



Brighton
Secondary
School

2026

Curriculum Guide

Year 8





Year 8 Curriculum Pattern

General Course

In Year 8 you will study a full year of English, Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Science, as well as one semester of HPE.

You will study at least one Arts and one Technologies subject and have the choice to continue learning the language (French or Japanese) that you studied in Year 7.

Your pattern of subjects is shown below, with each full row representing a full year subject and each half row representing a semester subject.

Home group	
English	
HASS	
Mathematics	
Science	
HPE	Arts choice
Technologies choice	Additional choice (from Arts, HPE, or Technologies)
PLUS	
Additional choice (from Arts, HPE, or Technologies)	Additional choice (from Arts, HPE, or Technologies)
OR	
Language (French or Japanese)	



Year 8 Special Interest Music (SIM)

In Year 8 Special Interest Music you will study a full year of English, Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, Science and one semester of Health and Physical Education.

The Arts and Technologies curriculum is incorporated into the program.

You will continue with the language you studied in Year 7 for one semester – choose French or Japanese.

Home group	
English	
HASS	
Mathematics	
Science	
Special Interest Music (incorporating Arts and Technologies)	
HPE	Language (French or Japanese)

Year 8 Special Interest Volleyball (SIV)

In Year 8 Special Interest Volleyball you will study a full year of English, Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, and Science subjects.

The Health and Physical Education curriculum is incorporated into the program. This extra semester of HPE takes the place of one choice subject.

You will need to select Art and Technology options and/or continue to study French or Japanese.

Please note that there is a \$200 subject levy charged for this subject.

Home group	
English	
HASS	
Mathematics	
Science	
Special Interest Volleyball (incorporating HPE)	
Arts choice	Technologies choice
PLUS	
Additional choice (from Arts, HPE, or Technologies)	Additional choice (from Arts, HPE, or Technologies)
OR	
Language (French or Japanese)	



LIST OF ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

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Art for our Life



Length: Semester

Prerequisites:

None

Recommended

background: None

Subject Fees: None

Contact: Yasmin.Paterson519@schools.sa.edu.au

Learning Area: The Arts

Student Experience

In Art for our Life, you will be introduced to the fundamental skills and processes of artmaking (practical work) and responding (talking and writing about art).

We will explore themes of the 'self' incorporating personal interests and experiences.

You will develop your artistic journey through folios and final products (both 2d and 3d) and reflective practitioner's statements.

Leads to: Year 9 Arts Subjects

Art in our World



Length: Semester

Prerequisites:

None

Recommended

background: None

Subject Fees: None

Contact: Yasmin.Paterson519@schools.sa.edu.au

Learning Area: The Arts

Student Experience

In Art in Our World, you will explore the role that art plays in our world linked to cultures and societies. This will include exploring cultural artefacts, traditions and methods used by different societies.

A special focus will include studies of Aboriginal Artists and their cultural traditions.

You will learn to develop your ideas and skills through folios, 2d and 3d final products and reflective practitioner's statements.

Leads to: Year 9 Arts Subjects



Drama - Performance

i **Length:** Semester

Prerequisites:
None

**Recommended
background:** None

Subject Fees: None

Contact: Yasmin.Paterson519@schools.sa.edu.au

Learning Area: The Arts

Student Experience

In Drama - Performance, you will explore performance techniques through drama games and activities. You will create characters and learn how to improvise to develop original plays.

We will experiment with film techniques and collaborate to create a short film. You will learn about the history of theatre and the magic of story

Leads to: Year 9 Drama Subjects

Drama – Musical Theatre

i **Length:** Semester

Prerequisites:
None

**Recommended
background:** None

Subject Fees: None

Contact: Yasmin.Paterson519@schools.sa.edu.au

Learning Area: The Arts

Student Experience

How do musical theatre performers integrate acting, singing and dancing all at once?

Musical Theatre is an incredibly popular artform because of the elaborate designs, socially progressive plots, and highly skilled performers. We will collaborate to learn these skills and create original musical theatre performances.

We will view Musical Theatre shows and integrate these skills into our own performance work.

The semester will culminate in a public performance for families and friends.

Leads to: Year 9 Drama Subjects



Physical Education: Movement and Performance



Length: Semester

Subject Fees: None

Prerequisites:

None

Contact: Matt.Fuss906@schools.sa.edu.au

Recommended

background: Genuinely interested and highly motivated to learn a range of sports and activities.

Learning Area: Health & Physical Education

Student Experience

Physical Education is an elective subject designed for students who are genuinely interested and highly motivated to learn a range of sports and activities. Individuals must be committed to develop their sporting skills and maintaining a physically active lifestyle.

In this subject, you will build your skills, learn more about different sports, and improve how you play. You will have the opportunity to analyse your performance and provide feedback to your classmates. This will help everyone improve by working together and reflecting on what they do well and improve.

This subject is a great starting point if you are thinking about studying Physical Education in Senior School. You will explore a variety of sports, including:

- Invasion sports
- Net and wall sports
- Striking and fielding sports

Assessment

- One **individual practical** to demonstrate skills in net and wall sport situations with awareness of space, effort, and teamwork.
- One **individual practical with data analysis** to apply striking and fielding strategies and evaluate performance using simple data.
- One **individual practical and reflection** to design and test a team strategy in an invasion sport, focusing on performance, fair play, and inclusion.
- One **individual performance and reflection** to apply invasion sport strategies and reflect on communication and adaptability.
- One **collaborative practical** to create and apply inclusive strategies that show fair play and teamwork.



French



Length: Full Year

Prerequisites:
None

**Recommended
background:** Year 7
French

Subject Fees: None

Contact: Tracey.Holt418@schools.sa.edu.au

Learning Area: Languages

Student Experience

In Year 8 French you will build upon your understanding of the beautiful French language and culture.

In particular, you will learn how to communicate in French about yourself and your family, your daily routine and school life in more depth.

You will also learn about animals and New Caledonia and how to speak about locations and give directions. You will also have the chance to plan your dream trip to a French region.

Assessment

- Text Analysis – Reading and Listening
- Text Production – Writing in French
- Interactions – Interviews in French
- Cultural Research tasks
- Language Study Tasks – Vocabulary and grammar games, exercises and quizzes

Leads to: Year 9 French



Japanese



Length: Full Year

Prerequisites:

None

Recommended

background: Year 7

Japanese

Subject Fees: None

Contact: Tracey.Holt418@schools.sa.edu.au

Learning Area: Languages

Student Experience

In Year 8 Japanese you will continue to build upon your understanding of the fascinating Japanese language and culture.

As you continue to develop your working knowledge of the Japanese writing scripts, you will also learn to communicate in Japanese about your busy life, school life and your hobbies in more depth.

You will also have the chance to learn about Japanese modern and traditional school events, festivals and celebrations.

Assessment

- Text Analysis – Reading and Listening
- Text Productions – Writing in Japanese
- Interactions – Conversations in Japanese
- Cultural Research tasks
- Language Study Tasks – Vocabulary and grammar games, exercises and quizzes

Leads to: Year 9 Japanese



Core Music (required for SIM students)



Length: Full Year

Subject Fees: None

Prerequisites:

None

Contact: Craig.Bentley306@schools.sa.edu.au

Recommended

background: None

Learning Area: Music

Student Experience

In Core Music, you will have the opportunity to play in a class band, string ensemble or percussion ensemble.

You will have access to free instrumental music lessons every week to support your learning.

Instruments can be hired from the school so there is no need to own an instrument.

Choosing Core Music will also allow you to participate in the many co-curricular ensembles and choirs available before school, at lunchtime and after school.

Core Music students are also eligible for the incredible local and international music tours.

Student will celebrate their learning each semester at a Showcase concert.

Assessment

- Part testing on your chosen ensemble instrument each term.
- Part testing of your level choir each semester.
- Musicianship assessment on the concepts taught throughout the semester.

Leads to: Year 9 Core Music



Material Technologies



Length: Semester

Subject Fees: None

Prerequisites:

None

Contact: narelle.brennan461@schools.sa.edu.au

Recommended

background: None

Learning Area: Design Technologies

Student Experience

You'll design and make projects that respond to real sustainability challenges. Along the way, you'll get hands-on experience using tools and equipment in a safe workshop environment.

You'll develop and adapt your ideas, explain your choices using the right terms, and keep track of your progress through planning, reflection, and practical tasks. Each project gives you the chance to apply your creativity while building real-world skills.

Assessment

Assessment Type 1 – Skills Tasks

You'll complete **two practical tasks** using tools and machines.

For each task you'll:

- Show your hands-on skills
- Explain what you did and how you did it
- Talk about any problems you faced and how you solved them
- Reflect on how successful you were

Assessment Type 2 – Major Project

This is your big project, where you design and make something using the skills you learnt in the Skills Tasks.

Part 1 – Plan Your Project

- Investigate and research ideas
- Plan and design something you're interested in
- Think about what's possible with the tools, materials and time available

Part 2 – Make and Review Your Project

- Build your final project using the skills you've learned
- Show how you worked through problems and made decisions
- Evaluate how well your project turned out

Leads to: Year 9 Material Technologies



Digital Product Design



Length: Semester

Prerequisites:

None

Recommended

background: None

Subject Fees: None

Contact: narelle.brennan461@schools.sa.edu.au

Learning Area: Design Technologies

Student Experience

In this course, you'll use technology to design and create real-world products that solve problems for real people.

Building on what you learned in Year 7 Digital Technology, you'll explore computer-aided design and design thinking. You'll bring your ideas to life using a variety of tools such as 3D printers and laser cutters.

You'll learn by doing, working on creative projects that help build your skills in design, teamwork, and problem-solving.

You'll use data, digital tools, and your imagination to create real solutions. Along the way, you'll have the chance to work with real clients and take part in design challenges.

This course is hands-on, creative, and is the start of an exciting pathway of product design.

Assessment

- On-going Design Portfolio with evidence of the design process and skill development
- Final Prototypes / Products

Leads to: Year 9 Digital Product Design



Food and Fabrics



Length: Semester

Prerequisites:

None

Recommended

background: None

Subject Fees: None

Contact: narelle.brennan461@schools.sa.edu.au

Learning Area: Design Technologies

Student Experience

You will have the opportunity to explore the world of cooking and sewing firsthand. Through interactive lessons, you'll learn the basics of kitchen safety, hygiene, nutrition, and how to create delicious dishes.

In the sewing unit, you'll follow the design cycle and develop essential hand-sewing skills, taking home projects made with creativity, confidence, and pride.

Assessment

- Ongoing written Design Portfolios to showcase evidence of the design process and skill development
- Summative Practical's to demonstrate skills (Cooking)
- Final Prototypes / Products (Food, Fabric)

Leads to:

- Year 9 Food for Life
- Year 9 Sew Make Create



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