importance of biodiversity and how it can be managed and protected for the benefit of future generations.

You will also gain skills in monitoring and studying the natural world through hands-on fieldwork including animal and plant case studies, water quality testing in the Aitken wetlands, and biodiversity audits. The knowledge and skill you will develop in this subject provides insight into possible future jobs including an Environmental Scientist, Ecologist, Wildlife Conservationist, Toxicologist, Environmental Engineer and Environmental Law.

Food Studies

The Food Studies semester course is divided into three units. The first unit is titled Health, Safety and Procedures in the Kitchen. Here you will be introduced to procedures and rules to assist you in your understanding of safe food handling.

The second unit, 'Nutrients and You' focuses on the main macro nutrients: protein, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals, and water.

The final unit is based on individual dietary needs, in which you will gain knowledge about vegetarianism, diabetes, Coeliac disease, lactose intolerance, coronary heart disease, and the diet of a pregnant woman as well as exploring food allergies and food intolerances. You will learn in detail about each individual dietary need and about what such diets may look like.

During practical lessons, you will produce dishes relating to each of the dietary needs covered. For this component of the course, you will also produce a design folio.

Media

In Year 9 Media, students will continue to explore media codes and conventions, media production technologies and techniques, and the media production process. Students will continue to develop their digital production, documentation and organization skills as their work through tasks in a range on 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 professional grade Digital SLR cameras and 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 9 Music Performance is a hands-on subject designed to build upon your performance, song writing, musicianship and aural training skills. You will apply these skills as you compose, improvise and arrange in different styles, exploring different instrumental combinations and combining acoustic and digital sounds. 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.

Music Technology

Year 9 Music Technology explores the world of digital composition and sound design. You will study music in film and how to compose music for short film. You will develop and apply your understanding of the elements of music and how these are used in film to create mood and character. 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 and effects and sync pieces of audio and/or MIDI notes together.

You will also look at sound design, specifically using 'foley pits' and the reproduction of everyday sound effects that are added to film and television. You will bring animated works to life by recreating all of the audio (foley) for these short cartoons, recording and editing the sound.

Product Design

In Year 9 Product Design you will follow the product design process to develop innovative and creative solutions to a design brief. You will be given a design problem to solve and be asked to identify the main design constraints and considerations. You will conduct research and generate ideas using freehand drawing and computer aided design (CAD). You will work safely, using a range of tools and machines, to produce a unique product that meets your client's requirements. At the end of the production process, you will evaluate the product and your design process.

Product Design (Computer Aided Design)

Year 9 Product Design (CAD) is recommended for you if you are creative, enjoy designing and are interested in selecting VCE courses such as Product Design and Technology, Art Creative Practice or Visual Communication and Design in the future.

This elective offers you the opportunity to gain the necessary skills to use CAD software to design, model and create realistic models and renderings of everyday products. You will design products to meet specific requirements for 3D printing, laser cutting and will explore the possibilities of computer-aided manufacturing techniques. You will gain an understanding of how engineers, designers and architects, amongst others, use CAD to help build the world around us.

The Universe and Us

The Universe and Us is a cross-disciplinary subject combining science and history to explore the origins of the universe, the evolution of life, and the rise of human civilisation. It helps students understand major turning points in natural and human history, develop critical thinking skills, and investigate the connections between past, present, and future. This subject is ideal for students interested in both the sciences and humanities and who enjoy big questions and inquiry-based learning. Students will complete four summative assessment tasks across the semester. In Week 5, they will complete an assignment explaining Big History through the concept of thresholds.

Visual Art

Year 9 Visual Art enables you to develop personal imagery while exploring new mediums and experimenting with techniques. Areas of study are loosely defined, allowing students to lead their own path of enquiry. Mixed media, collage/photography, dry pastel, and new sculpting techniques explored, with digital art extension possible for those interested. Extension with other mediums can also take place at the conclusion of a unit, allowing fluid and flexible artistic development.

This subject is ideal for those who want to pursue individual themes and ideas through their art practice while developing technical skill and competency. To complement practical tasks, relevant artworks support the development of a Body of Work. Research, exploring, experimenting, developing, and refining are all stages of a Creative Practice.

Visual Communication and Design

Year 9 Visual Communication and Design introduces you to the exciting world of design through practical tasks. Three-dimensional drawing skills are developed to complete an Environmental design, produced using two-point perspective techniques. Adobe Illustrator amps up this year with three dimensional printed objects designed and produced. Design Elements and Principles are studied, and the manipulation of these tested/critiqued throughout to ensure the best design solution is presented. Other projects may include architectural drawings, illustration, and graphic design.

Some tasks will require you to work through the application of the Double Diamond model - discover, define, develop, and deliver, informing the design process, preparing students for VCE. This includes research, sketching, trials, and refining. You will be taught to render your final presentations using a range of media such as colour pencil, ink, copic markers and digital imaging.

Where To Get Help



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