

## **APPLIED LITERACY - YEAR 9, 2019 - 100 hrs, Elective Subject**

The College is offering a Year 9 elective subject called **Applied Literacy**, following its successful introduction into the Stage 5 subject choice selections in 2018. It has been strategically designed to address the increased emphasis on whole-school literacy improvement at SPX, with a focus on literacy skills mastery of literacy and language skills in reading, writing and use of language conventions, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

This is a tailored school-developed one-year elective program for Year 9 students, which provides a structured but unpressured classroom setting, involving a schedule of practical, targeted and self-directed literacy tasks and activities aimed at maximising students' literacy skills, communicative confidence and achievement potential across their Stage 5 subjects.

Applied Literacy is a unique course in its focus on addressing individualised literacy needs, its explicit teaching and learning of skills, its ongoing formative assessment, its wide range of age-appropriate high-interest resources including interactive vocabulary games and skill-builder activities, as well as its one to one literacy conferencing, and its goal to improve learning habits and exam performance.

The Applied Literacy program also allows for a regular 'Applied Study' Period, to allow boys allocated time to work independently on their choice of cross-curricular assignments or assessment tasks which involve reading, interpretation, responding and writing skills, and to be monitored and assisted with their work if and as needed.

### **Sample topics, features and content of the Applied Literacy course include:**

- how to identify and use grammatical features and language techniques in a wide range of popular and literary texts;
- how to read for meaning, and to recognise when reading, language for emphasis and effect;
- how deconstruct questions, tasks, topics - and address instructional language and keywords within task notifications;
- how to employ a range of comprehension strategies to boost understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts;
- how to build and use active vocabulary, and strengthen working memory;
- understanding the difference between analytical writing and descriptive writing;
- distinguishing literal from higher-order figurative meaning in responses;
- how to paraphrase without plagiarising;
- how to revise and study for exams and assessments
- how to structure and write for specific purposes including persuasive and information texts, using appropriate language and vocabulary;
- how to draft and edit writing, for content and conventions;
- how to write and deliver confident oral presentations on a topic;
- how to use visual literacy skills, when interpreting visual texts or media texts

Should students or parents have any queries, or wish to speak with Ms Raheb-Mol direct about how the Applied Literacy elective course could be of benefit, you are welcome to contact her directly at the College on (02) 9411 4733 or via email at [JRahebMol@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au](mailto:JRahebMol@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au)