



WALCOM NGARRWA

Walcom Ngarrrwa Secondary College Year 9 Handbook

2027



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Curriculum Statement

Vision for Learning

At Walcom Ngarrwa Secondary College we strive to deliver learning opportunities that enable students to thrive in the future, develop and demonstrate empathy and understanding for others, take pride in themselves and their achievements, and maintain a strong zest for learning that encourages curiosity, growth and lifelong success. Our classrooms support and encourage this by being respectful, calm and engaging learning environments.

Mission Statement

We're on a mission to provide the best education we can for our students by delivering high impact, evidence-based practices in learning and wellbeing, within a culture of high expectations for success. Healthy, happy and curious students and staff bring our vision and values to life.

Our College values are:

Belonging – Developing a sense of belonging is pivotal to the success of our students as they build connections and community. Belonging not only links our students with our college and to each other, but it also equips them with the skills to be successful community members and leaders of tomorrow. We are connected.

Curiosity – A curious mind knows no limits, and it is with this in mind that we support all students to develop the value of curiosity in their learning and throughout their experiences across the College. Curiosity and motivation to learn are powerful predictors of student success, in addition to being associated with happiness, health, longevity, and positive social relationships. We love to learn.

Achievement – We are committed to achieving our personal best in all that we do. Achievement means that students maintain a focus on their learning, improving their skills and knowledge and achieving their personal best. Achievement and feeling a sense of accomplishment support both student learning and wellbeing. We strive to be our best.

Curriculum Direction

The following understandings are central to the programs delivered at Walcom Ngarrwa Secondary College and they drive the development and delivery of the curriculum:

- Learner-centered classrooms focused on meeting individual learning needs
- Flexible multi-use working spaces with access to ICT facilities, to allow for cooperative and collaborative learning
- Each student from years 7 to 12 has access to a Laptop Device to assist their learning
- Strong emphasis on self-assessment, goal setting and focused teaching
- Belief in professional collaboration between teachers
- Real life skills

The College has a strong focus on developing students to:

- Become confident, responsible, independent and motivated learners
- Achieve personal success across the eight Key Learning Disciplines
- Develop thinking and leadership skills
- Learn to operate as part of a team

These practices are achieved through:

- Relationship building with students, teachers, and the local community.

General Information

Principal Team



Bradley Moyle
College Principal



Reardo Luka
Deputy Principal



Dwayne Stojcevski
Deputy Principal



Mieleah Reichelt
Assistant Principal



Adam Powell
Assistant Principal

Key College Contacts

College Transition Enquiries and Support

Please direct any questions to one of the following college contacts:

Reardo Luka	Senior Sub-School	Reardo.Luka@education.vic.gov.au
Dwayne Stojcevski	Junior Sub-School	Dwayne.Stojcevski@education.vic.gov.au
Mieleah Reichelt	Teaching and Learning	Mieleah.Reichelt@education.vic.gov.au
Adam Powell	Wellbeing and Inclusion	Adam.Powell@education.vic.gov.au

Curriculum Support

Please direct any Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting questions and/or subject-specific questions to:

Jessica McCartney	Leading Teacher – Director of Learning	Jessica.Mccartney@education.vic.gov.au
Ski Lisewski-Lee	Acting Leading Teacher – Head of Mathematics	Ski.Lisewski-Lee@education.vic.gov.au
Danielle Winnacott	Leading Teacher – Head of English	Danielle.Winnacott@education.vic.gov.au

Careers, Wellbeing and Disability Inclusion Support

Please direct any Careers, Wellbeing and/or Learning Support questions to:

Toula Papadimitropoulos	Careers Team Leader	Toula.Papadimitropoulos@education.vic.gov.au
Tenealle Hawke	Wellbeing Team Leader	Tenealle.Hawke@education.vic.gov.au
Reece Choucair	Disability Inclusion	Reece.Choucair@education.vic.gov.au

Enrolment Support

For all general administration or enrolment questions please get in contact with:

Sandi Todd	Office Manager	Sandi.Todd@education.vic.gov.au
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Please feel free to contact the college on 03 8000 6688 with questions.

Year 9 Victorian Curriculum Program

We welcome you to our Year 9 program. This handbook has been designed to provide both parents and students with all the necessary information about the programs and opportunities that Walcom Ngarrwa Secondary College has to offer.

For many students, Year 9 coincides with an important stage of adolescence when they continue to develop their understanding of who they are and how they fit into the world. At Walcom Ngarrwa, our Year 9 program provides students with learning opportunities to engage in a pathway of developing interests, life skills, leadership and employability skills, through both the core subjects and electives offered.

Our Belonging Program focuses on building empathy and resilience, maintaining a positive mindset and understanding themselves as learners. As the year progresses, students are encouraged to set goals and develop study and organisational habits which will support their personal and academic progress.

The Year 9 Curriculum shifts to deeper learning in both core and elective subjects. In all subjects students will experience a differentiated suite of learning activities to support their growth. There is also a significant focus on developing students learning mindsets of self-management, willingness to learn, positive attitude, communication, collaboration and resilience. The Victorian Curriculum F–10 sets out what every student should learn during their first 11 years of schooling. It balances the requirement for a comprehensive array of knowledge and skills to be taught and learnt with the desire for authentic teaching and learning programs that are responsive to the learning needs of students. The curriculum describes the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for lifelong learning, social development, and active and informed citizenship.

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 comprises a sequentially-developed continuum of learning. This continuum of learning is expressed through a coherent set of achievement standards, with comprehensive and clear content descriptions that enable teachers to plan, monitor, assess and report on the learning achievement of every student.

Victorian Curriculum F-10 Version 2.0, VCAA

Assessment and Reporting at Year 9

Students undertaking the Year 9 program at Walcom Ngarrwa Secondary College, will undertake a variety of assessments in the form of CATs (Common Assessment Tasks). CATs give students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding along the continuum of the Victorian Curriculum 2.0.

Students will also undertake a series of formative assessments in each of their subjects to enable students to continually check in with their learning and enable teachers to modify and/or extend their curriculum based on the needs of their students. Students will receive feedback on their development and performance in their subjects regularly across each semester and in a range of ways. Parents can monitor their students' engagement, achievement and progress via the Compass Portal.

Progress reports are published three times throughout each semester. Progress Reports focus on a student's ability to demonstrate effective Learning Mindsets on a regular basis. The Learning Mindsets that are reported on within progress reports are as follows:

- *Willingness to learn*
- *Positive Attitude*
- *Effective Communication*
- *Effective Collaboration*
- *Self-management*
- *Resilience*

Students are expected to maintain an average score of 3.0 or above across all Learning Mindsets and a minimum of 90% attendance. Student Semester Reports will provide information of student achievement on their CATs in the form of a percentage, as well as the students' performance against the Victorian Curriculum descriptors for their subject. In Year 10, students working at standard should be demonstrating between a level 9 and 10 in the Victorian Curriculum.

Belonging Group

Throughout the year all students will be allocated into a Belonging Group. This program aims to support students throughout their time at Walcom Ngarrwa Secondary College and provide students with the required knowledge and resources they can utilise as they leave senior school and enter their relevant pathway. This includes exploring a variety of resources and strategies to effectively develop social and emotional wellbeing, such as respectful relationships, interpersonal skills and strategies to deal with stress. Students will have a 10 minute 'Belonging' session each morning and one period during the week.

Furthermore, students will explore various career modules to assist them in discovering their future career pathway and equip them with all the necessary skills and resources. This includes individual meetings with the careers counsellor, applying for a tax file number, writing a resume, undertaking volunteer work and much more.

Designing your Year 9 Program

Walcom Ngarrwa Secondary College's Year 9 program is designed to allow students opportunity to pursue a range of different electives.

At Year 9, students undertake five compulsory year-long subjects and six semester-long electives. To ensure students can experience a range of electives students must choose two electives from:

- **Art**
- **Technology**
- **General**

Student Program Example

Semester 1	English	Mathematics/ Math Enrichment / Essential Math (Selected students only)	Humanities	Science	Health and Physical Education	General Elective / Languages / Academy	Technology Elective	Art Elective
Semester 2						General Elective / Languages / Academy	Technology Elective	Art Elective

2027 Year 9 Subjects

Compulsory Subjects



Elective Subjects



General Electives

Languages (Mandarin)

Subject overview

Develop your ability to communicate in one of the world's most widely spoken languages while exploring the rich traditions and culture of China. Students will build their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills through engaging activities and authentic cultural experiences. This year-long elective provides an excellent foundation for further language study and global career opportunities.

Units of Study

- Hobby
- Sports
- School life

What can this lead to?

Many Australian universities provide exchange program with universities in China, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and Hong Kong where mandarin is one of their official languages. The students would gain an international perspective and experience a different academic system by studying overseas for one or two semesters. In addition, Knowledge of Mandarin can set you apart in fields like international business, tech, translation, education, tourism, and government.

Why choose this subject?

If you are interested in multi-culture learning and would like to build up your understanding of global perspectives. Learning Chinese would also help you to build up the connections with Chinese business if you are interested in manufacturing industries as your future occupation.

Conflict in the Modern World

Subject overview

Explore significant conflicts that have shaped today's world and investigate the political, social and economic impacts they continue to have. Students will analyse historical events, evaluate different perspectives and develop critical thinking through research and discussion. This subject is ideal for students interested in history, politics and global affairs.

Units of Study

- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- Rwandan Genocide
- War on Terror

What can this lead to?

Students interested in history and global affairs can continue into senior History and Humanities studies. This subject also provides a foundation for careers in law, politics, journalism, international relations, defence and public service.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy discussing current events, analysing historical events and understanding different perspectives, this subject will challenge your thinking while developing your research and critical analysis skills.

Work Related Skills

Subject overview

Develop the practical skills employers value most. Students will build confidence in communication, teamwork, problem solving and workplace expectations while learning about resumes, interviews, workplace safety and career pathways. This elective provides valuable preparation for part-time employment, work experience and future vocational learning.

Units of Study

- Work and Industry
- Job Application Process

What can this lead to?

The practical skills developed in this subject prepare students for work experience, part-time employment, VET pathways and the Victorian Pathways Certificate or Vocational Major. These employability skills are valuable in every career.

Why choose this subject?

If you want to become more confident and workplace-ready, this subject will help you develop communication, teamwork, organisation and problem-solving skills that employers value.

Forensic Science

Subject overview

Step into the role of a forensic investigator and discover how science is used to solve crimes. Students will investigate crime scenes, analyse evidence and explore techniques including fingerprinting, DNA analysis, toxicology and forensic chemistry. This hands-on elective develops scientific thinking, problem solving and investigative skills while introducing careers in forensic science and law enforcement.

Units of Study

- Investigative Techniques
- Melbourne Crime Tour
- Forensic Case Research

What can this lead to?

This elective introduces students to pathways in Biology, Chemistry and Psychology, while providing insight into careers in forensic science, criminology, policing, pathology and laboratory sciences. The investigative skills developed are also valuable in many STEM careers.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy solving mysteries, conducting experiments and discovering how science is used to solve real crimes, this subject provides an exciting opportunity to combine practical investigations with scientific thinking.

Outdoor Education

Subject overview

Challenge yourself beyond the classroom while developing confidence, resilience and teamwork through outdoor experiences. Students will explore navigation, environmental sustainability, leadership, risk management and practical outdoor skills while participating in a range of adventure-based activities. This subject is ideal for students who enjoy being active and working collaboratively in natural environments.

Units of Study

- Recreation
- Use and Impact
- Environments

What can this lead to?

Outdoor Education provides pathways into Year 10 Outdoor Education, VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies and careers in environmental science, conservation, education, tourism, recreation, emergency services and adventure leadership.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy being active, challenging yourself and exploring the outdoors, this subject will help you build leadership, resilience and teamwork skills while developing a greater appreciation for the natural environment.

Literature

Subject overview

Have you ever wondered why some books stay with us long after we've finished reading them? In Literature, you will explore how authors use language, structure and literary techniques to create stories that continue to inspire, challenge, captivate and resonate across generations. You will encounter a range of texts including classic and contemporary fiction, short stories, poetry and plays, as you discuss deeper themes, different perspectives and the connections between texts. Along the way, you will develop your own skills as both a thoughtful reader and a confident creative and analytical writer.

Units of Study

- Iconic Characters
- The Power of Poetry
- Literary Adaptations

What can this lead to?

Literature provides an excellent pathway into VCE Literature and VCE English while developing skills that support careers in journalism, publishing, law, communications, education, marketing, public relations and media.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy reading, discussing ideas and exploring the deeper meaning behind stories, this subject will challenge you to think critically while developing your analytical and creative writing skills through a range of classic and contemporary texts.

Art Electives

Visual Art – 2D Painting and Drawing

Subject overview

Develop your creativity through drawing, painting and mixed media while exploring the work of artists throughout history. Students will experiment with a variety of materials and techniques to create original artworks, develop a personal portfolio and collaborate on group projects. This subject encourages creative thinking while building technical artistic skills.

Units of Study

- Drawing skills
- Artist research
- Portfolio
- Collaborative murals

What can this lead to?

This subject provides pathways into Year 10 Art, VCE Art Making and Exhibiting, Art Creative Practice and a wide variety of creative careers including illustration, graphic design, animation and fine arts.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy drawing, painting and expressing your creativity, this subject will allow you to experiment with different artistic techniques while developing your own unique artistic style.

Visual Art – 3D Ceramics

Subject overview

Bring your ideas to life through clay and ceramics. Students will design and create functional and decorative ceramic pieces while learning pottery wheel techniques, glazing and surface decoration. This practical elective develops creativity, craftsmanship and artistic confidence while introducing students to contemporary and historical ceramic practices.

Units of Study

- Back to basics
- Surface techniques
- Vessel suites
- Collaborative murals

What can this lead to?

Students can continue into advanced ceramics and VCE Art subjects before pursuing careers in ceramics, sculpture, industrial design, teaching or other creative industries.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy creating with your hands and bringing ideas to life, this subject provides opportunities to learn pottery wheel techniques, glazing and ceramic design while developing creativity and craftsmanship.

Virtual Visions

Subject overview

Combine art, creativity and technology through the exciting world of game design. Students will explore the artistic principles behind modern video games, including 3D environments, digital graphics and user experience design. This elective is perfect for creative students interested in digital art, animation or game development.

Units of Study

- Character card templates
- 3D Game Design & Modelling
- Design Portfolios

What can this lead to?

Students interested in digital creativity can continue into Applied Computing, Media or Design subjects and pursue careers in game development, software development, digital art, animation and user experience design.

Why choose this subject?

If you've ever wondered how video games are designed or enjoy combining creativity with technology, this subject provides the opportunity to explore digital art, graphics and game design while developing valuable creative and technical skills.

Media

Subject overview

Bring stories to life through filmmaking and digital media production. Students will use professional cameras, editing software and production techniques to create original films and digital content while analysing media from a variety of genres. This subject develops creativity, collaboration and communication skills that are highly transferable across many careers.

Units of Study

- Adapting with meaning
- Genre trailers
- Analysing film and media
- Agency and control

What can this lead to?

Media studies provide pathways into VCE Media and careers in filmmaking, television production, journalism, photography, marketing, digital content creation and social media management.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy creating videos, telling stories or producing digital content, this subject allows you to develop professional filming and editing skills while expressing your creativity through a range of media formats.

Music Performance

Subject overview

Bring stories to life through filmmaking and digital media production. Students will use professional cameras, editing software and production techniques to create original films and digital content while analysing media from a variety of genres. This subject develops creativity, collaboration and communication skills that are highly transferable across many careers.

Units of Study

- Group Performances
- Theory & Aural Written Tasks
- Solo Performances

What can this lead to?

Students can continue into Year 10 Music, VCE or VET Music Performance and Music Industry programs, leading to careers in performance, music production, teaching, recording or the wider entertainment industry.

Why choose this subject?

If you love performing, playing an instrument or working with other musicians, this subject will help you strengthen your performance skills while exploring Australian music and developing your confidence as a musician.

Technology Electives

Digital Technology – Code and Create

Subject overview

Learn to think like a programmer while creating digital solutions to real-world problems. Students will explore programming languages, cybersecurity, game and app development while developing computational thinking and problem-solving skills. This elective provides an excellent introduction to the rapidly growing digital technology industry.

Units of Study

- Modern Cyber Security
- Text Based Adventure
- Excel Data Design
- Program Development

What can this lead to?

Coding and programming skills provide pathways into VCE Applied Computing and careers in software development, cybersecurity, game development, artificial intelligence, app design and information technology.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy solving problems and want to learn how technology shapes the modern world, this subject will teach you how to create digital solutions while developing programming and computational thinking skills.

Digital Technology – Design for Tomorrow, Today

Subject overview

Explore the exciting world of computer-aided design (CAD) and emerging technologies. Students will investigate how designers and engineers create products, buildings and innovative solutions while developing their own 3D designs. This subject encourages creativity, critical thinking and technological innovation through authentic design challenges.

Units of Study

- 3D Design Production
- Real Life Modelling
- Folio of Learning

What can this lead to?

This subject provides excellent preparation for Product Design and Technologies and careers in architecture, engineering, industrial design, manufacturing and product development.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy designing, creating and thinking about how products are made, this subject allows you to explore computer-aided design while developing creativity and innovation through real-world design challenges.

Design Technology – Metal

Subject overview

Design and manufacture practical metal projects while learning industry-standard workshop skills. Students will safely use a variety of tools and machinery to create functional products, interpret technical drawings and develop problem-solving skills. This hands-on elective provides an excellent foundation for future studies and careers in engineering, manufacturing and the skilled trades.

Units of Study

- Safe Edges- Signs
- Manufacturing- Toolboxes
- Soldering- Dragster Cars

What can this lead to?

Students can continue into Year 10 Design Technology, VCE Product Design and Technologies, VET Engineering, Plumbing, Building and Construction, leading to careers across the skilled trades and engineering industries.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy building, designing and working with tools, this hands-on subject will develop your practical workshop skills while teaching you how to safely create quality metal projects using industry-standard equipment.

Design Technology – Wood

Subject overview

Develop practical woodworking skills by designing and creating timber products using a variety of tools, machinery and construction techniques. Students will build functional projects while learning about sustainable design, craftsmanship and workshop safety. This subject is ideal for students who enjoy making, building and solving practical design challenges.

Units of Study

- Sustainability
- Design Portfolios
- Timber Caddy

What can this lead to?

Woodwork provides pathways into Year 10 Design Technology, VCE Product Design and Technologies and VET Building and Construction, preparing students for careers in carpentry, cabinet making, furniture design and construction industries.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy creating practical projects and working with timber, this subject allows you to develop craftsmanship, design thinking and practical woodworking skills while building projects you can be proud of.

Design Technology- Food

Subject overview

Develop practical food preparation skills by planning and creating nutritious, affordable meals using a range of cooking techniques and ingredients. Students will learn how to budget, shop wisely, reduce food waste and make informed food choices while preparing a variety of delicious recipes. This subject is ideal for students who enjoy cooking, being creative and developing valuable life skills for independent living.

Units of Study

- Food Safely
- Cafe Cheap Eats
- 2 course, 2 people, \$15.

What can this lead to?

Food technology provides pathways into Year 10 Food Technology, VCE Food Studies and VET courses including Hospitality and Chef qualifications, preparing students for careers in kitchens, cafes and restaurants.

Why choose this subject?

If you want to learn new skills in the kitchen and to be creative cooking meals on a budget, then this subject is for you.

Digital Technology – Robotic Wizardry

Subject overview

Discover how engineering and programming combine to create intelligent robotic systems. Students will design, build and program VEX IQ robots to solve challenges while developing coding, engineering and problem-solving skills. This exciting hands-on elective introduces students to robotics, automation and future technologies.

Units of Study

- Text Based Code Challenges
- Develop engineering skills in building and designing robots
- Micro: Bits

What can this lead to?

Robotics provides a strong foundation for VCE Systems Engineering and Applied Computing while opening pathways into robotics, mechatronics, engineering, automation and advanced manufacturing.

Why choose this subject?

If you enjoy programming but also like building and creating things, this subject combines engineering, electronics and coding to solve real-world challenges through hands-on robotics projects.

Contact Us:

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Year 9 Course Planning Map

Use this sheet to help you plan and visualise your Year 9 program for 2027.

Name:	My Interests/Hobbies:
My Intended Career Pathway:	Subjects I have enjoyed:

Compulsory Subjects

English	Mathematics	General Science	Humanities	Health and Physical Education
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Elective Subjects

General Elective	General Elective	Arts Elective	Arts Elective	Tech Elective	Tech Elective