



TAS

Stage 5

Year 9/10

Academic Program

2027



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A man with short brown hair, smiling, wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a dark blue tie with a small white pattern. He is standing in front of a brick wall, with a dark, textured pillar to his left. The background is a warm, out-of-focus brick wall.

Our Vision

Excellence inspired by Character, built through challenge. Developing graduates who are capable, kind and confident.

Academic effort and achievement are important outcomes of character, reflecting the courage to embrace challenge, the commitment to give one's best, and the resilience to persevere in the pursuit of excellence.



Dynamic subject options to invigorate curriculum

The purpose behind offering elective subjects in Years 9 and 10 is to provide students with the opportunity to explore their interests, discover new passions, and develop the skills that will prepare them for future academic pathways. For many parents and students, this decision-making process can feel like the first step toward a defined academic future. In reality, while Languages remain unique in linking directly to Year 11 and 12 Continuers courses, most electives at this stage are designed not as prerequisites but as opportunities to spark curiosity, build confidence, and deepen engagement with learning.

At TAS, electives in Years 9 and 10 complement the mandatory core curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science, HSIE, and PDHPE. Informed by our updated Academic Plan, we have restructured our electives to strike a balance between breadth and depth, ensuring students are both challenged and supported. Students will select from two year-long electives that provide sustained study and skill development, alongside one semester-long elective that enables them to broaden their experiences. This structure ensures that every student has the opportunity to pursue subjects of genuine interest, while also sampling new areas of learning before making their senior school choices.

Our approach reflects TAS's commitment to offering a curriculum that is expansive, diverse, and stimulating. By giving students the chance to engage in areas such as design, the sciences, the arts, languages, and the humanities, we enable them to make more informed decisions about their future studies and avoid the frustration of being locked into courses that may not inspire them. Just as importantly, it allows them to explore the difference between disciplines such as Business Studies and Economics, Chemistry and Biology, or the creative and design-based subjects, with greater clarity.

We are proud of our capacity to provide such a broad and innovative elective program, and confident that it will continue to drive student interest, engagement, and achievement. Feedback from students and families affirms the value of this choice, and we look forward to seeing the impact of these changes as our young people prepare for senior study and life beyond school.

Mr Ray Pearson | Principal



It is our aim to provide
a broad and engaging
program for every
student at TAS.



From the Director of Teaching and Learning

Life as a senior school student at The Armidale School is full of opportunities and expectations. In Years 9 and 10, students are encouraged to take greater responsibility for their learning, decision-making, and personal growth. This stage of schooling is about consolidating core academic skills, developing independence, and beginning to shape the pathways that will carry them into the final years of secondary education.

A significant part of this journey is the choice of elective subjects. Our elective structure provides students with two year-long electives and one semester-long elective. This balance allows students to pursue sustained study in areas of genuine passion, while also experiencing the breadth of TAS's rich and diverse curriculum. This approach is designed to help students build confidence, develop agency, and make informed choices about their future studies, particularly as they move towards the Higher School Certificate.

The academic program in Years 9 and 10 is complemented by TAS's strong co-curricular and pastoral care offerings. Students are expected to contribute positively to sport, outdoor education, and the creative and performing arts, while also learning to balance these commitments with their academic responsibilities. Our aim is to provide a holistic education that develops not only knowledge and skills, but also character, leadership, and resilience.

Students are supported by passionate and highly qualified staff who bring energy and expertise to their teaching. For those with diverse learning needs, targeted programs and practices are in place to ensure every student is supported and challenged appropriately. We are committed to meeting each student where they are, and to fostering growth, creativity, and achievement in every learner.

This handbook has been prepared to help students and their families navigate the process of selecting electives for Years 9 and 10. We hope it provides clear guidance as students consider their interests, strengths, and aspirations. Our ultimate goal is to provide a broad, engaging, and future-focused program that opens avenues of success for every student at TAS.

Luke Polson | Director of Teaching and Learning

NSW Record of School Achievement (RoSA)

In 2011, the NSW Minister of Education announced that School Certificates tests would not continue beyond that year. From 2012, eligible students who leave school before receiving their Higher School Certificate will receive the NSW Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

The RoSA is a cumulative credential in that it allows students to accumulate their academic results until they leave school. The RoSA records completed Stage 5 and Year 11 Stage 6 courses and grades, and participation in any uncompleted Year 11 Stage 6 courses. It is of specific use to students leaving school prior to the HSC. Students from TAS will have grades for all core subjects in Stage 5 listed in their Record of School Achievement with grades, with some electives, depending on the course, also listed on the RoSA. Both elective and core courses will be reported on through both Interim and Semesterly reports.

Any time a student or school wants an up-to-date snapshot of a student's academic progress, a transcript called a Student eRecord can be accessed via 'Students Online' on the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) website. Students who go on to complete the HSC will see all their Stage 6 (Year 11 and 12) courses and results on their HSC.

For more information please visit: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/rosa/parents-employers.html>

Assessment and Reporting

In each subject, a series of formal and informal assessment tasks will be conducted to monitor and assess student achievement. These tasks will measure the extent to which each student has met the aims and objectives of the course. Based on these tasks, teachers will compare the achievement of their students with the published Course Performance Descriptors, rather than their achievement relative to each other. Reports are written and published at the end of each semester.

The School publishes a School Assessment Policy for Stage 5 that is available for download each year from the TAS website. This is an important document to read as it outlines what to do in the event of illness or misadventure and, in particular, the documentation required to support any appeal for a missed assessment task. Each semester the School also publishes an Assessment Calendar for each year group which gives families an indication of when assessments are due.



Stage 5 Academic Program

Core Subjects

All students at TAS are required to study English, Mathematics, Science, HSIE (Australian History & Australian Geography) and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) in Years 9 and 10. Students will also participate in Christian Development and Careers (Year 10 only) classes. At TAS, we run one extension class per core subject with the remaining classes being streamed in some subjects, such as Maths, and unstreamed in others. As enrolments increase, the combination of extension classes and mixed ability classes may change. Decisions regarding placement of a student in the Extension class is made by faculties and reviewed each semester.

Elective Courses

Students in Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) will study a combination of two year-long electives and one semester-long elective. This structure has been designed to provide both depth of study and opportunities for breadth, allowing students to pursue areas of genuine interest while also exploring new subjects.

Each year, a wide range of elective courses will be offered, reflecting student demand, staff expertise, and a commitment to ensuring a balanced program across academic, creative, technological, and practical domains. The final offerings for the year will be determined by the Director of Teaching and Learning in consultation with subject Heads of Department, following an initial survey of student preferences..

Other arrangements

The School also recognises that some students have particular needs not satisfied by the standard curriculum pattern such as, intensive learning support, extension and enrichment programs, accelerating students, students with languages other than English, or those with particular interests. Individual programs of study may be an appropriate response to these needs and an appointment with the Director of Teaching and Learning can be made by contacting Senior School Administration (contact details listed at the end of this document).

The Subject Selection Process

The selection of subjects is an important decision each year. As students move towards their senior studies, there is a decrease in the number of compulsory subjects and an increase in the diversity and range of subjects for selection.

It is essential that students make their decisions about subject choices after discussions with their family, teachers, Advisor and other senior students.

Timeline

1. Stage 5 Handbook distributed - Week 8, Term 3
2. Edval forms open for students - Week 8, Term 3
3. Students enter initial preferences online - end of Week 8, Term 3
4. Families receive the timetabled lines for the following year - end of Week 10, Term 3
5. Students to submit final choices (1st, 2nd and 3rd preferences in each line) for Semester 1 - due Week 1, Term 4
6. Students to receive notification of final elective allocation for Semester 1 - before the end of Term 4
7. Students will make choices for Semester 2 at the end of Term 2, 2027.

Choices

Students are encouraged to be open-minded when approaching Stage 5 subject selection. Students need to consider the wide-range of subjects available to them and take a questioning approach to this by trying different subjects across a range of faculties. It is important to note that a student's first choice may not always be available to them and a flexible approach to this process will be most beneficial.

It is important for students considering studying French or Japanese for their HSC to study their intended language throughout Year 9 and 10. Whilst NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) states it is not mandatory to study a language continuously in Stage 5 to enter the Continuers course in Years 11 and 12, it is recommended, as this will allow our students to gain the skills and confidence required for a Stage 6 language course.

One of the major advantages of this new offering is that students are able to sample different courses during Stage 5 to help determine what to study for their HSC. Keeping in this in mind during this selection process is highly recommended.

Core Subjects

English

Contact Person: Mrs Sue Abbott
sabbott@as.edu.au

Rationale

The Stage 5 English program is designed to encourage an enjoyable experience of literature and learning and to challenge students to consider and explore what storytelling, in all its forms and styles, has to offer us as humans. The development of reading, writing and analytical skills are central to this course enabling students to experiment with ideas and expression and to become active, independent and lifelong learners.

Over Stage 5, students will read, listen to and view a wide variety of texts that are appropriate to their needs, interests and abilities. These texts become increasingly sophisticated as students move from Stage 4 to Stage 5 and as they progress through the Stage 5 program of study.

Brief Description

Through responding and composing texts, students learn about the power, value and art of the English language for communication, knowledge and enjoyment. By composing and responding with imagination, feeling, logic and conviction, students develop an understanding of themselves and of human experience and culture. They develop clear and precise skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing, and knowledge and understanding of language forms and features and structures of texts.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC Subjects:

All students must study at least two units of English in Year 11 and 12: English Standard, English Advanced, English Studies, English Extension 1, English Extension 2 (Year 12 only)

HSIE

Contact Person: Mr David Toakley
dtoakley@as.edu.au

History and Geography are taught as a single compulsory HSIE subject in Years 9 and 10 on a semester rotation.

Geography

Rationale

The study of Geography provides a framework on which to build an overall view of the world. It assists in the development of the capacity to understand, cope with and enjoy that world and increases the understanding of the various forms of natural and cultural features on the land. It assists students to recognise and respond to the constant changes taking place in the immediate environment, and at regional, national and international levels.

Since most geographical studies occur in real-life situations, students are able to use their experiences to develop concepts and acquire problem solving skills. Geography contributes towards improvements in the quality of life and encourages students to accept community responsibilities.

Brief Description

In Years 9 and 10, students will concentrate on Australian Geography. This is covered in four topics:

- Investigating Australia's Physical Environment
 - Changing Australian Communities
 - Issues in Australian Environments
 - Australia in its Regional and Global Context
- The new Geography course is assessed using a wide range of tasks, including research, the use of ICTs and geographical skills and fieldwork. Selected students will participate in the Australian Geography Competition.

Cost: Excursion costs for fieldwork

Related HSC Subjects:

Geography Asia', 'The Globalising World' or a school-developed topic drawn from either of the two overview topics.

Core Subjects

History

Contact Person: Mr David Toakley
dtoakley@as.edu.au

Rationale

History is a process of inquiry into the past that helps to explain how people, events and forces from the past have shaped our world. It provides opportunities for students to explore human actions and achievements in a range of contexts. Students become aware that history is all around us and that historical information may be drawn from the physical remains of the past as well as written, visual and oral sources of evidence.

It introduces the idea that History contains many stories and that there is never only one uncontested version. There are many differing perspectives within a nation's history, and historians may interpret events differently depending on their point of view and the sources they have used. The study of History strengthens an appreciation for and an understanding of civics and citizenship. It also provides broader insights into the historical experiences of different cultural groups within our society and how various groups have struggled for civil rights.

Brief Description

In Stage 5 the overview units of 'The Making of the Modern World' and 'The Modern World and Australia' are supplemented by the compulsory Depth Studies of 'Australians at War (WWI and WWII)' and 'Rights and Freedoms (1945-present)'. Further depth studies are chosen from 'Making a Better World?', 'Australia and Asia', 'The Globalising World' or a school-developed topic drawn from either of the two overview topics.

Cost: Excursion costs for fieldwork
Related HSC Subjects: Geography

Mathematics

Contact Person: Mrs Rachel Piddington
rpiddington@as.edu.au

Rationale

Mathematics is a reasoning and creative activity employing abstraction and generalisation to identify, describe and apply patterns and relationships. Mathematics is integral to scientific and technological advances in many fields of endeavour. In addition to its practical applications, the study of mathematics is a valuable pursuit in its own right, providing opportunities for originality, challenge and leisure.

Stage 5 Mathematics continues to develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. It focuses on developing increasingly sophisticated and refined mathematical understanding, fluency, communication, logical reasoning, analytical thought and problem solving skills. These capabilities enable students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations by employing strategies to make informed decisions and solve problems relevant to their further education and everyday lives.

Structure

Students exhibit a wide range of mathematical skills, levels of competence, and aspirations. Some students may be aiming to develop the mathematical skills necessary to function in daily life and various work contexts. Other students may seek to address more challenging mathematics to prepare them for the highest-level courses in Year 11 and Year 12.

For this reason, Stage 5 has a core aspect as well as a pathway to Standard and a pathway to Advanced. These pathways are not prescribed courses, and many different 'endpoints' are possible. The aim is to best prepare our Stage 5 students for the level of mathematics that they wish to study in Stage 6.

Aim

The aim for students in Stage 5 is to:

- be confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations in their personal and work lives and as active citizens
- develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts and fluency with mathematical processes, and be able to pose and solve problems and reason in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability
- recognise connections between the areas of mathematics and other disciplines and appreciate mathematics as an accessible, enjoyable discipline to study, and an important aspect of lifelong learning.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC Subjects: Mathematics Standard, Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1, Mathematics Extension 2 (Year 12 only)

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Contact Person: Mr Joshua Moloney
jmoloney1@as.edu.au

Rationale

The NSW PDHPE syllabus empowers students to live healthy, safe and active lives by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and understanding to navigate an ever-changing world. It supports students to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, while recognising the influence of family, peers, community, culture and environment. Through PDHPE, students learn how to make informed decisions, strengthen resilience, and develop the confidence to participate in a range of health-promoting and movement contexts.

Brief Description

The syllabus is structured around three interrelated strands that encourage students to make connections between health and movement. These strands provide opportunities for students to understand how personal choices, relationships, movement practices and broader social factors influence individual and community health and wellbeing.

The three strands of study are:

- Health, Wellbeing and Relationships
- Healthy, Safe and Active Lifestyles
- Movement and Performance

Contexts for Learning

Learning in PDHPE is embedded in relevant and meaningful contexts that reflect contemporary issues and the lived experiences of young people. These contexts are designed to develop transferable skills that students can apply beyond school to support lifelong health and movement participation.

Core Subjects

The contexts include:

- Alcohol, tobacco and other drugs
- Food and nutrition
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Personal identity and relationships
- Sexual health and safety
- Preventive health and risk behaviours
- Benefits of physical activity
- Fundamental movement skills and physical literacy
- Creative, rhythmic and expressive movement
- Individual, team and lifelong physical activities
- Challenge and adventure activities
- Aquatics and water safety

Cost: Nil

Related HSC Subjects: Health and Movement Science

Science

Contact Person: Mr Stephen Thompson
sthompson@as.edu.au

Rationale

Science provides a distinctive view and way of looking at the world. The study of science has led to an evolving body of knowledge derived from experimental investigation of phenomena. This knowledge allows us to make sense of the biological, physical and technological world. That knowledge, in its social and cultural context, provides a basis for making choices and ethical decisions about local and global applications and implications of science. The study of science provides opportunities for students to develop the skills of working scientifically by questioning and predicting, planning and conducting investigations, processing and analysing data and information, problem solving and communicating. A more thorough statement of the rationale of the science curriculum is available on NESA website.

Brief Description

In Year 9, students begin the new Science curriculum with an emphasis on gathering and interpreting data. and 10, students continue units of work are based on the Physical World, Earth and Space, the Living World and the Chemical World. Students are required to undertake an individual research project (now called a Depth Study) which will form part of our school assessment program.

In most years, the top-set Year 10 Science class participates in the University of Newcastle Science and Engineering Challenge. Success locally may mean that we then qualify to travel to Newcastle to participate in the State and National Finals of the Challenge. Participation in the finals involves a trip to Newcastle and an overnight stay in suitable accommodation.

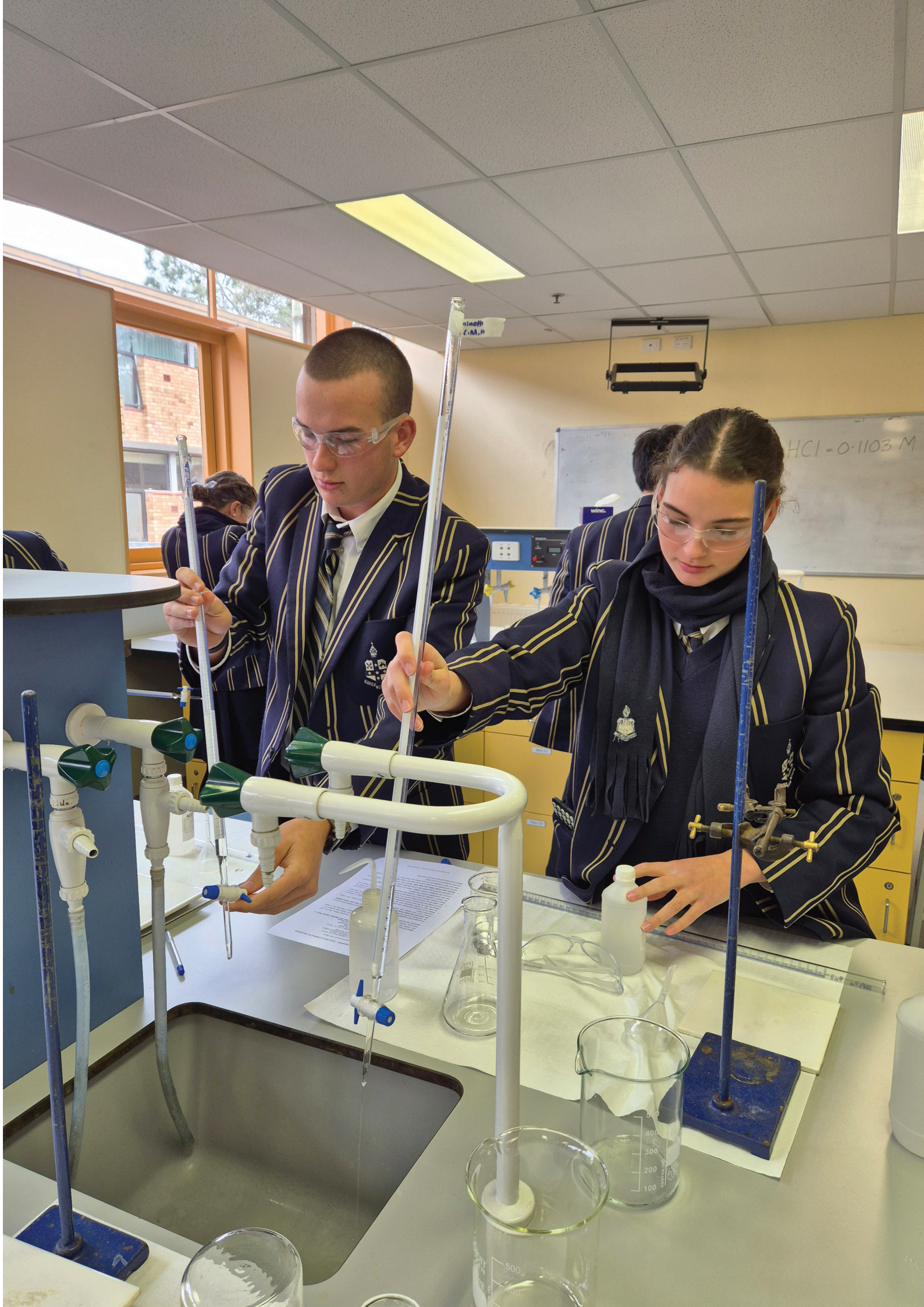
Another opportunity for students to demonstrate their scientific thinking skills is by participation in the ICAS Science Competition and the Australian Science Olympiad.

The Stage 5 program is an essential foundation for senior (Stage 6) studies in Science. Students will have sufficient expertise with all aspects of Science to be able to choose among the 2 unit courses (Chemistry, Biology and Physics) offered in Years 11 and 12.

Cost: Additional excursion and competition costs may apply.

Cost: Associated excursion and competition costs

Related HSC Subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Environmental Science and Engineering Studies



Electives

Diverse Learning

Contact Person: Ms Tania Hardin
thardin@as.edu.au

Curriculum Support Years 9 & 10 (Year Long Course)

This elective is designed for students who require consolidation and further development of fundamental literacy, numeracy and reading skills. The skills developed in this course will directly benefit studies in all subjects in Stage 5 and into Stage 6.

Support and assistance in developing sound skills in functional numeracy, reading comprehension and writing with appropriate punctuation, spelling and grammar is an integral aspect of this elective. Students are also offered support and assistance in assessment and assignment work across all subject areas. The development of study and organisation skills are a key component of this course. Students are given the opportunity to work both individually and as part of a small group.

Criteria for Year 9 and 10

Students who apply for this subject will have been identified as requiring extra academic support by the Diverse Learning Department. Positions will be limited and approved by the Head of Diverse Learning and the Director of Teaching and Learning.

Cost: Nil

English

Contact Person: Mrs Sue Abbott
sabbott@as.edu.au

Paper and Pen - Creative Writing (Semester Based)

This elective course focuses on developing and refining the skills of creative composition. It is based on the theory that there are only seven plots in existence, and that all texts produced are merely variations on these basic story lines.

Students will examine the basis for American scholar Christopher Booker's Seven Basic Plots: Why We Tell Stories, considering notions of appropriation and transformation.

They will also consider Kurt Vonnegut's story shapes. Students explore the idea that stories are often appropriated because they hold "truths" (space needed between the words hold and truth) about the human condition which cross all social, historical and cultural boundaries. Students will develop skills in the process of composing creative texts and the extensive drafting, editing and polishing required to succeed in creating a tightly woven text.

This course aims to:

- engage students in critical analysis of popular culture
- develop students' acquisition of composition skills in a broad range of contexts
- strengthen the explicit teaching of how meaning is created in fiction

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: English Standard, English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2

The Art of Persuasion (Semester Based)

You're an intelligent, passionate person. I can tell, just by looking at you. I can tell that you're the kind of brilliant mind, critical thinker and passionate learner that would just love this unit. I can tell.

This course is for passionate writers and students looking to extend their skills in English while exploring the huge range of styles and forms within the persuasive oeuvre, from the coercion of advertising to the propaganda of politics. Students will explore a variety of persuasive techniques, learn to recognise and manipulate them, as well as examining the power of numerous visual literacy skills and examining the effect that the great orators from history have brought to the table. When combined with various speaking and staging skills, this course will turn young writers into persuasive writers, convincing designers and powerful speakers.

This course aims to:

- Develop an understanding of the different types of persuasion
- Encourage rigorous and broad examination in a range of styles and forms
- Explicitly teach persuasive writing skills and refine student's writing practice
- Allow students to explore their passion and interest in writing

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: English Standard, English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2



Electives

The Female Voice (Semester Based)

Every word a woman writes changes the story of the world, revises the official version. ~Carolyn See

About 51% of the population is missing when we only study male authors. This course will show you that there's a whole different side to the story. We'll follow female writers to learn about their world, their ideas and their issues from their own voice.

The course explores the conditions under which women wrote and published as well as how their works were received by their first readers. In this course we will explore a range of genres and text types..

This course aims to:

- Promote reading and analysis of rich texts
- Strengthen critical thinking skills
- Expose students to the importance of context to literature
- Broaden world and societal views.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Modern History, Ancient History

A Censored World (Semester Based)

Have you ever wondered why a government would ban its people from reading a text? Do you enjoy reading texts that are grounded in history and their context? If so, then this is the course for you.

This elective course involves students studying texts from history that have been banned and censored. Students will study and research the context behind these texts and consider what made these texts so controversial in their own time.

Students will also consider the morality behind censorship and the impact this has on a society. As such discussions about democracy and freedom will be central to the course and students will be encouraged to become critical thinkers.

This course aims to:

- engage students in critical thinking skills
- expose students to the history behind banned and censored texts
- develop the research skills needed for the analysis of texts.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Modern History, Ancient History

Mathematics

Contact Person: Mrs Rachel Piddington
rpidding@as.edu.au

Maths Extension (Semester Based)

Students who are wanting to do Extension 1 Mathematics or Extension 2 Mathematics in Year 11 and 12 are recommended to complete this course. This course will give these students the opportunity to build on their knowledge and develop the skills required to achieve success in the Extension Mathematics courses. More time spent problem solving and building knowledge in areas beyond the Stage 5 syllabus will put students in the best stead for their future studies in Mathematics.

This course is also for our accelerated students.

Accelerated students are those who are identified as Year 9 students who are capable of completing all of the Stage 5 content in one year or Year 10 students who are ready to complete the Advanced Mathematics and Extension 1 Year 11 course. By accelerating in Mathematics, selected students are provided the opportunity to complete the relevant Mathematics course in a shorter period of time allowing greater flexibility in Year 12 to devote their time to other HSC subjects. If you are interested in accelerating - you must speak with your mathematics teacher and Mrs Piddington. You should also be achieving within the top 3 of your year group.

Cost: Nil (except accelerated Year 10 students will need to purchase the Year 11 Preliminary Extension 1 Mathematics Textbook).

Related Subjects: Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2.



Electives

Science

Contact Person: Mr Stephen Thompson
sthompson@as.edu.au

Quarks to Quasars (Year 10 Year Long Course)

Course Description:

Uncover the secrets of the universe and the chemistry that powers it in Quarks to Quasars, a dynamic one-year Science elective designed for curious Year 10 minds. This course fuses the explosive world of chemical reactions and electrochemistry with the awe-inspiring realms of astrophysics and astronomy.

From investigating the reactions that drive our modern world to exploring bonding and batteries, stars, and supernovae; students will engage in hands-on experiments, data analysis, and scientific inquiry. Along the way, they'll examine how atomic interactions shape matter on Earth—and in the cosmos.

Purposefully aligned with the rigours of Stage 6 Physics and Chemistry, this course builds a strong conceptual and practical foundation, sharpening scientific thinking, numeracy, and experimental skills essential for senior science success.

Whether you're drawn to the elements or the stars, Quarks to Quasars is your launchpad to deeper scientific discovery.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: Chemistry, Physics

Life Unlocked

Year 9 Year Long Course)

Course Description

Life Unlocked takes students on an exciting journey into the secrets of living things, from the tiniest cells to the complexities of the human body. Students will explore how organisms survive, reproduce and evolve, with a clear focus on human biology, genetics and the science that drives modern medicine. Through practical activities, modelling and guided investigations, they will examine how traits are inherited, how diseases spread and how biotechnology is shaping healthcare and society. The course introduces key ideas from Stage 6 Biology and is perfect for students who are curious about how life works and keen to build a strong foundation in the biology of the body, health and disease.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: Biology

Forensic Science Camp – Management Team (Semester Based)

Course Description

The TAS Forensic Science Camp, which runs during the June/July holidays each year, is an opportunity not to be missed for any student interested in science, technology, management, event planning, communications and making lifelong friendships.

The Forensic Science Camp brings Year 8 students together from TAS and other schools to work in teams to solve an artificial crime. The students board at TAS for the week and, in that time, gather evidence in the race against others to solve the crime. It requires problem solving, science knowledge, teamwork, and persistence. While the Camp is run for Year 8 students, it is completely managed by Year 9 and 10 students from beginning to end.

This means writing the crimes to be solved by the teams, designing and managing the evidence, event planning and the overall directing of the Camp.

This elective course is designed to empower Year 9 and 10 students who are interested in running the Camp with all the support they need to make it happen. Numerous TAS staff across faculties will be on hand to assist with the broader planning of the Camp.

The TAS Management Team must stay onsite during Week 2 of the June/July holidays so if you are interested you must be available to stay at TAS for the duration of this time period.

Choosing this elective involves a commitment to the camp in both the lead up to the event and the actual week itself.

Outcomes

- Effectively organise time and resources to prepare for the Forensic Science Camp
- Project management and problem-solving skills
- Working well within a group towards a common goal.

Students will choose to operate in various roles, including:

Controller: Working in pairs, writing, and creating a crime for the Year 8 students to solve.

Controller Manager: Overseeing the work that the Controllers are completing and supporting them.

Director: Overall management of the camp, involving receiving, responding to and accepting applications, emailing staff and parents with enquiries and organisation of the camp plus much more, supported by Dr Mack.

Assistant Director: Assisting the Director in their role.

Events Manager: Managing the events for the camp, this involves a Trivia night, Science and Engineering Competition, Space Jump and other

engaging activities completed during the day in crime solving breaks.

Tech Assistant: Assisting with all things technical, including printing labels for evidence, assisting with IT matters, and preparing gory crime-scene clues.

Cost: Nil, but lots of time in Week 2 of the Winter break

Related HSC subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Science Extension (Semester Based)

Science Extension is a semester-long elective for passionate science students. Students will choose their own area of interest around advanced topics from Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics (eg: Control and Regulation of the Human Body, Converting Matter into Energy, and Ways to Generate Electricity).

Special Focus: Extending knowledge from core science with an “Extended Practical Investigation” as a major assessment piece.

Assessment: Students will present their ideas to the Head of Science and the class before completing an extended practical investigation, which requires them to research, design, conduct, and present findings on an experiment of their own conception.

Purpose: For students intending to continue with senior science, emphasizing inquiry, critical analysis, and advanced lab skills.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science and Physics

Electives

Languages

Contact Person: Mr Allan Moore
amoore@as.edu.au

French (Year Long Course)

It is important for students considering studying French for their HSC, to study French in both Years 9 and 10. French is a two year course in Stage 5, so I encourage students to continue their studies until the end of Year 10, as knowledge gained in one unit will greatly assist their learning in later units.

Rationale

The study of French as a second language is an important life skill. It contributes to a student's overall education in areas of communication, cross-cultural understanding, literacy and general knowledge. Studying French will better equip students as future travellers and global citizens, providing access to a significant part of the culture, traditions and attitudes of French-speaking communities all over the world. French is not only the official language of France and francophone countries, it is also an administrative and diplomatic language of the world, along with English and Mandarin. French is the official language of many important international organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union. To be a francophone means more meaningful interactions with people and success in being a global citizen, opening new possibilities for travel and work.

With ever increasing global opportunities, knowledge of French may be an advantage in seeking employment at home and further afield in many professions such as the arts, marketing and advertising, banking and international finance, commerce, cuisine and catering, diplomacy, education and research, fashion and cosmetics, government, hospitality (eg; hotels, restaurants), law, media (eg; journalism), science and technology, tourism, agriculture, translation and interpreting, medicine and wine-making.

Confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in French is fostered as we journey through iconic and historic Paris and the magnificent French countryside and a fascinating range of Francophone countries.

We will also study a variety of popular pastimes and leisure activities pursued by the French which builds confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing, giving new insights into l'esprit Français. Students will study the language features necessary for understanding and composing a wide range of texts in French.

We also focus on mastering conversational skills, talking about our future plans and career preferences in a way that would make anyone think you're a native francophone!

This will set students up for putting these skills and knowledge into practice as we prepare for the exciting French Study Tour.

Cost: \$43.95 for 2 year workbook and e-book access

Japanese (Year Long Course)

It is important for students considering studying Japanese for their HSC, to study Japanese in both Year 9 and 10. Japanese is a two year course in Stage 5, so I encourage students to continue their studies until the end of Year 10, as knowledge gained in one unit will assist their learning in later units.

Rationale

By the end of Stage 5, students will be able to manipulate Japanese in sustained interactions with others to exchange information, ideas and opinions. They will be able to identify and interpret information from a range of written, spoken, visual or multimodal texts, and evaluate and respond in English or Japanese to information, opinions and ideas, using a range of formats for specific contexts, purposes and audiences.

Students will understand that language, culture and communication are interrelated and shaped by each other. They reflect on their intercultural experiences, recognising how cultural identity influences ways of communicating, thinking and behaving.

Brief Description

Students engage with elements of modern Japan, including popular culture such as anime, manga and music, as well as with the rich cultural tradition of this part of Asia. Students develop an appreciation for the place of Australia within the Asia region, including the interconnections of languages and cultures, peoples and communities, histories and economies.

The Stage 5 Japanese course builds on the knowledge gained in Year 8 and the students will be able to use their language skills in a more creative and practical manner.

Students have become confident using the three writing scripts and are able to communicate using set expressions.

Stage 5 will allow the students to expand their language skills by

- Initiating a conversation with a new friend, by asking and expanding questions sharing information about significant or special events in their own life, and making comparisons with those of Japanese teenagers
- Identifying culture-specific terms and representations in Japanese promotional materials, e.g. travel brochures, symbols on maps, magazine features or online resources.
- Creating short texts: students will write a short script and perform this using a range of digital technologies to design and record these to entertain and engage other learners of Japanese in the National Video Matsuri competition
- Identifying how variations in language use and communicative behaviours reflect emotions or attitudes, e.g. how respect, gratitude or embarrassment are expressed differently in Japan, or showing humility/modesty when praised.

Topics covered include

- Talking about past holidays and future holidays
- Traveling to Japan
- School and Study
- Shopping
- Daily Routines
- Eating in a restaurant
- Fashion
- Anime and Manga

The bi-annual trip to Japan will take place during Stage 5 and this will allow the students to use the language learnt in the classroom in a practical manner in Japan. This involves a school visit and 2 weeks traveling to a wide variety of places and sights in Japan.

Cost: \$42 for the two year course

Related HSC subjects: Japanese Continuers and Japanese Beginners

Electives

Creative Arts - Drama

Contact Person: Ms Clare O'Sullivan
cosullivan@as.edu.au

Year 9 Drama: Comedy: It's All In The Timing (Year Long Course)

Year 9 Drama is the study of making, performing, and appreciating drama and theatre! Students will explore the age-old conventions of comedy as not only a means of escape, but of making sense of the world in which we find ourselves.

Students will explore the conventions of comedy through the study of both improvised and scripted works, developing acting and performance skills along the way. Students will learn playbuilding techniques to devise comedic scenes and will perform comedic scripts to an audience, showcasing just how zany, buffoonish, and utterly ridiculous they can be.

Students will explore the elements of production, including set and costume design, lighting, sound, projection, and other digital media, to enhance their comedic performance works.

THIS COURSE IS 60% PRACTICAL and 40% THEORY.

Cost: Students will be invited to attend some evening theatre performances as an important means of developing their theatrical experience and understanding. The cost of the theatre ticket/s per student will be added to their accounts.

Related HSC subjects: Drama & English

Year 10 Drama: The Show Must Go On (Year Long Course)

Contact Person: Ms Clare O'Sullivan
cosullivan@as.edu.au

Students will realise their dramatic potential in this elective, as they generate, rehearse, and play build scene work, both improvised and scripted. They will collaborate with their peers to communicate, develop, and refine their creative intentions through the creation of characters in group projects. Students will work with their peers to study a range of performance styles, from classic to contemporary texts, to consolidate their knowledge of theatre history as a means of informing their theatrical practice.

Students will explore the elements of production through their study of set, costume, design, lighting, sound, projection, and/or other digital media to enhance their original and imaginative script interpretations.

THIS COURSE IS 60% PRACTICAL and 40% THEORY.

Cost: Students will be invited to attend some evening theatre performances as an important means of developing their theatrical experience and understanding. The cost of the theatre ticket/s per student will be added to their accounts.

Related HSC subjects: Drama & English



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Electives

Production Design (Semester Based)

A theatre production can only be a success if an expert team of designers and operators work behind the scenes to support the actors and director. The areas of set and costume design, lighting, sound, projection and other digital media are key in any show. This course provides students with the opportunity to learn all about the work that goes behind the scenes for a piece of theatre. The work of this course could include creating costume or set designs for a play, developing lighting designs for theatre, creating soundscapes and sound designs for live performance and exhibitions, and any other areas that students are passionate about. You'll learn about the work of professional artists and then apply this knowledge to a project of your own. This is definitely a course for those who like to work practically with their hands!

Cost: Students will be invited to attend an evening theatre excursion either in Armidale or Tamworth, depending upon availability. The cost per student will be added to their accounts.

Related HSC subjects: Drama, Advanced English, English Extension 1 & 2

Creative Arts - Music

Contact Person: Ms Clare O'Sullivan
cosullivan@as.edu.au

Year 9 Music - Minor to Major (Year Long Course)

Year 9 Music introduces students to the dynamic world of music through the focus areas of Performing, Composing and Listening. Building on the foundations from Stage 4, students explore the Concepts of Music – Pitch, Duration, Tone Colour, Texture, Dynamics & Expressive Techniques, and Structure – through hands-on experiences that include playing instruments, singing, composing original works, and analysing a wide range of music.

In class, students work individually and collaboratively to perform in ensembles, use digital tools like GarageBand and Musescore, and engage with music from diverse genres and cultures – from popular music to jazz, classical, Australian and global music traditions. The course encourages creativity, confidence and musical literacy, making it ideal for students with a passion for music, whether they are seasoned performers or curious beginners.

Year 9 Music also lays the groundwork for further study in Year 10 and Stage 6 Music, supporting students in developing the skills needed to thrive in future academic and personal musical pursuits.

THIS COURSE IS 70% PRACTICAL and 30% THEORY.

Cost: Students will be invited to attend some music performances as an important means of developing their musical experience and understanding. The cost of the ticket/s per student will be added to their accounts.

Related subjects: Year 10 Music

Year 10 Music - Major Progression (Year Long Course)

Year 10 Music offers students the opportunity to refine their skills as performers, composers and critical listeners while exploring a broad range of musical styles and traditions. Building on the foundations of Stage 4 and Year 9 Music, students engage practically with the Concepts of Music - Pitch, Duration, Tone Colour, Texture, Dynamics & Expressive Techniques and Structure - through performance, composition and listening activities.

In class, students collaborate in ensembles, explore music production using softwares such as GarageBand and Musescore, and learn how music functions in contemporary and historical context - from popular music and film soundtracks, to jazz, classical and world music. Whether a student plays an instrument, sings or simply has a passion for music, this course develops confidence, creativity and musical literacy.

For those considering future study options, Year 10 Music provides the pathway into Stage 6 Music 1, Music 2 and Music Extension, preparing students with the skills and independence needed for HSC Success.

This course is perfect for students seeking to extend their talents, express themselves creatively, or even pursue music beyond the classroom - as a hobby, career or lifelong passion.

THIS COURSE IS 70% PRACTICAL and 30% THEORY.

Cost: Students will be invited to attend some music performances as an important means of developing their musical experience and understanding. The cost of the ticket/s per student will be added to their accounts.

Creative Arts - Visual

Contact Person: Ms Clare O'Sullivan
cosullivan@as.edu.au

Related HSC subjects: Music 1; Music 2 & Music Extension

Year 9 Visual Arts - Take the Plunge (Year Long Course)

Year 9 Visual Arts is building on what students learned in years 7 and 8 and provides exhilarating opportunities for students to explore a wide variety of artmaking materials and techniques and study the exciting worlds of art history and art appreciation. It builds an understanding of the role of art in all forms of media, both in the contemporary and historical world. Students will be encouraged to represent their ideas and interests in artworks and written forms.

Units of work will include; Street Art and Graffiti, Ceramics, Visual Design and Printmaking

Students will experience the excitement and satisfaction of making different kinds of artworks in 2D, 3D and/ or 4D forms: drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, mixed media and new media. Students will strengthen their existing capabilities and add new skills to their artistic toolboxes. Students learn about how art is shaped by different beliefs, values and meanings by exploring artists and artworks from different times and places. They learn to investigate and respond to a wide range of artists and artworks in artmaking, critical and historical studies.





Electives

THIS COURSE IS 70% ARTMAKING and 30% ART THEORY.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: Visual Arts

Year 10 Visual Arts - Living the Dream (Year Long Course)

Year 10 Visual Arts immerses students in artmaking, exploring the possibilities of materials, techniques and ideas. They will study the stimulating worlds of art history and art appreciation and build an understanding of the role of art in all forms of media, both in the contemporary and historical worlds. Students will be encouraged to see their ideas, interests and experiences as a rich source of inspiration for their artmaking. They will have the excitement and satisfaction of making artworks in 2D, 3D and/ or 4D forms using materials and processes old and new.

Units of work will include; Photography, RISO Screen Printing, Visual Design and Installations.

They will learn to represent their ideas and interests with reference to historical and contemporary trends and how artists, including painters, sculptors, architects, designers, photographers, video artists and ceramists, make artworks. Students learn about how art is shaped by different beliefs, values and meanings by exploring artists and artworks from different times and places. They will study the artworld and the relationships between the artist-artwork-world and audience. They will discover how their own lives and experiences can influence their artmaking and critical and historical studies. Their artmaking experiences will add to their artistic repertoire and build a Body of Work over time.

They learn to develop their research skills, approaches to experimentation and how to make informed personal choices and judgements. They learn to record procedures and activities about their artmaking practice in their Visual Arts diary.

They learn to investigate and respond to a wide range of artists and artworks in artmaking, and art critical and historical studies.

THIS COURSE IS 60% ARTMAKING and 40% ART THEORY.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: Visual Arts

Street Art and Graffiti (Semester Based)

Street art and graffiti are inextricably linked, both have existed since ancient times, our ancestors used graffiti as a means of communication before the appearance of writing. Today the term graffiti means any sort of unsanctioned application of a substance, whether it is spray paint, pencil markings, or even stickers to the walls and flat spaces of our towns and cities. However, scholars, city officials, politicians and the public have begun to recognize the importance of and value of these communications and political statements. Street art and Graffiti are now recognized as a legitimate source of academic study, so in this course you will; check out the history of street art and graffiti, learn techniques from the masters, including Blek le Rat, Sheppard Fairy, Swoon and Banksy, and create stencils, stickers and large-scale artworks that will embody your ideas, sense of humour, political views, clever visual anomalies or expressions of hope.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: Visual Arts

HSIE

Contact Person: Mr David Toakley
dtoakley@as.edu.au

Elective Commerce (Year Long Course)

Rationale

Commerce is a subject that appeals to students who are interested in learning about:

- The features of business enterprise and entrepreneurship. In year 9 students will learn how to write a business plan, and will run a class business
- The tricks and traps that some businesses use to exploit consumers, and from this build an awareness of being an informed consumer
- Investment in the stock market and other growth assets. Students will learn about the structure and function of the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), how to buy and sell shares, and the skills and tools necessary to identify a good stock. In year 10 students will compete in a national online stock market game that is managed by the ASX. Students are required to invest \$50,000 over a 15 week period. Other investment options such as property will also be studied
- The structure and function of the legal system. Students will learn the characteristics of civil and criminal law, and study interesting case studies
- Basic Economics. Students will learn about the different economic systems (capitalism versus communism), the law of demand and supply, the features of the Australian economy and its place in the global economy.

Brief Description

Students are able to study Commerce as either a 100 hour course (Year 9), or a 200 hour course (Years 9 and 10).

Students undertaking the 100 hour source will study 2 of the 4 Core topics, plus 2-4 optional topics. Students undertaking the 200 hour course in Commerce will study 4 Core topics and a minimum of 5 optional topics.

The Core Topics include:

1. Consumer and Financial Decisions (20 hours)
2. The Economic and Business Environment (20 hours)
3. Employment and Work Futures (20 hours)
4. Law, Society and Political Involvement (20 hours)

Core topics 1 and 2 will be studied in year 9, and core topics 3 and 4 will be studied in year 10.

The optional topics will be taken from the following: (each topic 15 hours)

1. Our Economy
2. Investing
3. Promoting and Selling
4. Running a Business
5. Law in Action
6. Travel
7. Towards Independence
8. School-developed Option

Cost: Approximately \$75 will be needed as seed capital for the work to establish and run a class business. Approximately \$50 course fees if participating in Australian Business Week.

Related HSC subjects: Commerce in Years 9 and 10 is a useful introduction to Economics, Business Studies and Legal Studies in Years 11 and 12, but it is not a prerequisite for these senior classes.

Electives

Elective History (Year Long Course)

Rationale

In the study of Elective History, you will have the extraordinary opportunity to delve into a rich variety of historical topics that extend far beyond the scope of standard Stage 5 History. This course is designed to ignite your curiosity and provide you with the analytical tools to explore history from multiple perspectives, examining not just what happened, but how we know what we know about the past.

It introduces the idea that History contains many stories and that there is never only one uncontested version. There are many differing perspectives within a nation's history, and historians may interpret events differently depending on their point of view and the sources they have used, dependent on the types of sources; Archaeological or written, Primary or Secondary. The study of History strengthens an appreciation for and an understanding of the world we currently live in. It also provides broader insights into the historical experiences of different cultural groups within our society and how various groups have struggled for civil rights.

Brief Description

In the study of Elective History you will have the opportunity to delve into a variety of historical topics that might not get much attention in standard Stage 5 History. You will investigate how History is made by looking at family history, the role films can play in History and how different historians have created History. You will cover topics like Ancient myths and legends, Medieval Europe, the history of Terrorism, Heroes and villains of history, and the World Wars.

Skills You Will Develop

Throughout this course, you will develop critical thinking skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

You will learn to:

- Analyze primary and secondary sources with a critical eye
- Understand bias and perspective in historical accounts
- Research and present historical arguments effectively
- Appreciate the complexity and nuance of historical events
- Connect past events to contemporary issues and debates

Cost: Excursion costs for site visits

Related HSC subjects: Ancient History, Modern History, History Extension

Elective Geography (Semester Based)

Brief Description

Students are able to study Elective Geography as a 100 hour course across Years 9 and 10 covering three topics:

- **Interactions and Patterns along a Transcontinental Transect**

Travel with us along the mighty Nile River from Uganda (source of the White Nile) and Ethiopia (source of the Blue Nile) to the Mediterranean Sea. Along the way, we'll investigate the differing biomes and climates, cultures and cities. Explore daily life in Khartoum (where the two rivers meet), investigate why hydroelectric dams are leading to political tensions between nations and sail past the popular ancient sites of Egypt. As the river meets the sea, we'll reflect on our 'travels' by creating a blog of our adventures.

- **Political Geography**

Political geography is all about examining the "who controls what, where, and why" of our world. It is the study of how politics and power are connected to places, borders, and territories. It looks at how governments control space, how borders are created and changed, and how political decisions affect different places and people. Whether its conflict in Ukraine, the Treaty of Antarctica, China-Australia relations or other issues, this study will help to unpack current affairs in our world.

- **School developed option - field trips**

The best thing about Geography is studying the real world in the real world. We'll get out of the classroom and conduct a series of short field trips in our local area, visiting local businesses and community projects, as well as benefitting from hearing from guest speakers on how they apply Geography to their work and everyday lives.

Cost: Excursion costs for local field trips. Estimate is \$50.

Related HSC Subjects: Elective Geography is a useful introduction to senior Geography as well as Business Studies, Legal Studies, Society and Culture, Earth and Environmental Science and Agriculture in Years 11 and 12, but it is not a prerequisite for these senior classes.



Electives

PDHPE

Contact Person: Mr Joshua Moloney
jmoloney1@as.edu.au

Elite Performance 1: Making an Elite Athlete (Semester Based)

This module examines the early developmental stages of the elite athlete. This will entail studying the elite pathways within Australia as well as other countries. The search, discovery and collation of a talent pool, the refining of the process so the most talented receive the opportunities for advancement. Students will complete the talent identification process and compare results with standardised tables. Students will participate in development programs as well as develop, implement and assess their own Personal Exercise Program (PEP) based on the sport of their choice.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: PDHPE

Sports Coaching : Are you the next National Coach? (Semester Based)

This module is designed to allow students the opportunity to gain a coaching and/or refereeing accreditation in one or more of sports. They will examine the role of the coach and how they can maximise the performance of their athletes. Students will also develop and participate in a coaching program as well.

Cost: \$120 (Accreditation costs)

Related HSC subjects: PDHPE

Elite performance 2: Enhancing Elite Performances (Semester Based)

This module builds upon the previous Elite Performance module by taking the developing athlete and using advanced training techniques to further enhance the skills and fitness components. This will be a practical unit where the students will closely examine the techniques used to develop the athlete and incorporate these strategies for the expansion of their Personal Exercise Program (PEP). Students will use the knowledge and skills gained from each of the strategies for personal fitness advancement.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: PDHPE

Money Ball (Semester Based)

Moneyball is a unique and engaging elective that blends physical activity with performance analysis, technology, and strategic thinking. Based on the principles used in elite sport, students will take on the roles of analysts, coaches and team managers to collect, interpret and apply real data gathered from practical sport experiences.

In Term 3, students will film and analyse games played in class, developing individual and team performance profiles using authentic data such as movement effort, decision-making, and skill execution. In Term 4, students will apply this information in a simulated team draft. Working within a set salary cap, they will elect team managers, negotiate draft selections, and lead their teams through a structured class competition—mirroring real-world sport management and coaching scenarios.

Electives

Learning Outcomes and Value for Students: This subject supports a range of important skills and aligns with the new NSW Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) syllabus. Students will:

- Develop critical and analytical thinking through the use of performance data.
- Apply leadership, collaboration and communication skills as they manage teams.
- Use technology and video analysis to enhance sport performance understanding.

Cost: \$30 (Sports shirt for draft day)

Related HSC: HMS

Everyone active everyday (Semester Based)

Students explore the perceptions of peers and the local community in relation to physical activity participation by investigating current levels of participation. Common misconceptions about a range of less traditional physical activities can be challenged as students participate in a range of leisure activities that are available in the local community. Students then develop strategies involving the school and local community to promote the importance of regular physical activity to lifelong health. This unit provides opportunities for students to design their own class physical activity program for the term, taking into consideration what is available in the local community.

Cost: A cost will be associated due to the use of local fitness facilities.

Related HSC subjects: PDHPE

World's Greatest Athlete (Semester Based)

This module will offer students the opportunity to compete in a range of different sports in the endeavour to find the best athlete within the school environment. In order to achieve this distinction the students will develop assessment procedures based on appropriate methods of evaluation and analysis of the inherent performances within the sport. The experiences will draw on a range of sports that require different skills bases in teams, partner and individual based sports.

Cost: Nil

Related HSC subjects: HMS

Marathon Athlete (Semester Based)

This module has been designed to examine the science behind the marathon event with particular emphasis on understanding the history and culture, the preparation needed, training for and participating in a marathon, either May/June (Brisbane) or Oct/Nov (TBC)

Along with the theory units the students will use the classroom time to implement training techniques in preparation for the designated marathon at the end of the course.

Cost: \$350 (includes race entry, singlets, transport and meals)

Related HSC subjects: PDHPE

Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) (Year Long Course)

This unit of work is designed to build on the knowledge and understanding students have developed surrounding physical activity and the elements which are essential in order to be a successful athlete. Students will be given opportunities to discuss and critically think about what makes a successful athlete and they will be questioned about the degree to which these areas are essential.

The main focus areas are nutrition, practice, and technology. Students will discuss how these areas may or may not have an impact on whether or not an athlete is successful. Students will be presented with many real life cases where athletes have been born or made. Students will be given opportunities to debate what type of athlete they think is more successful.

Cost: A cost will be associated due to the use of local fitness facilities if needed.

Related HSC subjects: PDHPE

PASS – Year 9 (Year Long Course)

Rationale

The PASS course builds on the foundations of PDHPE by exploring the role that physical activity, sport and recreation play in the lives of individuals and communities. It provides opportunities for students to develop their understanding of health and physical activity concepts, while also recognising the cultural, social and historical significance of sport in Australia and beyond.

Brief Description

PASS focuses on both theory and practical experiences to help students build skills, knowledge and confidence in a range of physical activity settings. It encourages students to adopt healthy, active lifestyles while also exploring pathways in sport, recreation and physical activity industries.

Areas of Study

The areas of study include:

- Foundations of physical activity
- Physical activity and sport in society
- Enhancing participation and performance

Contexts for Learning

Students will study PASS content through a variety of engaging contexts, such as:

- Active lifestyles and wellbeing
- Coaching and officiating
- Technology, media and sport
- Sport and cultural identity
- Improving performance in sport and physical activity
- Outdoor recreation and adventure activities
- Physical activity for health and fitness

PASS – Year 10 (Year Long Course)

Rationale

The Year 10 PASS course extends students' knowledge, understanding and skills in physical activity and sport, while preparing them for senior study in PDHPE, Health and Movement Science, or future pathways in sport, health and recreation industries. Students learn to analyse the impact of physical activity on health, performance and society, and explore how to support others to participate safely and successfully.



Brief Description

PASS combines practical movement opportunities with theoretical learning to deepen students' appreciation of physical activity as a lifelong pursuit. It encourages critical thinking about how sport is organised and promoted, how performance can be improved, and how physical activity can enhance overall wellbeing.

Areas of Study

The areas of study include:

- Foundations of physical activity
- Physical activity and sport in society
- Enhancing participation and performance

Contexts for Learning

Learning is contextualised through areas relevant to young people and their communities.

These include:

- Coaching and leadership
- Technology in sport and physical activity
- Sport and equity
- Event management in sport and recreation
- Outdoor recreation and risk management
- Improving skills, fitness and performance
- Lifestyle and lifelong physical activity choices

Electives

Technological and Applied Studies

Contact Person: Mr David Slade
dslade@as.edu.au

Auto Tech (Year Long Course)

This year-long TAS elective for year 9 provides students with an engaging, hands-on introduction to automotive vehicle technology. They will take on real mechanical challenges, such as dismantling and rebuilding a small engine, before putting their skills to the test with a go-kart rebuild, culminating in skid pan test drives at the Armidale Driver Training Complex.

Students develop an understanding of how vehicles operate and perform, covering topics such as internal combustion engines, ignition and fuel systems, steering geometry, suspension, wheelbase design, and drive trains. This balance of theory and practice helps them see how mechanical concepts apply in real-world situations.

The course also emphasises safe workshop practices, tool use, and problem-solving skills. It is an ideal elective for students who enjoy practical learning, are interested in how things work, and are keen to explore the fundamentals of automotive technology.

Cost: \$180 (materials)
Related HSC subjects: Industrial Technology
Metals

Design and Technology (Year Long Course)

This traditional NESA elective is ideal for students who enjoy combining practical, hands-on work with creative thinking, while

producing quality take-home projects. Offered exclusively in year 10, students undertake two to four design projects of their collective choice. They may be from technologies contexts that allow for things like Timber Furniture, Jewellery, Graphics, Architecture, Metals or a Student Negotiated Project.

Working through the Design, Make and Evaluate process, students learn how to research, develop, and bring their ideas to life. The course encourages students to extend and refine their skills with a range of materials, tools, and technologies developed in earlier electives or personal projects. They gain valuable experience in planning, time and resource management, and documenting their progress in a design portfolio. In turn, this builds confidence, creativity, and problem solving skills that provides a strong foundation for further study in related senior courses.

Cost: \$50-200 (project depending)
Related HSC subjects: Design and Technology,
Textiles and Design, Industrial Technology

Engineering (Year Long Course)

Engineering is the art of applying scientific and mathematical principles, combined with experience, judgment, and practical problem-solving, to create solutions that improve people's lives. This elective introduces students to the fundamentals of engineering through the study of structures, mechanical systems, and materials. Students explore how forces, design choices, and the properties of materials influence the performance and safety of engineered solutions.

Electives

Through a combination of theory and hands-on projects, students will develop skills in technical drawing, problem-solving, and project management. They will have opportunities to design, build, and test small-scale structures and mechanisms, applying engineering principles in real-world contexts.

This NESAs elective course for year 9 provides a strong foundation for further study in Engineering and Technology electives, while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills that are essential for success in STEM fields.

Cost: \$150 (materials)

Related HSC subjects: Engineering, Design and Technology.

Metals Technology (Year Long Course)

This year long NESAs elective course for year 10 develops students skills in the processes and technologies used in metalworking and related industries. Through practical, project-based learning, students develop confidence in shaping, joining, and finishing metals while gaining an understanding of their properties and applications. Safe and responsible use of hand tools, power tools, and workshop machinery is emphasised throughout the course.

Students complete a range of projects—such as toolmaking, small structures, or functional items—that allow them to apply their learning in real-world contexts. Alongside practical skills, they develop knowledge of design, planning, and project management, including how to cost, document, and evaluate their work. Sustainability and safe workshop practices are also explored as part of the learning process.

This course provides a foundation for further study in Industrial Technology, Design and Technology, Engineering, or trade-related pathways. It is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on learning and want to explore how materials and processes shape the world around us.

Cost: \$280 (materials)

Related HSC subjects: Industrial Technology, Design and Technology, Engineering

Textiles Technology (Year Long Course)

This NESAs elective course for year 10 introduces students to the properties, performance, and uses of fabrics, yarns, and fibres. Students explore the work of textile designers and learn to evaluate design ideas, select appropriate materials and tools, and assess the quality of finished items. Practical projects may include making duffle bags, apparel, and furnishing items.

The course also covers colouration and fabric decoration techniques, helping students develop both functional and aesthetic design skills. Students are encouraged to be creative and independent, applying their knowledge to produce high-quality textile items.

This elective provides a strong foundation for further study in Textiles & Design or Design and Technology, while developing practical skills, creativity, and critical thinking.

Cost: \$50-200 (project depending)

Related HSC subjects: Textiles & Design, Design and Technology



Electives

Timber and Construction (Year Long Course)

This year-long TAS elective, offered to Year 9 students, is a practical, project-based elective where students develop hands-on skills in working with timber and construction materials. They learn the safe and effective use of hand tools, power tools, and machinery while gaining confidence to design, build, and complete projects that reflect real-world applications.

Projects may include timber mallets, toolboxes, planter boxes, scale model cottages, or small structures. Students also explore sustainable building practices, project management, and how to accurately plan and cost their work. This course provides an introduction to the building and construction industries, encouraging creativity, problem-solving, and independence. It offers a solid foundation for students interested in construction, design, or trade-related pathways.

Cost: \$240 (materials)

Related HSC subject: VET Construction, Design and Technology

Flavours of Life (Semester Based)

This popular one-semester TAS elective is offered to Year 9 and 10 students that are interested in exploring the world of food, from its cultural origins to hands-on preparation. Using the School's Trade Training Centre Hospitality kitchen, students work in a small

class setting to develop practical cooking skills, experiment with ingredients, and discover a passion for creating delicious dishes.

The course encourages creativity and an appreciation for the "flavours of life," while building confidence, practical problem-solving skills, and an understanding of how food connects to culture and everyday life. It provides a strong foundation for further study in Hospitality, Food Technology, and related pathways.

Cost: \$90 (ingredients)

Related HSC subjects: VET Hospitality

Make it Metal (Semester Based)

This ever popular one-semester TAS elective, offered to Year 9 and 10 students, introduces the properties of steel and other metals, as well as the techniques and skills required to work with them safely and effectively. Students will apply their learning in a hands-on project, designing and constructing an outdoor fire pit.

Throughout the course, students develop practical skills in cutting, bending, and welding steel sections, while learning to interpret and apply design specifications. They will also gain experience with Computer-Aided Design (CAD) and the faculty's Plasma-Cam manufacturing system, allowing them to customise their project and bring their designs to life.

Cost: \$140 (materials)

Related HSC subjects: Industrial Technology Metals, Design and Technology.

Agriculture

Contact Person: Ms Janet Price
jprice@as.edu.au

Year 9 and Year 10 (Year Long Course)

The Stage 5 Agriculture elective gives students the chance to explore the world of food and fibre production while gaining practical, hands-on experience. Students learn how plants and animals are produced, managed, and marketed, with a focus on sustainability and environmental responsibility. For example, beef cattle production is an important industry in the Northern Tablelands and across Australia, so students will look at breeds, nutrition, climate factors, and the economic role of beef production. Similarly, the course explores the poultry industry—both eggs and meat—using the school’s purebred Light Sussex chooks and birds from the Royal Agricultural Society. Students raise chickens from start to final selection and even exhibit them at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, gaining real-world insight into Australia’s food production chain.

Practical learning is at the heart of this course. Students will get involved in beekeeping, learning about hive management, bee structures, pollination, and how bees interact with plants and the environment. They will make hive components, open hives, extract honey, and process and market it—developing skills in both science and agribusiness. Bees are vital to plant pollination, and this topic highlights their role in food security as well as the use of technology, niche marketing, and value-adding opportunities in agriculture.

Sheep and wool production is also covered, where students study breeds, husbandry techniques, ruminant digestion, pests and diseases, animal welfare, and the role of sheep in Australia’s economy, culture, and employment landscape. By combining classroom learning with outdoor, hands-on experiences, the Agriculture elective helps students build practical skills and an understanding of the diverse Australian agricultural industry. Topics such as animal welfare, climate impacts, and the use of technology in farming prepare students to think critically about modern agricultural challenges. Whether they’re caring for livestock, managing bees, or marketing agricultural products, students develop problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills while exploring potential career pathways in agriculture, environmental science, veterinary studies, and related industries.

Cost: local excursion costs

Related HSC subjects: Agriculture, Primary Industries (VET)





Contact Information

Director of Teaching and Learning

Mr Luke Polson
Tel: +61 2 6776 5806
Email: dotl@as.edu.au

Director of Studies

Mrs Donella Tutt
Tel: +61 2 6776 5806
Email: dtutt@as.edu.au

Head of Diverse Learning

Ms Tania Hardin
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: thardin@as.edu.au

Senior School Administration

Ms Emily Stephenson
Tel: +61 2 6776 5805
Email: estephenson@as.edu.au

Careers Advisor

Ms Emily Dobson
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: edobson@as.edu.au

Head of Agriculture (Acting)

Ms Janet Price
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: jprice@as.edu.au

Head of English

Mrs Sue Abbott
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: sabbott@as.edu.au

Head of Creative Arts

Ms Clare O'Sullivan
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: cosullivan@as.edu.au

HSIE Coordinator

Mr David Toakley
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: dtoakley@as.edu.au

Languages Coordinator

Mr Allan Moore
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: amoore@as.edu.au

Head of Mathematics

Mrs Rachel Piddington
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: rpiddington@as.edu.au

Head of PDHPE

Mr Joshua Moloney
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: jmoloney1@as.edu.au

Head of Science

Mr Stephen Thompson
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: sthompson@as.edu.au

Technological and Applied Studies Coordinator

Mr David Slade
Tel: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: dslade@as.edu.au



The Armidale School
Locked Bag 3003,
Armidale NSW 2350 Australia

Telephone: +61 2 6776 5800
Email: info@as.edu
Web: www.as.edu.au



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