



Middle School Course Guide 2024



Introduction

CORE SUBJECTS

Year 9 and 10 students must undertake the following core subjects

- Religious Education
- English
- Humanities
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Year 9 students also study hands on and integrated units in the Year 9 Alternative Program
- Year 9 & 10 students are also able to learn Italian

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

In addition to core subjects Year 9 and 10 students can select up to 8 elective subjects over two semesters in each year. The elective program has been designed to cater for different interests as well as allowing students to plan for, and undertake successful studies in VCE.

Students in Year 10 have the opportunity to access VCE subjects. There are some selection criteria that must be addressed if students wish to accelerate into these subjects.

Students and parents are encouraged to discuss the following electives and possible acceleration (Year 10s) before completing subject selection. Students will need to select a range of subjects (including several reserves) in order of preference, as not all subjects will necessarily run. Subject selection will be completed online.

Arts

- Digital Photography
- Media Studies
- Drama
- Visual Art
- Visual Communication & Design

English

- Introduction to Literature and English Language
- Film as Text

Humanities

- Café Events (Business)
- Indigenous Studies
- Law and Business

Physical Education

- Sports Science

Science

- Agricultural Science
- Introduction to Psychology
- STEM

Technology

- Food Technology
- Robotics and Information Technology
- Textiles
- Wood and Metal Technology

Subjects Available to Year 10 Students Only

VET COURSES

- VET Hospitality Certificate II
- VET Workplace Skills

Please note: Detailed information about VET subjects is not contained in this Handbook. Other VET Courses may be negotiated through other providers. For further information, please see Mr Michael Guinane (Pathways Leader).

VCE ACCELERATION SUBJECTS

Students in Year 10 may have the opportunity to select a VCE or VET class as an acceleration program. This will be negotiated on an individual basis with students and their parents and on recommendation by their teachers. Subjects offered for acceleration will be finalised following the senior school subject selection process.

Please note: Detailed information about VCE subjects is not contained in this Course Guide. For further information, please see the Senior School Course Guide found on the College website.

mcm.vic.edu.au/senior-school

Subject Selection Process

Please read the following information and instructions carefully

- Aim for a broad selection of electives. Your choices should include an Arts elective and a Technology elective.
- VCE and VET Subjects are Full Year Subjects (available to year 10 students only).
- Year 10 students wishing to select a VCE subject must meet selection criteria including current academic performance, ability to manage workload and teacher recommendation.
- Students will be allocated their first preferences where possible however, this will be determined by availability. Students going into Year 10 will be given preference.

Please note that detailed information about VET and VCE subjects and their selection process is not contained in this booklet. For further information, please see the Senior School Course Guide found on the College website.

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English

Introduction to Literature and English Language

This unit is intended to provide students with a taste of Literature and English Language, two alternative strands of English that meet the requirements of the VCE.

The unit will focus on the relationship between Power, Language and Control.

- How do people gain power? How do they keep power?
- How is language used to create fear? What does this have to do with power?
- How is fear used as a tool for control?
- What freedoms do people have against oppressive governments?

Students will be required to

- Read a range of complex texts, including George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
- Write analytically and creatively
- Consider the presentation of ideas such as power, control, freedom and oppression in literary works
- Explore language and language features
- Research and present findings
- Explore social issues

This elective will suit students who

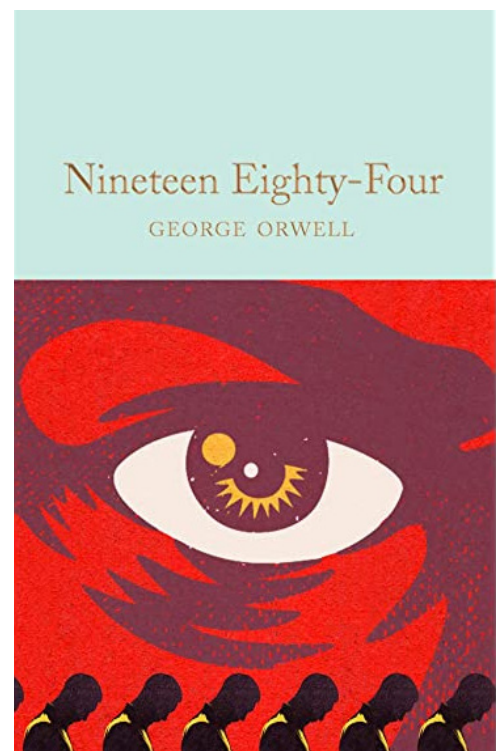
- Enjoy reading and writing and discussing what they read
- Are interested in social issues
- Wish to engage with texts on a deeper level
- Are interested in studying language and linguistics

Assessment

- Close analyses
- Writing folio
- Research project and presentation

Where this subject could lead

- VCE English, Literature and English Language



English

Film as Text

This unit looks at how film operates as text in our society.

Film is a powerful medium and being primarily visual, it caters to a wide audience. Films can reflect our society and values or question them and they can teach ideas and influence thinking. Films, like all texts, are constructed within a specific context and time. The context in which a film is produced, and the processes of production, distribution and exhibition are all used to create meaning. Films also entertain us! They can make us laugh, cry, question, or protest. Just like any study of literature we must determine the film's purpose, its message, its plot and story, its characters, and the elements that produce these and create its meaning.

We will study features, short films and animations. We will discuss topics, themes, characters, plot lines and their treatment through film, as well as what the film is trying to say and how it does this using film techniques.

Students will be required to

- View film texts inside and outside of the Classroom
- Participate in class discussions and debates around focused viewing questions
- Explore film techniques as seen in shorts and animations
- Be appreciative of the skills and talents of others
- Respond to and reflect on work viewed

This elective will suit students who

- Enjoy viewing and discussing film
- Are excited about exploring content and character via the medium of film
- Are happy to flip the classroom and view film outside of class to facilitate quality time for discussion and debate in the classroom
- Are happy to learn new ways to write about text
- Are excited to be challenged by studying new texts through film

Assessment

- Evidence of Film Viewing – Observation Worksheets
- Anatomy of Scene Worksheets
- Film Review
- Individual Class Presentations (talks, debates, exposés, analysis, PowerPoints etc.)
- Tasks focused on Interpretation and Response

Where this subject could lead

- VCE Literature Units 1-4



Arts

Digital Photography

This subject examines how to use a camera effectively, adjust settings to achieve different results, such as altering shutter speed to blur or freeze motion. Composition, lighting and other techniques will be used to create a variety of photos. There will be some simple manipulation of final images to adjust lighting, contrast etc. to get the best result from a digital file. You will present images both electronically and in printed form. There will be underpinning knowledge that students will need to learn to support their practical work.

Students will be required to

- Take photos that match a design brief
- Learn some of the theory behind taking good photos, using equipment
- Critique their own and others' work in a constructive manner
- Work as part of a team
- Be the photographer, or model or assistant for your group at different times

This elective will suit students who

- Enjoy taking photographs
- Are keen to learn how to improve the photos they take
- Wish to learn how to use different camera settings such as those on a Digital SLR camera
- Like to work as a team as well as individually (You will be photographer, model and assistant at times)

Assessment

- Portfolio of photographs that meets design briefs
- Completed documentation for photographs
- Written responses showing understanding of the theory components
- Demonstrate competence using selected photographic and lighting equipment

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Art Making and Exhibiting



Arts

Media Studies

Discover how stories can be told through film. Learn how to create story boards and use simple editing tools on your phone and computer to create a film. Understand film in a new way by exploring filming techniques and angles. Use lighting and sound to create drama and mystery. Explore how Alfred Hitchcock and other famous cinematographers created tension and tragedy and identify the key techniques used.

Students will be required to

- Create storyboards
- Develop techniques in filming to show an emotional effect
- Develop three-dimensional drawing skills
- Create a film using editing techniques

This elective will suit students who

- Enjoy being creative and thinking visually
- Would like to develop their filming skills and understand the language of film
- Want to try a new approach to designing and editing moving images
- Want to develop their own style of film making

Assessment

- Story boarding
- Investigation into film and cinematographers
- Editing techniques
- Create a film using editing techniques

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Art Making and Exhibiting Units 1-4
- VCE Visual Communication Design Units 1-4
- VCE Media Studies





Arts

Drama

This subject will negotiate with those in the class how the curriculum can be delivered to suit both the on-stage and back-stage enthusiast. The class will work as a team to establish a back-stage crew for the College production.

This subject examines the theatrical genre of Musicals, a style in which songs by the characters are interwoven into the narrative, sometimes accompanied by dancing. The songs usually advance the plot or develop the play's characters. We study different types of Musical -Book, Jukebox, Revue, Concept, Rock/Rock Opera, Operetta, Pop and Film. Students will look at librettos and choreography charts as well as try their hand at writing some musical scenes.

Students will be required to

- Participate in workshops
- Read, research, interpret script and relate to stagecraft
- Rehearse, workshop, direct with their peers
- Prepare and perform a performance
- Respond to and analyse work completed and seen (oral and written)
- Design, construct, manage and work in teams with their peers
- Attend rehearsals and workshops outside of class times
- Respond to and analyse work completed (oral and written)

This elective will suit students who

- Enjoy performing
- Are enlivened through research and inquiry
- Love a challenge and exploring theatrical forms
- Like to work as a team
- Enjoy design work in set, lighting, costume and stage makeup.

Assessment

- Will take place using a variety of assessment tools including participation, observation, performance, design briefs, performance attendance, and evaluation of work completed.

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Drama Units 1-4
- VCE Theatre Studies Units 1-4

Arts

Visual Art

Unleash your creative talents and learn the simple techniques of how to draw, paint, print or sculpt your favourite pet, flower or friend. Have you ever wanted to paint, draw, or print a portrait or landscape? This unit will show you the basic skills needed to accomplish these tasks.

This elective explores art through the world of artmaking. It investigates the techniques and methods of your chosen technique. It investigates colour and how colour influences our emotions and understanding, and find out how to create your own colour palette. You will discover the use of line to create tone and how this can influence our understanding of images. You will learn a variety of printmaking and sculpting techniques.

Investigate, the work of past artists and look at the tricks and techniques they use. Draw on the world of artists to discover how artists of our past influence what we do today.

Students will be required to

- Select one or more of the following techniques: drawing, sculpting, printmaking and painting
- Learn about colour and composition
- Explore the elements & principles of design
- Investigate artists and analyse artworks
- Use and maintain a visual diary

This elective will suit students who

- Enjoy being creative and working with their hands
- Learn a variety of techniques: painting, drawing, sculpting, working 3D and printmaking
- Are interested in learning to draw and print and gain an understanding of style
- Understand the mystery of line, shape, tone and form in creating images
- Create their own style of artmaking

Assessment

- Investigation into artists and techniques
- Create a range of artworks using a variety of techniques
- Develop a series of drawings
- Develop a folio of artworks

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Art Making and Exhibiting Units 1-4
- VCE Visual Communication Design Units 1-4
- VCE Art Creative Practice Unit 1-4



Examples of some student work

Arts

Visual Communication & Design

This unit is designed to extend your design skills learned in years 7 and 8 and also to extend your ability to use drawing as a means of communication. You will become familiar with the design process of Graphic designers and apply the elements and principles of design. You will learn how to manipulate layout components to achieve a purpose, confidently use a range of media and become adept at knowing when to apply these conventions.

Students will be required to

- Develop techniques in design graphics and technical drawing
- Develop original graphic designs suitable for private or commercial use
- Understand the need to apply correct design elements and principles
- Work to the requirements of a design brief
- Use computer generated ideas competently and appropriately

This elective will suit students who

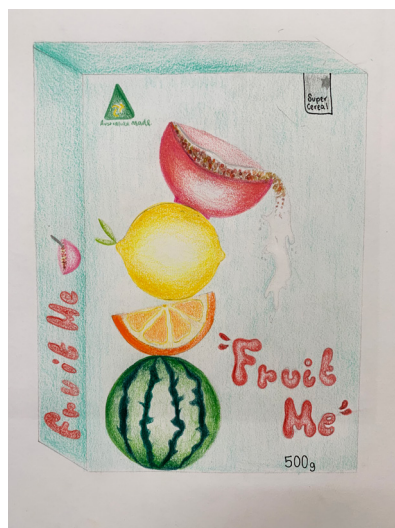
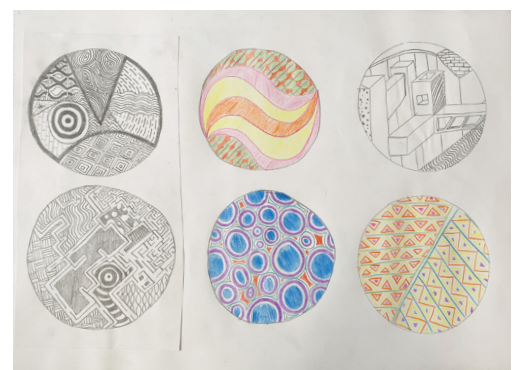
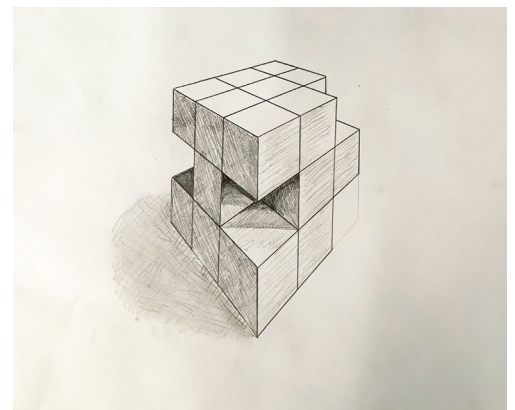
- Enjoy being creative and thinking visually
- Would like to develop their design skills and understand the language of VCD
- Want to try a new approach to designing and editing images
- Want to develop their own style of Visual Communication and Design

Assessment

- Folio
- Design generation
- Technical Drawing
-

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Visual Communications and Design



Examples of some student work

Humanities

Cafe and Events (Business)

This subject examines the planning and running of an event, through the use of a café environment. A priority area of learning will be the correct methods of preparing and serving espresso coffee including appropriate health and safety requirements, along with correct planning and budgeting for an event and designing publicity documentation.

Students will be required to

- Assist in some College events such as school production or lunchtime events
- Bring required equipment, including an apron for cooking practical tasks
- Work both independently and as part of a team
- Demonstrate both practical skills and theory

This elective will suit students who

- Wish to learn how to make and serve espresso coffee using commercial equipment
- Enjoy planning events and wish to learn how to budget and market an event
- Like to work as a team as well as individually

Assessment

- Correct preparation of espresso drinks
- Completed documentation such as budgets, menus and publicity material
- Participation in events
- Written responses that show understanding of the theory
- Demonstrated competence using selected equipment

Where could this subject lead?

- VET Hospitality (Kitchen Operations)





Humanities

Indigenous Studies

This subject examines Indigenous culture and history, looking at how Indigenous culture has adapted and changed over time. Students will explore key points in Indigenous history, significant individuals and the change they have inspired and why Indigenous culture is still so important today. Students will inquire, research and present findings in multiple formats, and will discuss issues that are still of significance, extending their critical thinking skills.

Students will be required to

- Participate in discussion circles
- Read, research and create a presentation
- Analyse and interpret sources
- Inquire and challenge their own and others' perspectives

This elective will suit students who

- Enjoy critical thinking & discussion
- Enjoy history
- Love challenging perspectives
- Enjoy researching

Assessment

- Will take place using a variety of assessment tools including participation, presentation and written tasks.

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE History Units 1-4

Humanities

Law and Business

This subject looks at the legal system and courts in Australia, how businesses operate and use marketing, and your role as a consumer.

You will learn about the law, the courts system and your rights and responsibilities within the law component. In the business area you will learn about how a business is set up and operates and markets its products. Financial literacy will help you to operate as a wise consumer, such as financing your next mobile phone or buying a car.

Students will be required to

- Research each of the main topic areas, using the internet, videos and texts
- Present material in various formats, including written, poster, role play or electronic presentation
- Work individually and as part of a team

This elective will suit students who

- Are interested in how a business is started and run
- Like taking an idea and 'selling' or marketing it to others
- Want to know about the law and their rights
- Would like to know how to make financial decisions like selecting a mobile phone plan or using credit wisely to make purchases

Assessment

- Visual presentations
- Research and written tasks
- Role play
- Audio Visual presentation

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Business Management Units 1-4
- VCE Legal Studies Units 1-4



Physical Education

Sports Science

Sports Science is an exciting opportunity for students who are interested in Health and Physical Education (both the theoretical and practical components) to further their knowledge in the science behind human movement. Students study how the human body works during exercise and how sport and physical activity promote both short and long term health. They investigate body systems and the efficient use of energy and food required for physical activity, as well as the psychology behind sport. They will use principles of training to develop an exercise program.

Sports Science is recommended for students wanting to study Physical Education Units 1-4.

Body Systems and Energy for Physical Activity

- Skeletal, Muscular, Respiratory and Cardiovascular Systems
- Energy Systems & Nutrition

Physical Fitness

- Fitness Components & Fitness Testing
- Training Methods and Principles

Sport Psychology

- Imagery
- Attentional focus
- Stress management
- Goal setting & Motivation

This elective will suit students who

- Are keen to learn about how the human body works during exercise.
- Are interested in physical activity and nutrition.
- Are willing to design, implement and evaluate a basic training program to improve performance.
- Are interested in the psychology behind being a successful athlete

Assessment

- Adaptations to exercise on the various body systems
- Design a training program
- Sport Psychology topic poster/presentation

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Physical Education Units 1-4

Science

Agricultural Science

This subject will examine how science is applied in Agriculture, with an emphasis on horticulture. Currently, the agricultural sector is growing annually by 2.8% and there are three jobs in agriculture for every university graduate. The demand for graduates in agriculture is strong. It's expected to remain so in the future (University of Queensland). According to Professor Pratley from CSU, 'Farming is no longer just concerned with the growing of crops but also with environmental management, the sustainability of farming soils and water resources'. The interest in paddock to plate has gained momentum and students will learn more about this process.

Students will be required to

- Identify soil type and its impact on plant growth
- Understand the correct techniques for companion planting to reduce use of pesticides
- Demonstrate correct propagation & grafting techniques for common garden plants
- Demonstrate correct garden management techniques in relation to improving soil quality, mulching, pruning, weeding and watering
- Value add by preserving excess produce
- Create products that can be sold and money reinvested in the school

This elective will suit students who

- Enjoy Science
- Would like to put their science knowledge into practice
- Learn valuable life skills such as vegetable and fruit growing and garden maintenance
- Learn how to value add, through preservation of food
- Are looking to have a job in agriculture

Assessment

- Project work
- Research assessments
- Participation

Where could this subject lead

- VCE Food Studies Units 1–4
- VCE Business Management Units 1–4
- VCE Geography Units 1-4



Science

Introduction to Psychology

This unit studies an individual's psychology and how that relates to people in our society. 'Psychology incorporates both the scientific study of human behaviour through biological, psychological and social perspectives and the application of this knowledge to personal and social circumstances in everyday life.' VCAA Psychology Study Design (Unit 1/2)

As a Middle School student at Marian College, who am I? How do I fit into the wider community? Not everyone is the same as me and this elective will teach me about some of the differences in my world. Drawing upon science and psychology, this elective studies personality and social development. Drawing upon Health, it examines a range of mental health issues applicable to teenagers. The elective also considers what happens when our attitudes and perceptions intersect with the broader community, including our capacity to be empathetic and tolerant of differences between people and our ability to work co-operatively to overcome challenges.

Students will be required to

- Become more effective communicators
- Collect data on people's thoughts and behaviour
- Analyse advertisements
- Design programs to reduce stress
- Work as an effective member of a group
- Investigate and make links with the community

This elective will suit students who

- Are interested in people
- Wonder why we behave the way we do
- Enjoy learning about the differences between people
- Are interested in learning about stress and coping strategies
- Wish to explore the link between emotions and behavior
- Who may wish to study VCE Psychology

Assessment

- Investigations and assignments
- Role plays
- Presentations

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Psychology
- VCE Health and Human Development



Science

STEM

STEM education is an approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking. This unit is a hands on subject that will focus on problem solving activities. Students will be presented with a series of challenges that they will then have to develop strategies to solve. Students will learn how Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics link together and encourage them to continue on with these subjects in their senior years at high school. This subject will be a hands on practical class, with an emphasis on fun.

Students will be required to

- Become more effective communicators
- Problem solve
- Gather data
- Think critically
- Work as an effective member of a group
- Investigate and research technology

This elective will suit students who

- Are interested in technology
- Are hands on learners
- Enjoy a challenge
- Like to problem solve
- Are critical thinkers
- Are interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Who may wish to study and work in any of the STEM areas

Assessment

- Investigations and assignments
- Role plays
- Presentations

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Sciences: Physics, Chemistry or Biology
- VCE Mathematics



Technology

Food Technology

In this unit students will take a comprehensive look at the cultural diversity that is found within food in Australia, and how the particular cuisines and ingredients from different nations has resulted in what we know as 'Modern Australian Cuisine'.

We explore what it is that makes Australian food distinctly Australian, beginning with Indigenous ingredients and the benefit of these culturally, nutritionally and economically. We then progress to the colonial days of the British, to the Chinese and European influences and to what we now call 'fusion' food. Students look at how each of these cultures has played an important role in the history of Australian food at the table. Students will prepare a variety of foods from these countries in practical classes.

Students will be required to

- Be suitably prepared for both practical and theoretical classes
- Be able to work co-operatively in teams
- Be able to generate design ideas
- Be able to plan and manage the production process when implementing their design ideas
- Keep a complete folio of work including evaluations of practical work

This elective will suit students who

- Wish to develop their food preparation and cooking skills
- Are interested in learning about how our history has affected our food style
- Wish to develop their creativity in food production

Assessment

- Practical tasks
- Research assignments
- Written Tasks
- Completion of design brief tasks

Where could this subject lead?

- VET Certificate II in Kitchen Operations



Technology

Robotics and Information Technology

This unit introduces students to the exciting world of robotics and coding. There is no doubt that there is a growing need for people to be involved in programming mechanical devices, in today's workforce. Robotics and coding helps address this demand while teaching science, engineering and math. It will also cover computer hardware and software applications, online safety, data security, and creating web pages.

Students will learn how these subjects link together and encourage them to continue on with these subjects in their senior years at high school. This subject will contain both fun practical activities while also learning some of the background to using technology effectively.

Students will be required to

- Become more effective communicators
- Problem solve
- Gather data
- Think critically
- Work as an effective member of a group
- Investigate and research technology

This elective will suit students who

- Are interested in technology
- Are hands on learners
- Enjoy a challenge
- Like to problem solve
- Are interested in learning about robotics and coding
- Who may wish to study and work in the area of robotics, coding and technology

Assessment

- Investigations and assignments
- Role plays
- Creating programs and websites
- Controlling robots
- Presentations

Where could this subject lead?

- VCE Mathematics



Technology

Wood and Metal

This subject has a design section as well as a large practical component. It involves designing and producing a project using both wood and metal. Students research different materials and designs which will enable them to produce a high-quality project. They will confidently use a range of both woodworking and metalworking hand tools and equipment to create their individually designed project.

Students will be required to

- Work within the safety guidelines of the Technology room
- Develop a good work ethic
- Work within the constraints of a design brief

This elective will suit students who

- Have a passion for designing and working in both mediums
- Learn specific skills in both the Wood and Metal trades

Assessment

- Design a product using the design brief process
- Safe handling of tools and equipment within the workshop
- Worksheets applicable to the tools, processes and equipment in the wood/metal workshop.

Where could this subject lead?

- Trades in the carpentry and joinery industry
- Employment in the Metal trades
- Design and draughting fields
- VCE Product Design and Technology Units 1-4



Arts

Textiles

Textile Technology provides students with a broad knowledge of the properties, performance and use of textiles in which fibres, yarns, fabrics and colouration are explored. Students will examine ethical and sustainable issues related to textile production, including the environmental impact of textile waste.

Students will investigate and make judgements about the appropriateness of design ideas, the selection of materials and tools and the quality of textile items. Textile projects will give students the opportunity to be creative, independent learners able to explore both functional and aesthetic aspects of textile items.

Students will complete two design briefs over the semester.

Students will be required to

- Be prepared for both practical and theoretical classes
- Be able to work independently and in teams
- Be able to generate design ideas
- Select and use appropriate technology to document, research and communicate their ideas
- Select appropriate techniques and use equipment safely in production work
- Keep a complete folio of work including evaluations of practical work

This elective will suit students who

- Enjoy designing, creating and experimenting with textile materials
- Enjoy hands on activities
- Wish to extend and further develop their textile skills

Assessment

- Practical tasks including experimentation
- Research assignments
- Written tasks
- Completion of two design briefs.

