



GEELONG
HIGH SCHOOL

Year 7 Curriculum Handbook 2025

Prepares us for Life.

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Our Vision: Geelong High School is a positive and creative learning community that embraces its history and prepares students for life.

We are committed to: Developing caring and respectful relationships. Empowering people to realise their potential through effort, responsibility and teamwork. Building healthy, resilient and productive global citizens.

Our values: RESPECT

Responsibility, Effort, Service, Positivity, Excellence, Creativity, Teamwork.

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Welcome to Geelong High School.

The Geelong High School motto, *Vitae Nos Parat*, means *We Are Preparing for Life*. Our motto and school vision and values provide the basis for our comprehensive school curriculum.



Davin Reid
Principal

At Geelong High School our curriculum programs and teaching are designed to prepare students for life and is delivered in a manner that supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to elected government; the rule of law; equal rights for all before the law; freedom of religion; freedom of speech and association, and the values of openness and tolerance. We aim to provide a learning program that gives all students the opportunity to flourish. In this, we value each individual in our community and provide a positive, challenging learning environment that is also caring and respectful.

Learning at Geelong High School is designed to develop the full potential of all students, as well as pride, grit and purpose. We challenge students to be their best, to grow socially and intellectually and to fully prepare them as productive global citizens in an ever-changing society. Geelong High sees challenge, choice and motivation as key drivers of all Learning Programs, where students feel good about what they learn and their achievements, personal growth and successes.

The Geelong High School Learning Program offers a balanced and comprehensive curriculum based on the Victorian Curriculum delivered through Geelong High School's teaching and learning instructional framework. It also addresses the Curriculum Goals and Priorities as described in the current School Strategic Plan:

- To ensure that all students are challenged in their learning and are supported by appropriate learning and teaching programs so that they are able to maximise their learning potential
- To improve learning outcomes across all year levels through quality teaching, reliable assessment and responsive curriculum

We trust that this Handbook provides you with a valuable resource of information that, when combined with conversations with parents/carers, classroom teachers and school leaders, will enable you to choose a learning pathway that is right for you.

We wish you all the best as you prepare for life.

The Victorian Curriculum F-10

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling.

The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship. It is a single, coherent and comprehensive set of content descriptions and associated achievement standards to enable teacher to plan, monitor, assess and report on the learning achievement of every student.

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 is organised into Learning Areas. At Geelong High School this means that students are taught by specialised subject teachers in English,

Maths, Science and Humanities, alongside a wide range of Art and Technology subjects, from Year 7 through to the Senior Years.

The design of the Victorian Curriculum:

- Learning Areas
- The Arts
- Dance
- Drama
- Media Arts
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Visual Communication Design
- English

- Health and Physical Education
- The Humanities
- Civics and Citizenship
- Economics and Business
- Geography
- History
- Languages: Japanese
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technologies
- Design and Technologies
- Digital Technologies (STEM)
- Food

The Year 7 Program

In Year 7 subjects build breadth and depth of academic experience and ensure development and extension in the core subjects as well. English, Humanities, Science, Health and Human Development, Japanese and Mathematics are taught by specialised teachers in lessons dedicated to that subject. Students also have a core literacy session each week where they visit our library or study key literacy skills such as Spelling, Grammar, Writing and Reading.

Through Home Group sessions once per week, students build relationships with their peers and develop their awareness of themselves as learners and members of the school community.

Year 7 students also have a significant teacher who will teach their Home Group class for two of the four core subjects. This increased contact time with the class helps ensure a smooth transition to Secondary School by providing opportunities for strong relationships and support if needed. This teacher will be in the same House as this class and is a key contact for families who wish to reach out to the school.

Arts and Technology Rotations

In Year 7 students experience all Art and Technology subjects on offer across the school in five-week rotations. In Year 8 students will be able to choose from these subjects as term long electives. In Year 7

they complete four per semester, with four lessons per week in each subject.

Visual Arts

- Art Marking and Exhibiting
- Visual Communication and Design

Performing Arts

- Dance
- Drama
- Music

Technology

- Foods
- Product Design – Wood
- STEM: Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

English	Maths	Science	Humanities	Health and PE	Languages: Japanese	Literacy	Home Group
4 Lessons	4 Lessons	3 Lessons	3 Lessons	3 Lessons	2 Lessons	1 Lesson	1 Lesson

Year 7 Core Subjects

Year 7 Mathematics

At the Year 7 level, the curriculum is designed to give students a solid foundation in a range of topics to prepare them for life, as well as the rest of their schooling. They are encouraged to find solutions to real life mathematical problems and to develop their knowledge in the following areas of study:

- Measurement
- Geometry
- Number skills – positive integers, fractions, decimals and percentages
- Statistics and Probability
- Algebra
- Coordinates and Cartesian Planes

A variety of learning activities are applied to classes making use of resources both in class and around the school. Students will also make use of technology to access resources such as MathSpace and Essential Assessment to enhance their learning. Students are assessed using a variety of measures, including tests, assignments, problem-solving activities and homework tasks.

Year 7 Science

In Year 7 Science, students are introduced to the principles of science inquiry. They learn that Science is about finding the answers to questions by testing them scientifically and the concept of a fair test. They begin with an introduction to the laboratory and learn about safety and scientific equipment. They complete studies of mixtures and separating techniques in Chemistry, the classification of life in Biology and how organisms interact with each other and their environment. They explore how the Sun and the Moon affect our planet Earth and are introduced to Physics by examining simple Machines and Forces.

Year 7 Humanities

In the Victorian Curriculum F–10, the Humanities includes Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Geography and History. The Humanities provide a framework for students to examine the complex processes that have shaped the modern world and to investigate responses to different challenges

including people's interconnections with the environment.

In Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business, students explore the relationship between participants in a market economy and the Australian political system. Students learn about and are encouraged to appreciate democratic principles and to contribute as active, informed and responsible citizens.

In History and Geography, students explore the processes that have shaped and which continue to shape different societies and cultures, to appreciate the common humanity shared across time and distance, and to evaluate the ways in which humans continue to face challenges such as the use of water and its importance to the world.

Year 7 HAPE – Health & Physical Education

This compulsory Year 7 course is allocated 3 periods each week and is studied for the school year. The course is divided into a single period of Health and two periods of Physical Education and Sport each week.

The Health course focuses on topics derived from the Victorian Curriculum such as personal identity, positive relationships and puberty.

Students will also involve themselves in two periods of practical activity each week. The major focus in Year 7 Physical Education is on the development of skills that are required to participate in a range of physical pursuits. Emphasis is also on participation and encouraging students to complete activities to the best of their ability. Students will participate in sports such as athletics, football, netball, soccer and volleyball, to name a few. They will also participate in a block of swimming usually in Term 1, and work on improving their own personal fitness.

Year 7 English

Through the reading, viewing and creation of a variety of texts, students will explore themes and issues such as culture, societal values, conflict and relationships. English is focused on the three interrelated strands of Reading and Viewing, Writing

and Speaking and Listening. The aim is to extend students' knowledge, understanding and skills in language, literature and literacy, established in primary school.

Common Assessment Tasks include:

- Analytical Interpretation
- Analysing Argument (advertising)
- Presenting Argument
- Crafting and Creating Texts

Students in Year 7 also spend one lesson a week working on foundational Literacy skills such as written complexity, grammar and vocabulary.

Year 7 Literacy

In Year 7 Literacy, a single dedicated Literacy session each week with their English Teacher, students work explicitly on core skills and knowledge including the etymology of words, spelling and vocabulary, writing skills and reading skills. They also work on foundational and extension grammar and conventions of language skills using the student workbook from Insight: Practise and Achieve. Students will also develop their comprehension, inference and reading to learn skills through modelled reading and engagement with the library.

Year 7 Japanese

In Year 7 Japanese, students discover the wonders of Japanese culture via a range of engaging activities including song, games, origami and anime movies. The Hiragana writing system is introduced whilst learning to speak about themselves and their families.

Students will participate in role plays, speeches and poster/booklet assignments for assessment. Students will also be expected to regularly revise for a minimum of fifteen minutes at home by completing homework tasks from the textbook and on the Education Perfect online program.

The F-10 Curriculum recognises the benefits of students studying a language in the middle years of schooling in terms of global awareness, their awareness of themselves as learners and the learning strategies they develop in the process. For these reasons it is compulsory for all students to study a language in Year 7 and Year 8.



Year 7 Art & Technology Rotations

Year 7 Arts

Art Making and Exhibiting

This course is designed to extend students understanding of 2D art. This course will let them explore creative avenues and teach them about different materials used when creating art, different techniques used to create art in line with the historical aspects of arts practice. They will create a glossary of terms specific to this course, seek and save inspirational imagery and learn how to plan and execute their ideas.

Dance

Year 7 dance falls under the Art/Tech rotation. Students will participate in 5 weeks of Dance studies. Students will learn about safe dance practice and research and explore a variety of dance styles including Ballet, Hip Hop, Jazz and Contemporary. The students will begin to learn choreography through experimenting with their own group works that they perform for their peers.

Drama

The goal of this introductory, five-week study of Drama is to understand how story and character can be created and communicated through mime, particularly through status. All Year 7 students learn about breathing, posture, improvising, and playing in a safe, accepting and non-judgemental environment. Students are expected to participate in all preparatory physical, thinking, discussion and writing activities as they devise, rehearse, give and receive feedback on, and present their mime performance.

Music

In Year 7 Music students make and respond to music independently and in groups. They explore music through listening, composing and performing. Students build their aural skills through the experience of listening to music from a range of cultures and performing specified works.

Students explore meaning in music and focus on the elements of music including rhythm, pitch, dynamics/expression, form/structure, timbre and texture. Students evaluate the expressive techniques used in music and experience these further through composition and performance.

VCD – Visual Communication and Design

This five-week unit is designed to introduce students to explore visual communication design. They will focus on the design elements and principles and create their own work by following the design process. A record of their work will be kept in a visual diary or in electronic files. Students will be introduced to terminology specifically associated with design.

Year 7 Technology

Foods

In Year 7 Foods, students develop their cooking skills to produce a range of basic recipes.

During the production process students learn to effectively and safely use a broad range of materials, ingredients, tools, equipment and techniques to produce food products. Students began to consider criteria for success for evaluating their products.

Product Design

This unit is designed for students who have had no experience with Product Design - Wood Technology. Students will begin to develop an understanding of the design process by constructing a simple model using timber products. They will be introduced to and develop “working drawings”, taking into account all safety aspects and develop a work-

plan to construct their product. Students will learn to use of hand tools and simple wood construction techniques. They will produce a practical project such as a Trinket box.

STEM – Science, Technology Engineering And Maths

In this five-week rotation, students will learn some basic computer skills using Google Docs to create spreadsheets and slideshows as well as some file management skills. They will learn about the ‘Engineering Process’ and how to design and refine a product. Students will learn some basic coding skills, using block-based coding to create simple programs as well as code robots and drones to perform a range of tasks. As part of this course, students will travel out to the Geelong Tech School to undertake a ‘Tech Taster’.



Year 7 Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)

Our Accelerated Learning Program for students starting Year 7 in 2025 is for students looking for extra academic challenge. Students in this class are able to accelerate into Year 10 subjects in Year 9 and join our wider and long established acceleration program in Year 10. Places for the Accelerated Learning Program are finalised whilst students are in Grade 6.

This is a great opportunity for students who are motivated and engaged learners that wish to be part of a program for like-minded students. Some key characteristics of our ALP program are:

- Acceleration in the core subjects of Maths, English, Science and Humanities from Year 7
- More higher order thinking
- Less repetition of content
- Faster curriculum progression
- Opportunities for acceleration into the Senior Years
- A wide range of extracurricular extension opportunities
- A focus on deep learning and academic enrichment

Acceleration means progressing through curriculum and learning faster, having more challenging opportunities and more emphasis on leadership and higher order thinking skills. Students in the ALP will accelerate in English, Science, Maths and Humanities from Year 7-9 together as

a class. From Year 10 they will choose a program that builds on their strengths and steps them into the senior years.

Student Eligibility

Accelerated Learning Programs are not for all students and whilst they can be rewarding, they can also be challenging as students will be expected to be self motivated and independent learners. Two key parts of the program will be increased workload and faster curriculum coverage in the early years of secondary school and students must be prepared to engage positively with this extra challenge.

The ALP program is suited to students who:

- Are engaged by academic challenge
- Enjoy problem solving
- Are mature and committed to their learning
- Are motivated to achieve excellence
- Enjoy working alongside like-minded peers

- Thrive in independent and collaborative learning

Application Process

The application process for the 2025 Year 7 GHS ALP class involves testing by EduTest in the following areas:

- Verbal Reasoning
- Numerical Reasoning
- Reading Comprehension
- Maths Skills
- Creative Writing

Parents must complete the application form available on the school website by Monday 22nd of July 2024, and take it to the front office. When your primary school gives you your High School preference sheet, ensure that you put Geelong High School as your number one preference. Students who are offered a place at Geelong High School will then be asked to complete a test online at the school on Saturday 10th August. An interview will also be conducted for students who are shortlisted.

Year at Secondary School	Program
1	Year 7 and 8
2	Year 8 and 9
3	Year 9 and 10 (Option to Accelerate into Year 10 Pre-VCE Subjects)
Course Counselling will ensure at the end of Year 9 that students continue to accelerate in appropriate strength areas	
4	Year 10 - Options include: Year 10 Accelerated English/Advanced Maths, Pre-VCE Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Electives, and VCE Units 1 & 2
5	Year 11 - Students complete Units 1 & 2 subject electives, and can complete Unit 3 & 4 subjects
6	Year 12 - Students complete their VCE Unit 3 & 4 subjects

Year 7 Key Information

Assessment in Year 7

Students will participate in a variety of assessment practices and tasks. Across years 7-10 Geelong High School operates continuous assessment through Compass. In Compass, families and students can see specific feedback on all Learning Tasks in all their subjects. These assessments are known as Common Assessment Tasks (CATs) across the school and all are in line with the Victorian F-10 Curriculum. Most assessments at Geelong High School are completed with a pen and paper in timed conditions, from which teachers and students derive short and long-term learning goals.

Throughout the semester, parents and carers will receive updates as to how their child is progressing through the Learning Tasks in Compass, Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews. Semester Reports will provide a more comprehensive overview of student learning and development at the end of each semester.

BYOD Program

The purpose of this program is to allow students to thrive as global citizens in the 21st Century. This program runs across years 7 to 12, and it requires students to bring a digital device which they feel best

suits their learning although it cannot be a Chromebook or Android device. Students are able to collaborate with their peers and access a range of learning resources using their device, including electronic textbooks, online resources, learning platforms such as Education Perfect, Essential Assessments and Reading Plus, and the Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals suite of learning tools. Google tools are regularly used by teachers to enhance learning through Google Classroom and Google Drive as well. It is a school requirement that all students have a charged device for every lesson. There are longer term loan devices available to families although numbers are limited.

Homework

All students at Geelong High School receive regular homework across all their subjects to help support learning and develop strong, independent learning and study skills. Extra support with homework is available each Wednesday after school in the Year 7 and 8 Homework Support Session. Teachers are on hand to support students in these sessions. Please see our website for more information on our school Homework Policy. All students must purchase a school diary to help them organise and prioritise their homework.

Booklists and Curriculum Contribution Charges

Subjects regularly provide essential resource collections to students in order to support their learning. To assist with keeping these resources up to date and available to students, there is a Curriculum Student Learning Bundle charge associated with each unit. Material cost, subscriptions, stationery items, planned activities and other approximate costs for each unit are outlined in the handbook and are correct at the time of publication but may vary.

Financial assistance and payment plans are available for families who should contact the front office if need be.

Activity Costs

Many units are enhanced through student participation in special activities including excursions, camps, guest speakers and special performances. Indicative costs of these planned activities are listed on the Resource/Materials Charge for each year level.

The detailed information regarding activities including parental approval and final costs will be distributed by the classroom teacher as appropriate throughout such units. The Camps Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) payment may assist with the costs related to activities identified.



Year 7 Curriculum Contributions

Curriculum Contributions: You are invited to make a contribution for the full amount of \$450.00 or a portion of this amount covering any of the following items.

<p>Curriculum Online Subscription Package: \$160 This package includes online subscriptions that are required by students for their learning in each core curriculum area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Perfect (Languages) • Essential Assessments • MathSpace • STILE (Science) • World Book Encyclopaedia, Click View, & The Age Newspaper <p>Curriculum Learning Items: \$150 This covers provision of all essential resources and materials necessary to help students meet their learning outcomes, including access to class sets of textbooks if needed by students.</p> <p>Art / Technology Rotation: \$100 This comprises of all essential resources and materials necessary to help students meet their learning outcomes in the Arts (Art, Dance, Drama, Music, and Visual Communication & Design) and for Technology (Food & Wood). The Arts and Technology will rotate each term.</p> <p>Positive Education Program: \$40 Curriculum learning items for the Positive Education Program delivered in Home Group. An additional amount may be charged if students are required to attend an incursion/excursion</p>	Totalling \$450
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Extra-Curricular Items and Activities: Including items Students Own and User Pay Items.

Student ID Card: The Student ID Card enables students to access the COMPASS Kiosk for late arrival/early departure passes, top-up printing credit and to check their timetable and includes a \$10.00 printing credit. (Replacement cost is \$10.00 for the ID Card only)	\$10
Student Study Planner: It is strongly encouraged that students utilize the planner to enhance their learning ability. If a replacement planner/diary is required there will be an extra charge of \$10.00	\$10
Combination Lock: New Lock Year 7	\$20
School Yearbook: The Geelong High School Annual Student Yearbook (Flotsam) is a written and photographic Record of the school year, produced for the students.	\$30

Other Contributions

Building Fund (Tax Deductible): Supports Building Improvements (Tax Deductible Contribution). We have suggested an amount \$100.00 or units of \$10.00 however, any contribution is welcome.	\$100
Community Support Fund: This fund is to assist Geelong High School families in crisis situations with food and essential items. We have suggested an amount of \$50.00 or units of \$5.00 however, any contribution is welcome.	\$50
HAPE Equipment Replacement Contribution: Supports the ongoing replacement of necessary sporting equipment provided to all students. Your contribution is welcome.	\$10



Discover GHS Extracurricular Activities

Get involved and challenge yourself beyond the classroom by getting involved in our wide range of extracurricular activities. Here are some of the opportunities on offer:

School Production

Be a part of our spectacular annual school production, which features over 70 students showcasing their talents in acting, singing, and dancing.

Music Lessons and Orchestra

Join our vibrant music department, where you can take lessons in various instruments and become part of our many ensembles, bands and the school orchestra.

Dance

Join in for some fun lunchtime dance classes, House dance competitions, and showcase your moves in the annual Dance Concert.

Sports

Both competitive and recreational Soccer, Hockey, Basketball, Netball, Athletics, Swimming, Surfing, Cross Country, AFL and Lawn Bowls form part of a wide array of sports activities to get involved in. Participate in teams, develop your skills,

and compete in inter-school and state competitions.

Model United Nations (UN)

Engage in global issues and develop your public speaking and negotiation skills in our Model UN Program. Represent different countries and debate real-world problems in a simulated UN environment.

Debating

Join our debating team to enhance your critical thinking and persuasive speaking abilities. Compete in local and regional debates and learn the art of argumentation.

Student Leadership

Join the SRC to have your voice heard, take on one of the many leadership positions or apply for the School of Student Leadership (Alpine Campus).

Girls Forum

Have your voice heard and make a difference in the Be Bold Be Heard Girls Forum. See Ms Garcia for details.

Other opportunities to connect and excel include

Adventure Camps, a wide range of incursions and excursions, weekly activities in the library, House Competitions that range from sports, to quizzes to fundraising like the Push Up Challenge, Hands on Learning at Year 9, a wide range of Maths Competitions, The SLAY Group, The Anime Club, The Indigenous Cultural Group, The Plain Speaking Award, our Personal Training Program, the Surf to Success Program, the Fit to Lead Program and many more.

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