



**Launceston
Grammar**

EST. 1846



Grade 8 Academic Programme



Grade 8 Subject Selection for 2021

Students in Grade 8 in 2021 will study a range of subjects, most of which form the core of their academic programme and as such are compulsory. The rest of their programme is made up of a number of elective subjects.

Core Subjects:

Eight subjects form the basis of the Grade 8 curriculum. They are English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Health and Physical Education, languages (French and Mandarin) or HEC, and Christian Studies. Students are organised into four core classes for these subjects with the exception of Mathematics (where students are grouped according to their relative mathematical strengths) and languages (students continue to be grouped according to the language that they study). HEC or Helpful Extra Classes is provided as an alternative to a foreign language for those students have been identified as needing additional learning support, particularly in literacy.

Elective Subjects:

Grade 8 students study **six** elective subjects during the year, with each subject running for a semester. Students may opt to study some subjects for the full year, however they are encouraged to have a balance between the arts and technology subjects and to take the opportunity to experience new areas of the curriculum.

An outline of each subject appears below to help students make their selection. Students will enter their subject preferences on-line following the instructions attached.

Please note: If a student is the holder of a **scholarship** in a particular area, such as Music, Drama or Dance, the corresponding elective should be selected for study in each semester.

Art (ART1, ART2)

The Grade 8 Art course is designed to extend the students' skills, knowledge and experience in the subject in a friendly and supportive environment. Students who tackle the subject for the full year will pursue innovative projects in areas including drawing, printmaking, painting and 3 dimensional constructions which form a valuable basis for the Grade 9/10 Art programmes.

Craft and Design (CRD1, CRD2)

The Craft and Design course introduces students to a range of craft areas including stained glass, jewellery making, mosaics and leather craft. A design-based subject, students will design and produce individual pieces of work within set parameters.

Creative Writing (CRW1, CRW2)

Students develop their writing skills by examining a number of genres and the stylistic components which form the basis of these. They will produce a collection of their own writing and develop proof reading and editing skills in a collaborative environment. Students will engage in discussions of texts and techniques as a source for their own ideas and style of writing.

Dance (DNC1, DNC2)

Through the Dance course students will be introduced to the principles and terminology of dance and dance making. They will learn to create dance works which have structure and which communicate a particular intention. Physical proficiency is expected to develop over the course as well as an awareness of safe dance practices. Journal work will reflect the students' planning and assessment of their own work and the work of others. Students will be expected to present group polished performance work in public. **Please note: previous dance experience is NOT a requirement for this course.**

Design Graphics (DGR1, DGR2)

Through the Design Graphics course, students gain an understanding of the importance of graphics as a means of communicating information in a range of professions. They will learn a range of 2 and 3-dimensional drawing projections and the standards associated with them. Emphasis will be placed on developing drawing skills both with standard drawing equipment and using Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) programs. Student's thinking and design skills will be developed through a range of challenges which require students to apply skills learnt. Using 3D printers and Laser technology, students will produce prototypes of their design ideas, enabling detailed testing and analysis to occur.

Drama (DRM1, DRM2)

Through this course students will acquire an increased understanding of the use of spoken language, drama and movement. They will be involved in working co-operatively and creatively with others to explore social issues, attitudes and opinions. Students will be expected to present polished performances in public. They will also be involved in problem-solving situations. The development of knowledge and skills in speaking, listening, script-writing and performing will be undertaken to an appropriately high standard. This will be achieved through the setting of short-term goals and reflecting on personal achievement throughout the course.

Electronics (ELT1, ELT2)

The Electronics course aims to give students an introduction into the fascinating world of electronic circuitry. Students will learn how to use a soldering iron and other tools to build electronic circuits. They will study the fundamentals of electricity as well as how components such as diodes, resistors and capacitors work and investigate how they can be used to sense and control the world around us. The course will culminate with students building their own electronic gadgets (for example, a mini synthesiser, a light sensor or a portable speaker). In addition we will have the opportunity to pull apart and explore some commercially made electronic equipment.

Extension (EXT1, EXT2)

Extension is designed to challenge able students in an area of personal interest. There will be opportunities for students to negotiate independent research and projects, as well as being involved in a range of competitions and activities. Students will need to be highly motivated and organised; approval from the Director of Teaching and Learning (Mrs Stocks) will be required for students to be accepted into the course. This decision will be made in consultation with the student's Grade 7 class teacher.

Food Studies (FST1, FST2)

The Food Studies course gives students an opportunity to develop cooking skills along with an understanding and awareness of food in our daily lives. In line with food sustainability guidelines, students are encouraged to make wise food choices when planning meals for themselves and their family. Students will prepare and present a variety of nutritious meals and snacks as well as some festive foods. Student who complete this subject will have a strong foundation for further studies in food and nutrition.

ICT Studies (ICT1, ICT2)

ICT Studies gives students the opportunity to learn and further develop skills relevant in today's world. ICT skills are taught to develop logical, creative and critical thinking skills. The areas of graphic manipulation, animation, programming and video production are taught. This is a project based subject and students have the opportunity to work individually or as a productive member of a team.

Introduction to Drones (DRN1, DRN2)

In this subject, students learn the basic theory of drones and drone operations. Students study the history of drone development, and the current and emerging trends of where drones are used in society. This subject also provides students with practical experience in operating and maintaining drones. This course includes written assessments, aural tasks (such as class presentations) and a practical examination at the end of the course, composed of a time trial competition.

Minecraft Programming (MNC1, MNC2)

This course for Grade 8 is aimed at beginning programming and developing problem solving skills in students, with a focus on creating Mods (modifications) in Minecraft. Students completing this course will be able to begin from their current level of expertise and build on that expertise to complete a series of Mod challenges.

Music (MSC1, MSC2)

The Music course enables students who have enjoyed music in grade 7 to further develop their skills. Students will focus on instrumental/ vocal development and composition work. There will be opportunity to explore and develop ideas by creating and arranging music; both live and using computer technology.

Philosophy (PHL1, PHL2)

Philosophy explores a range of big questions; some are foremost in our minds, while others may never have occurred to us. The Grade 8 course is designed to expose students to several distinct kinds of philosophical problems, selected to showcase different elements of philosophical questioning and reasoning. Semester 1 will focus on: Should we genetically engineer superior humans? When is violence ok? And, what is nature of happiness? Semester 2 will focus on: Should we give everything to the poor? How is consciousness possible? And, is lying ever ok? In both semesters, there will be scope for exploring alternative philosophical questions, should the class be curious.

Robotics (RBT1, RBT2)

This course for Grade 8 is aimed at beginning programming and developing problem solving skills in students, with a focus on robotics (EV3) and coding. Students completing this course will be able to begin from their current level of expertise, and build on that expertise to complete robotic challenges.

Technology (TCH1, TCH2)

In Technology students follow a problem-solving approach through the design and production of small projects in a range of materials including wood, metal and plastics. Students gain experience in using tools and equipment and learn relevant processes associated to these materials. Personal safety and workshop operation are important aspects also covered by the course.

Textiles and Design (TXD1, TXD2)

The Textiles and Design course provides opportunities for students to develop practical skills in designing and creating textiles items. Students learn to use sewing equipment and develop an understanding of sustainable textiles production as they work through design briefs. The use of fibres, yarns, fabrics and colouration techniques enable students to become creative independent learners in this area. Students who complete this unit will have a solid foundation for further studies in Textiles.

Mrs Michelle Stocks

Director of Teaching and Learning