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A Message from the Principal

To Students and Parents/Caregivers

Choosing a school that “best” meets your child’s needs is one of the most important choices a parent can make. At Bowen State High School we take this decision very seriously and offer the best possible choices for students to gain success throughout their high school years.

We are committed to creating a “futures” focused curriculum that will prepare students as they enter into their chosen pathway of study in the 21st Century. Our school motto is “prepared for all things”. We aim to enhance relevant and real learning experiences that focus on each individual child and their ultimate success as a student and community member.

Within this booklet you will find a brief overview of subjects for your perusal.

We invite you and your child to be a part of the Bowen High experience.

Sincerely

Mrs Terri Byrne
Principal
An Introduction to Junior Secondary – Middle Schooling Curriculum

From 2013, the Governments “Flying start programme” saw the introduction of Junior Secondary in all state schools for Years 8 and 9. In 2015 Year 7 will join this cohort of students. Across both Primary school and High school the school Year Levels 6 through to 9, are known as the Middle Phase of Learning. Junior Secondary recognises this phase of students’ lives as a distinct period of academic growth and change and addresses each through the 6 Guiding Principles:

- Distinct Identity
- Quality Teaching
- Student wellbeing
- Parent and community involvement
- Leadership and
- Local decision making.

Junior Secondary at Bowen State High School is designed to cater for all students’ needs while embedding the principles in all facets of school life. Teaching styles are aligned with curriculum and assessment to meet these needs especially in managing transition periods from primary to secondary schooling and preparing students again for transition from Junior to Senior years of schooling. Senior schooling includes Years 10, 11 and 12 with Year 10 seen as a preparatory year for students beginning Authority and Authority-Registered subjects in Year 11.

This subject handbook provides insight into the course outline, learning and assessment for those subjects in Junior Secondary at Bowen State High School.

Sincerely

Ms Caroline McCarty
Deputy Principal
Choosing your subjects

There are a number of guidelines to follow when choosing your subjects. Choose subjects which:

- will support your career options
- give you skill, knowledge and attitudes useful to you in life
- you can do well in and
- you enjoy

This may sound easy, but it should involve a lot of thought, consideration and discussion. You need to research different subjects and find out about them and what they involve.

The wrong reason to choose a subject
Many students choose subjects for the wrong reasons and, as a result, are not happy at school.

Do not take (or avoid) a subject because:

- one other person says it is a good or bad subject
- your friends are, or, are not taking it
- you think it is easy or difficult
- you like or dislike the teacher

Don't be afraid to ask
If you need more help in making a decision then seek it — otherwise you may regret it later. Talk to your parents, Guidance Officer, Heads of Department, Deputy Principals or Principal. Make use of the school subject selection (curriculum) booklet.

Core subjects
In Year 8, all students study a foundation course which involves studying subjects in the key learning areas. These Key Learning Areas [KLAs] are:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE)
- Health and Physical Education (HPE)
- Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

Students also undertake a rotation of subjects through the learning areas of:

- Arts
- Technology

In Year 9, all students study the core areas of English, Maths, Science, HPE and SOSE. In addition, Year 9 students study electives they choose. These Electives are offered through the Key Learning Areas [KLAs] of:

- Health and Physical Education
- Technology
- the Arts

Every student in Years 8 and 9 MUST undertake a minimum 2 hours of physical activity a week. This is offered through HPE classes, lunchtime sports and associated sporting programs.
Please Note

- All subjects are offered based on the availability of staff, resources and student interest.

- It may not be possible to offer all elective subjects indicated here in each year.

- We try at all times to meet the needs of each and every student. However, it may not be possible to “timetable” the combination of subjects selected by every student. If this is the case, students may be required to swap the order in which subjects are studied or, in some instances, choose from the other subjects available on the same line of the timetable.

- Unless there are exceptional circumstances, once a student commences studying a particular subject, he/she will not be permitted to change to another subject. Within these exceptional circumstances, changes will only take place during the first two weeks of each semester.
ENGLISH

Overview

English is the study of communication in its written, oral and multi-media forms. The English course at Bowen State High School in Years 8, 9 and 10 aims to develop students’ abilities to compose and comprehend written and spoken English in an effective and purposeful manner. Students will be given the opportunity to read, write, speak, listen to and view a variety of texts. Regular homework such as spelling, vocabulary building exercises, comprehension exercises, reading of a text and answering related questions as well as assessment task work, will be set by teachers to assist in developing students’ abilities in English.

Assessment

Students will complete at least four pieces of assessment per semester. The tasks will be either written, or oral. Assessment tasks will take place under varying conditions such as: assignments with two or more weeks’ notification of the task, an unseen question to be answered in essay form under exam conditions, prior notice of a task but completed in supervised conditions.

Subject Levy: Nil

STUDIES OF SOCIETY AND ENVIRONMENT

Overview

Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE) allows students to use their knowledge about the complex interactions between people, and between people and their environments, to investigate social, political, economic, environmental and cultural ideas and issues. Students will be given the opportunity to clarify their personal values and acknowledge the values of other people through a national and global context. Students will also be given opportunities to develop their capacity for effective community participation as well as providing meaningful responses to environmental, cultural and social issues. Depth studies from the Australian Curriculum for History will be studied as part of this course.

Assessment

Students will complete three pieces of assessment per semester. A variety of assessment techniques will be used to gather evidence about a student’s achievement level. Such assessment techniques could include: mapping exercises; response to stimulus; exams; research assignments; non-written presentations; reports; editorials, and folio work.

Subject Levy: Nil
**MATHEMATICS**

**Overview**

The Australian Mathematics Curriculum ensures mathematical skills are developed through increasing exposure of students to four Proficiency Strands: Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving, and Reasoning.

Through a range of inquiry based experiences and active student participation in real world problem solving, this curriculum will enable students to become self-motivated and confident mathematical learners.

**Subject Content**

The curriculum also provides students with essential mathematical knowledge in three major Content Strands:

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability.

**Assessment**

Students will be assessed continually throughout their work units via a range of techniques including mathematical reports, supervised tests and extended modelling, and problem solving tasks based on real world concepts.

**Subject Levy:** Nil

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**SCIENCE**

**Overview**

Science is compulsory for all students in Years 8 to 10. The content shown below will be addressed progressively across all year levels, with year 10 being treated as a transition into the senior science subjects.

Studying Science helps students understand the nature of the world around them and their place in that world. It promotes the development of personal attributes such as perseverance, co-operation, collaboration and creativity. Science engages students in distinctive ways of thinking about, and explaining, events and phenomena.

Through participation in authentic, ‘real world’ science experiences, students develop the essential knowledge, skills, processes, and attitudes that help them become active and informed citizens, capable of making personal decisions.
Assessment

Students will usually complete three to five pieces of assessment per semester. Assessment tasks will include scientific investigations and reports, research assignments, and exams.

Subject Levy: Nil

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

Overview

This subject combines Agricultural Science technologies with sustainable environmental practices. Students will be encouraged to participate in a very hands-on approach to applying the knowledge and understanding that they attain, to a variety of practical activities.

Class activities will develop skills and understanding in such areas as: vegetables; cropping; irrigation; animal husbandry; fencing; hydroponics; the raising of barramundi; and the propagation of plant material. Also, students will see first hand the many new technologies used in the local horticultural industry. Learning will take place in many settings including: field excursions, trials, practical sessions, multi media sessions, and the classroom.

Assessment

Students will complete three pieces of assessment per semester.

Year 8: Students will undertake a one term course to investigate basic principles of agriculture.

Subject Levy: $5

Year 9: Elective subject for entire year (2 lessons per week)

Subject Levy: $28

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Overview

The Key Learning Area of Health and Physical Education allows students the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes. Both indoor and outdoor settings are used to lead students towards a variety of learning outcomes. Approximately 40% of the course is spent in classroom settings and 60% at other venues.

In Year 8, students will cover a range of topics regarding Relationships and Anatomy which are aimed at creating healthy, safe citizens. Activities covered will be water safety, cricket, softball, touch, soccer, netball, basketball and hockey. Also included in the program is Rock & Water, an active approach to combat bullying in schools.
In Years 9 students will study a range of topics linked to making safe choices regarding their bodies, First Aid, drug use, etc. Other topics include Body Systems, Energy Systems and Coaching Principles. Activities will include gridiron, oz tag, touch, volleyball, athletics, tennis, softball, AFL, and cricket.

Years 9 students can alternatively choose Outdoor Education (OED) instead of HPE. As the name suggests, this unit has students immerse themselves in outdoor activities such as bush cooking, sailing, rock climbing, camping, abseiling, canoeing and pioneering. This heavily practical area comes with a requirement that students bring equipment to participate in all lessons.

Assessment

Students will complete three pieces of assessment per semester. Evaluation of student performance is made through a combination of assessment pieces including physical demonstrations and written and oral tasks. Participation in lessons is essential and is also part of the student's overall mark.

Subject Levies:

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<tr>
<td>Year 8 HPE</td>
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<td>Year 9 Outdoor Ed.</td>
<td>$80 for travel to venues and equipment replacement.</td>
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LOTE

(Languages other than ENGLISH)

Overview

At Bowen State High School the Language Other Than English subject is Chinese. The Chinese course aims to develop the learning of the language in its written and spoken forms. Chinese culture also forms part of the course. Regular homework in the form of learning vocabulary and writing simple statements as well as pronunciation practice will be set by the teacher. The learning of Chinese takes place through teacher led speaking, reading, listening and viewing exercises as well as explanations, games and research. The study of a foreign language is compulsory in Year 8 and lasts for the whole year. There are only two reasons why a student can be exempted from the study of Chinese. These reasons are: the student’s Year 7 NAPLAN results indicated the student had lower than the national benchmarks in Literacy; the student speaks English as his/her second language (e.g. refugees, some Aboriginal and Islander students; or non-English speaking migrants to Australia). If the student fits any of these categories, parents can request exemption from Chinese classes and the student will attend literacy support classes instead.

Assessment

Students will complete no more than four assessment tasks per semester. These tasks will take the form of written assignments, aural comprehension tests, short translation tests, and oral presentations. The tasks will take place under varying conditions such as: several weeks’ notice to research and write, unseen passages to translate in exam conditions, and teacher-led aural comprehension tests.

Subject Levy: Nil
The Technology KLA encompasses three main curriculum areas:
- Business
- Information and Communication Technology
- Home Economics
- Manual Arts

**BUSINESS**

**Year 8 Overview**

The study of business will be combined with SOSE. The business component will cover topics on personal finance, consumerism and the law.

**Assessment**

Students will complete an assignment and an exam.

**Subject Levy:** Nil

**Year 9 Overview**

Year 9 Business: Finance Studies is designed to provide students with knowledge and skills regarding personal money management and basic bookkeeping. Topics covered include saving and investment, credit cards and loans, mobile phone usage, budgeting and, marketing and consumer studies.

**Assessment**

Students will complete two pieces of assessment per semester (assignments and exams).

**Subject Levy:** Nil

**Information and Communications Technology**

**Year 9 Overview**

Students do a combination of theory and “hands on” computer work.

Semester one focuses on skills required for other subject areas including advanced MS Word (tables, borders, drawing toolbar) and basic MS Excel (Basic formula and graphing). Theory includes file management, network usage, and computer hardware/software.

Semester two teaches students how to create effective multimedia PowerPoint presentations including animation. Theory will include the principles of design, online safety and internet scams/fraud.
In this subject, students will develop the ability to be able to work on tasks independently.
Assessment

Students will complete assignments and exams.

Subject Levy: Nil

HOME ECONOMICS

Year 8 Home Economics Overview

Home Economics provides students with the opportunities to develop values, knowledge and skills to assume an active role in a changing community.

Home Economics will focus on two areas of study which are textiles and design, and food and nutrition. Students will create and design unique textile articles that use the design process of active investigation and decision making. The food and nutrition unit engages students in basic nutrition and cookery techniques useful for the wellbeing of today’s family. The two units are studied for one semester each.

The Food Subject provides students with the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills to make sensible food choices. The Textile Subject provides students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills to make sensible choices in situations which are based around textiles/fabrics.

In many cases these subjects will provide students with the basis for life-long skills and knowledge.

Assessment

Students will complete three pieces of assessment per semester: written test, assignment, practical cooking and sewing activities.

Subject Levy: $25

Year 9 Home Economic Overview

Students may choose either Home Economics or Food Studies.

Food Studies is broken into 4 units which cover nutrition, fast food, industry skills, and celebrations. These areas promote skills and techniques in understanding cooking process; the social importance of food in everyday life as well as special occasions, current trends and advances in the food industry, and dietary requirements.

Assessment

Students will complete three pieces of assessment per semester including an exam, assignment and practical activity.

Subject Levy: $80
Manual Arts is divided into three strands of the Industrial Design Technology syllabus: Graphics; SHA (woodwork); and SHB (metalwork).

Overview

- Students considering employment in a trade, or who have enjoyed working with their hands, should consider studying the Manual Arts strand[s], which most closely aligns with their interests.
- Wherever possible, technology will be embedded in the curriculum in learning experiences that can cater for a broad range of student abilities and cognitive development.
- All three strands rely heavily on practical and theoretical involvement, and students need to be prepared for this.
- Levies need to be paid for students to gain access to consumable components of practical activities.
- No prerequisites are required for any Junior Manual Arts classes.

Assessment

Students will complete three pieces of assessment per semester. A variety of assessment techniques will be used to gather information on student performance and progress in all three strands. These include unit tests, assignments, projects, portfolios, homework and practical activities.

Subject Levies

**Year 8 MAN:** Industrial Design Technology General: All three strands covered, including the foundations for Graphics, Woodwork and Metalwork.

**Subject Levy:** $15

**Year 9 SHB:** The Metalwork strand of Industrial Design Technology.

**Subject Levy:** Year 9 - $45  Year 10 - $50

**Years 9 SHA:** The Woodwork strand of Industrial Design Technology.

**Subject Levy:** Year 9 - $70  Year 10 - $75

**Years 9 Graphics:** A good range of learning activities to develop technical drawing knowledge and skills, and to develop and promote students’ creative design ability.

**Subject Levy:** Year 9 - $10
The Arts KLA encompasses three main curriculum areas:

- Drama
- Music
- Visual Arts

**DRAMA**

**Year 8 Overview**

Students will learn elementary acting techniques through the style of Melodrama. Students will create a short Melodrama performance to enhance their confidence and group work skills.

**Assessment**

Students will complete two pieces of assessment per term which may include an exam, monologue and performance.

**Subject Levy:** $5

**Year 9 Overview**

Students will explore a number of comedy techniques and genres. They will have the opportunity to learn basic comedy acting techniques, such as comic timing and interacting with an audience. Students will also explore many aspects of children's theatre, including storytelling, puppetry and educational drama.

**Assessment**

Students will complete three pieces of assessment per semester - practical performance, exam, set and costume design.

**Subject Levy:** $10

**MUSIC**

**Year 8 Overview**

This subject is designed for students who would like to learn the basic skills involved in playing the piano, guitar and drums. Students will be able to develop their knowledge of general music theory and the elements of music.

**Assessment**

Students will complete two pieces of assessment per term which may include – a practical performance of chosen instrument (guitar or piano), and a written or aural test.
Subject Levy: $5
Year 9 Overview

Students will have the opportunity to gain knowledge and appreciation of jazz and its many styles as well as looking at musicals from old to new. Students will direct, rehearse and plan the production themselves with guidance from their teacher.

Assessment

Students will complete three pieces of assessment per semester - practical performances, written test and a composition.

Subject Levy: Nil

VISUAL ARTS

Year 8 Overview

Students will study a foundation unit incorporating many techniques and media. They will study 2D art techniques such as relief printing, drawing and painting as well as the 3D art technique of ceramics.

Assessment

Students will complete two pieces of assessment per term which may include - practical work, a visual diary, or a research assignment.

Subject Levy: $10

Year 9 Overview

This subject will provide students with the opportunity to create 2D and 3D art works with a focus on techniques such as drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, and craft-based pieces. The 2D units of work will focus on the unique landscape of Australia and the techniques of drawing, painting and printmaking. The 3D units of work will have a cultural and historical flavour and students will study the techniques of mask making and ceramics.

Assessment

Students will complete practical work, a visual diary, and a research assignment.

Subject Levy: $35
Overview

English is the study of communication in its written, oral and multi-media forms. We aim to develop students’ abilities to compose and comprehend written and spoken English in an effective and purposeful manner. Students will be given the opportunity to read, write, speak, listen to and view a variety of texts. The content of the course is adjusted according to the individual student’s prior knowledge and level of need. Students will be given the opportunity to learn at their own pace and within their own interest base.

Subject Content

Will reflect the Australian Curriculum and may include:

- Poetry, multi-media and grammar study
- Report writing
- Reading, comprehension, vocabulary building and spelling
- Speaking

Assessment

Assessment will be conducted through a variety of modes including practical applications, checklists, anecdotal and tests.

Overview

Maths Foundation draws from the Australian Curriculum however is modified to suit individual students' abilities. The course aims to develop the knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts encountered in every-situations. This subject provides students with the skills necessary to better understand and make informed decisions affecting an individual's independence.
Subject Content

Will reflect the Australian Curriculum and may include the following:

- Number Correspondence
- Money Management
- Algorithms
- Time and Measurement Concepts
- Volume and Area Concepts
- Maps, Graphs and Timetables
- Geometry Concepts

Assessment

- Assessment will be conducted through a variety of modes including practical applications, checklists, anecdotal and tests.

Subject Levy: Nil

SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Overview

Science Foundation draws from the Australian Curriculum, however is modified to suit individual student abilities. Science Foundation aims to develop the knowledge and understanding of scientific concepts encountered in every-day situations. Students will be exposed to a variety of scientific principles whilst making tangible links to real world situations.

Subject Content

Will reflect the Australian Curriculum and may include the following:

- Scientific understanding (Energy, geology)
- Science inquiry skills
- Science as a human endeavour (science in the everyday world)

Assessment

- Assessment will be conducted through a variety of modes including practical applications, checklists, science reports, anecdotal and tests.
Bowen State High School offers an optional instrumental subject. Information is provided to students through the Instrumental Music teacher at the beginning of each school year.

Subject Levy: $25