

Junior Subject Guide

Victoria Point State High School

Year 9





Victoria Point State High School

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Introduction

Victoria Point State High School is committed to offering students a variety of learning opportunities in a range of different curriculum areas across the Junior and Senior phases of learning. All learning pathways are designed to ensure all students progress with the necessary skills to enter the next phase of their education, or those required to enter the workforce.

This book is designed to inform you of your option for learning pathways as well as provide you with the expectations associated with each learning pathway. Furthermore, your pathway may provide you with some options for individual subjects which will also be explained in this book.

The Victoria Point State High School curriculum consists of subjects which are aligned with (Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority) QCAA requirements. For more detailed information about the different subjects available at Victoria Point State High School please refer to the school's website (www.vpshs.eq.edu.au).

To ensure your learning is as engaging and productive as possible please ensure you take the time to understand the focus and content of your learning pathway and any electives you choose. To assist you in this we suggest:

- Exploring all options outlined in this book.
- Ask questions of relevant staff (Family Group Teachers, Curriculum Teachers, HODs)
- Attend the Performance Progress Day in Term 3
- Choose subjects which interest you and will be beneficial to future pathways you are interested in.
- Apply yourself to all of your current classes to provide yourself with the best chance of obtaining all the requirements for preferred pathways.

All students are also expected to participate in programs of School, Community and Culture, and Family Group. These classes are opportunities for students to gain skills to be valuable members of both the school community, as well as the wider community.

The choices you make now can and will have a significant impact on the opportunities you will have in the future.

Please note:

- The school reserves the right to withdraw any subject where there are insufficient numbers of students enrolled or where suitably qualified teachers are not available.
- The number of students enrolled in elective subjects is limited by timetabling constraints and classes may be capped at the determination of the Principal.
- It is assumed that students would have successfully completed the requirements from the previous year's subjects before selecting new subjects.

Core and Elective Subjects

Mathematics

- Mathematics

Technologies

- Design Technologies
- Digital Technologies
- Home Economics
- Hospitality
- Industrial Technology and Engineering

Languages

- Auslan
- Japanese

English

- English

Health and Physical Education

- Physical Education
- Recreation Studies

The Arts

- Drama
- Media
- Music
- Visual Art and Design

Humanities

- History
- Geography
- Economics and Business

Science

- Science

- School Community and Culture
- VPSHS Academy

Core Subjects

Mathematics

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Core

In Year 9, students will revisit and extend the topics already encountered in Year 8:

- Number and Algebra – ratio, ratio, proportion, percentage, financial maths, algebra;
- Measurement and Geometry – time, length, mass, area, volume; shape, location, direction, movement; patterns and functions, equivalence and equations;
- Probability and Statistics – data collection and analysis, study of chance.

Assessment will be in the form of exams, assignments, reports and investigations. The use of technology, graphic calculators and computers will be a key strategy in our teaching mode.

English

Health, Humanities and Enterprise

Core

In Year 9 English, students will continue to develop their language skills through exposure to a wide variety of written, spoken and visual texts.

Students will also be encouraged to think critically about language and its use.

Possible topics for study include representations of cultures through different texts, speculative fiction, novel studies, play studies, and multimedia texts explorations.

History

Health, Humanities and Enterprise

Core

The study of history is based on evidence derived from remains of the past. It is interpretative by nature, promotes debate and encourages thinking about human values, including present and future challenges.

The process of historical inquiry develops transferable skills, such as the ability to ask relevant questions; critically analyse and interpret sources; consider context; respect and explain different perspectives; develop and substantiate interpretations, and communicate effectively.

Units of work focus on: The Industrial Revolution (1750-1914); and World War I (1914-1918).

Geography

Health, Humanities and Enterprise

Core

Geography is a structured way of exploring, analysing and understanding the characteristics of the places that make up our world, using concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change.

It addresses scales from the personal to the global and time periods from a few years to thousands of years. Students will be introduced to environmental change and management, and indicators of human wellbeing.

Units of work focus on: Biomes and Food Security; and Geographies of Interconnections.

Science

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Core

In Year 9 Science, students will further their understanding of Biology by exploring ways in which the human body responds to its external environment, and the interdependencies between living and nonliving components of ecosystems. In Chemistry, students will study the atom as a system of protons, electrons and neutrons, and they will explore how this system can change through nuclear decay. Students will investigate how matter can be rearranged through chemical change, and how these changes affect the world around us. They will expand their understanding of Physics through study of the concept of conservation of matter. Students will apply their understanding of energy and forces to global systems such as continental movement.

Assessment in Year 9 involves practical investigations, research reports, multimedia presentations, written tasks and examinations.

School Community and Culture

Wellbeing

Core

All students participate in activities that help build the school's community and culture and can include project-based work for local, national and international organisations. School Community and Culture also includes Family Group in which students develop an understanding of social awareness and practice skills that enable productive and healthy relationships both at school and beyond. Students are also given the opportunity to engage in the sporting culture of the school through participation or representation.

Elective Subjects

Auslan Languages

Elective

Studies focus on skills in communicating (listening, reading, speaking and writing) Auslan. Activities and discussions are conducted to further develop understanding and ability to compare and contrast, to sign instructions, problem-solve, make announcements, persuade, and recount experiences in increasing detail. Students engage with a range of Auslan texts, and express feelings and emotions creatively in the language. Students participate individually and in groups in tasks and learning experiences, explaining or justifying positions, elaborating opinions, and giving and receiving multistep instructions. Students may select this course if they have prior experience of Auslan.

Assessment

Communicating and Understanding tasks: Viewing, reading, signing and writing assignments and or exams relating to topics studied.

Design Technologies Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Elective

This subject focuses on how to design and prototype your own projects within a given context. Students will be shown how to use the design process to research and investigate a given problem, sketch solutions, produce a set of plans and develop a solution to that problem.

Assessment

- Design projects (sketching and workshop tasks)

Due to Workplace Health and Safety regulations the wearing of approved personal protective equipment is required to gain workshop access (e.g. approved enclosed footwear, safety glasses (supplied), etc.).

Digital Technologies Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Elective

Digital Technologies is about problem solving, learning to code, and working with computer systems. You will explore operating systems, investigate the computer hardware and how data is stored.

You will learn to code using Python and other current technologies (such as drones), and will build and program a robot. You will be involved in planning, testing and evaluating your own solutions, as well as investigating existing digital solutions.

Assessment

- Projects, practical tasks and digital portfolios.

Drama

The Arts

Elective

Drama is an important 21st century subject which teaches students creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication skills.

Students will learn to manage, demonstrate and respond to the elements of Drama, skills of Drama and conventions of style and develop interpersonal and intra-personal communication skills. Students study areas that

Assessment

An integrated task is completed each term, sections of the integrated task may be presented to students at different stages in the term. This reflects the Australian Curriculum standards of Forming, Performing and Responding tasks.

Economics and Business

Health, Humanities and Enterprise

Elective

In Economics and Business, you will be introduced to the concepts of an 'economy' and explore what it means for Australia to be part of the Asia region and the global economy.

You will consider the interdependence of participants in the global economy, including the implications of decisions made by individuals, businesses, and governments. Through practical activities, you will explore what it means to be a consumer, a worker, and a producer in the market and the rights and responsibilities of each group.

You will also investigate the characteristics of successful businesses and how entrepreneurial capabilities can contribute to this success. You will learn in a practical sense what it means to be an entrepreneur by running your own business. This unique opportunity will build valuable skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, financial and digital literacy, teamwork and communication.

Economics and Business content is taught through contemporary issues, events and case studies that cover personal, local, national, regional, and global contexts.

Assessment

Practical assessment tasks, multimodal presentations, project work.

Health and Physical Education

Health, Humanities and Enterprise

Elective

Physical Education involves students learning in, about and through physical activity. This is the first course in the pathway leading to Senior Physical Education. Students participate in a series of individualised written and physical learning experiences based on the study of selected physical activities.

Assessment

Exam, research assignment and research report, multimodal.

Home Economics

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Elective

This course is based on the development of practical skills and knowledge in the areas of nutrition and cooking. Students focus their study on nutritional needs, food science and technologies and implement specific cookery skills. This is the first course in the pathway leading to Senior Food and Nutrition.

Assessment

Exams, food folio and research assignment.

Students are to supply ingredients for practical cookery lessons. Students must also be dressed appropriately for practical work in accordance with the student dress code.

Hospitality

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Elective

This subject is designed to give students an opportunity to gain a portfolio of cookery skills and a good knowledge of the back of house role within the hospitality industry. These include experience in planning, costing of meals and preparation of food using a variety of different cookery methods. Practical skills are developed in a team setting.

Assessment

Exams, projects and physical tasks such as practical cooking exams.

Students to supply some ingredients on a weekly basis for practical cookery lessons.

Industrial Technology and Engineering

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Elective

This subject focuses on theoretical understanding and practical application related to trade based industries, such as furnishing, plastics, engineering, sheet metal and construction. Students problem solve in order to produce products whilst developing industry knowledge and skills in industrial technology machinery and engineering concepts. Graphical design is also visited to provide opportunities for students to explore, experience and develop skills to produce technical drawings used in a variety of trade industries.

Assessment

Projects and practical demonstrations.

Due to Workplace Health and Safety regulations the wearing of approved personal protective equipment is required to gain workshop access (e.g. approved enclosed footwear, safety glasses (supplied), etc.).

Sample project ideas for Year 9:

- Edge-lit signage with electronic function
- Mantle Clock
- CO2 Dragsters

Japanese

Languages

Elective

Studies focus on skills in communicating (listening, reading, speaking and writing) Japanese language. Activities and discussions are conducted to develop understanding and being aware of the close relationship between language and culture through studying a range of topics focusing on life in Japan. Katakana script is introduced, Hiragana and kanji (for select topics) are also studied.

Assessment

Communicating and Understanding tasks: Listening, reading, speaking and writing assignments and or exams relating to topics studied.

Japanese cultural experiences and excursions: e.g. Obento lunch opportunities for students, movie festivals and restaurant visits.

Media

The Arts

Elective

Students are guided through necessary skills in:

1. using still and movie cameras with regards to shot types,
2. planning for their work with the cameras, by creating storyboards, scripts etc.
3. editing their photos and footage in Adobe Premiere and Photoshop and adding SFX in the editing process.

Areas such as graphic design, photography, web design, film appreciation, video production and editing are studied throughout year 9 and 10. These skills involve the operation of digital cameras, lighting, green-screening, audio, after effects to name a few. Students are introduced to a genre of film, or a focus task like advertising. They will be guided through processes to examine what has been done in the real world, and then plan for their own production. Software used in the editing suites is the Adobe Master Collection and additional After Effects software when relevant.

Assessment

Making tasks: Design (Storyboard, script), production (photography folio, 1-3 minute productions).

Post-production (editing and adding after effects)

Responding tasks: analysing and evaluating film and media.

Music

The Arts

Elective

Students study the three dimensions of performing, composing and responding through the exploration of repertoire selected from a variety of styles and genres. Students will sing and/or play an instrument of their choice.

Assessment

Students will be assessed in the areas of performing (playing and/or singing), composing (writing music) and responding (describing the music that they hear and see).

Sport and Recreation Studies

Health, Humanities and Enterprise

Elective

Recreation involves students learning about, planning for and participating in a variety of recreational activities. Each unit will include both a practical and theoretical component. Emphasis is placed on learning and applying appropriate participation, safety and behavioural practices within specific recreational environments.

Assessment

Exams, research assignment and research reports, multimodal presentations.

Visual Art and Design

The Arts

Elective

Each art making task encountered in the program requires students to research, problem solve, design multiple solutions and then create the artwork.

Students design and create a variety of 2D and 3D artworks which may include drawing, photography, painting, ceramics, sculpture and printmaking.

Art appreciation (responding) is an integral area of study and looks at a variety of historical art movements, selected artworks and artists directly linked to students' own art making practice.

Digital photography is, where possible, incorporated into the course depending on students' interests. Each photographic unit has a different focus such as macro views and landscapes.

Assessment

- Making 2D and 3D artworks
- Responding tasks – exams and assignments, evaluations of making tasks

VPSHS Academy

Elective

The Victoria Point State High School Academy is specifically targeted at supporting students who have expressed interest in and can demonstrate targeted skills in a specialised field of study.

The Victoria Point State High School Academy aims to create intensive and focused pathways for potential futures, create an environment of motivation, engagement and success, and develop skills and opportunities for students to work with industry professionals and collaborate with local and wider community in order to build deeper knowledge, skills, training and experience.

The Academies run across Years 7-10. Each of the Academies aligns to senior subjects in a QCE + ATAR or QCE Pathway.

Students enrolled in the VPSHS Academy are expected to abide by a Code of Behaviour.

Academic Academy

The Academic Academy is by invitation only and is studied as part of the core discipline of History/Geography.

The Academic Academy is specifically targeted at supporting highly academic students who intend on embarking on university studies. The goal of the program is to equip students with the specific skills aimed at enhancing future studies and providing them with the opportunity to achieve their highest ATAR in order to maximise their university options.

Over the course of the year, students will engage in philosophical inquiry to enhance their 21st Century skills. The purpose of the program is to expose students to open-ended, abstract problems to challenge their thinking and develop collaboration skills.

Students will embed Critical and Creative Thinking skills to respond and evidence the standards of the Australian Curriculum. These include:

- Reflecting on Thinking and Processes
- Analysing, Synthesising and Evaluating reasoning and Procedures
- Inquiring – Identifying, Exploring and Organising Information and Ideas
- Generating Ideas, possibilities and Actions

Students will work and learn through critically evaluating information and arguments, seeing patterns and connections, constructing meaningful knowledge and applying it in the real world. Initially students will collaborate to construct their knowledge and aim to think and work together with a powerful synergy of shared cognition. New knowledge created will leverage both individual and collective expertise and the quality of the shared thinking will ensure that new knowledge is highly applicable to the real world. Students will be able to articulate how they “think together” to improve results.

(Critical Thinking: New Pedagogy for Deep Learning)

Criteria

Academic GPA; Diagnostic Test Results; Student Report Card – Entering Students; Professional Judgement.

On-Going monitoring through Visible Tracking, TrackEd & OneSchool Student Profile.

Elective Academies

All Elective Academies incur a levy of \$200.00, payable upon successful application. Scholarships are available.

Vikings Sport Academy: AFL

Advanced

The Vikings Sport Academy – AFL/Sports is by application and trial only.

Pre requisites (newly enrolling students): Minimum C standard in Year 8 English, Mathematics.
Pre requisites (continuing students): As above and a minimum standard in Year 8 Academy - AFL.

The Vikings Academy aims to provide students with the opportunity to engage in a sporting based program that supports development in chosen Sports, Academic Success and Leadership. The program would include school and non-school sport specific students with a desire to further their involvement and base a career in sports.

The intent of the Vikings Academy is to deliver our students with the opportunity to achieve at the highest level in their chosen school sporting domain, where possible extend skills and opportunities in chosen external sports that differ from school sport, while maintaining a high quality education. Through the guidance of our experienced staff, students will be afforded the occasion to succeed in all facets of their schooling.

Our vision is to support school culture and foster an innovative sporting pathway where performance and success are be demonstrated across all aspects of each student growth at Victoria Point State High School.

Key principles in this vision will include:

- Sport Skill Development
- Physical Development
- Academic Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Personal Wellbeing

The Vikings Sport Academy will act as a direct pathway between Junior Sport/Viking AFL Academies and our Senior Certificate III Sport and Recreation offerings.

Assessment

Students will receive training in and be assessed on a combination of HPE, Recreation and Leadership curriculum area skills.

Creative Industries Academy: Dance

Advanced

The Dance Academy is by application and audition only.

Pre requisites (newly enrolling students): Minimum C standard in Year 8 English, Mathematics.

Pre requisites (continuing students): As above and a minimum standard in Year 8 Dance Academy – Intermediate.

This program is an accelerated class and requires students to have a good level of coordination, dance ability and an ability to pick up routines easily. The students will study: The Functions of Dance, Popular Dance styles such as Hip Hop, Social Dance, Musical Theatre Dance and Dance from Around the World. The students will compete in competitions and eisteddfods as a class troupe and attend performances – the costs involved in attending these activities are covered in the course levy. Comfortable dance attire appropriate to practical lessons is to be worn.

Assessment

Students complete a range of tasks including; group performances of both teacher and student choreographed dance works, small group choreographic works, written analysis of dance and exams.

STEM Technologies Academy: Robotics

Advanced

The Robotics Academy is by application only.

Prerequisites (newly enrolled students): Minimum C standard in Year 8 English, Mathematics.

Prerequisites (continuing students): As above and a minimum standard in Year 8 Robotics Academy – Intermediate.

Robotics Academy is a hands-on subject in which you create programmable robots. Students will learn about digital systems and programming. Students will build robots using the Lego Mindstorm kits and learn to program your robots to carry out specific tasks. More and more robots are being used to improve the lives of everyday people. They are being used to control real-life systems in our lives and are also being used in care situations. Students will investigate the way in which artificial intelligence is used in robots.

Assessment

Projects, written tasks and multimodal tasks.

Creative Industries Academy: VPtv Media

Advanced

The Media Academy is by application only.

Prerequisites (newly enrolled students): Minimum C standard in Year 8 English, Mathematics.

Prerequisites (continuing students): As above and a minimum standard in Year 8 VPtv Media Academy – Intermediate.

This program is highly engaging and provides students with hands-on experience in areas such as: new media, animation, graphic design, photography – mood lighting and photo manipulation, video production and editing – green-screening, lighting, audio, film appreciation and pre-production planning. Intensive industry workshops are provided to enable the students to practice their skills in real life situations such as setting up a studio shoot, operating the vision switcher, auto-cue and cameras. These are done in a live studio setting with an industry expert as a facilitator and costs are covered by the course levy. Students are given many authentic experiences to practice their media skills in the school and the wider community.

Assessment

Making tasks - storyboard, scripts, capturing images (lighting/angles/green-screen), editing these images into a sequence or folio.

Responding tasks - Film evaluation and analysis.

(Responding tasks reinforce the focus of the making task).

The pathway created by doing this course is Year 10 Certificate II Creative Industries, contributing four credits towards students QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education).

Scholarships

Victoria Point State High School offers Scholarships for Academies. One student scholarship is awarded per year level based on:

- demonstrated performance, and
- aptitude and potential to excel in their chosen field.

Scholarship Value

An application is required for Academy students to be considered for a scholarship.

VPSHS Academy - Scholarship Value: \$200 - \$400 for one successful student per Academy, per year level.

The Scholarship value will be held by the school.

Parents can access the Scholarship value for the following:

- School Resource Scheme – Participation at no cost to cover fees.
- Subject Levies – that apply to specialist areas of common program, considering the scope of areas of the Academies.
- Subject Competition/s costs – including Mathematics and Science competitions, Eisteddfods.
- Excursions – curriculum based as requested.

Code of Behaviour

Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students

All students enrolled at Victoria Point State High School are expected to uphold the School Values of Respect, Integrity and Responsibility. All students are subject to the consequences outlined in the school's 'Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students'. In addition, VPSHS Academy students must also abide by the expectations of high levels of school representation. Students must act in accordance with the responsibilities outlined in the Victoria Point State High School Academy Code of Responsibilities.

Academy Code of Responsibilities

Please note: Academy Codes of Responsibility may vary according to the specialist field. These responsibilities will be outlined in the consent forms which will require student and parent signature.

Individual Academic Review

VPSHS Academy students' progress will be monitored and reviewed with regard to specific disciplines and all-round academic progress as well as behaviour and attitude. An overall student review will be conducted towards the end of each semester.

In addition to the general Academy intake conducted at the end of each year, staff can recommend and approve a student's commencement in an Academy throughout the year for new students enrolling mid-year at Victoria Point State High School.

A high level of achievement and consistently high attitudinal and behavioural engagement along with levy payment will enable a student to continue the Academy pathway.

Student Responsibilities

- Strive for personal excellence by working hard.
- Demonstrate respect and courtesy at all times.
- Cooperate with peers, staff, and community members.
- Display appropriate behaviour in all situations.
- Learn to value honest effort, skilled ability and improvement including a sense of trial and error and experimentation where all outcomes are valued.
- Represent the School and the Academy appropriately and with pride, including wearing uniform correctly.
- Attend all extra-curricular activities.
- Notify staff of the inability to attend extra-curricular activities promptly.
- Complete all set work including assessment within the allocated time frame.
- Treat all resources and equipment with care and respect.
- A breach of the Academy Code of Responsibilities and/or the school's 'Responsible Behaviour Plan for Students' will result in consideration of suspension of Academy activities and/or cancellation of enrolment in the Academy. Please note financial refunds will not be possible.
- Parents will be notified of any breaches of the Academy Code of Responsibilities and the immediate actions. Whereby a student's enrolment is recommended for cancellation the Principal will determine the outcome.

Parent Responsibilities

- Encourage their child to always uphold the School Values and follow Codes of Conduct and support the decisions of staff and management.
- Develop in their child a commitment to an honest effort and positive attitude in order to maintain or improve their skills and level of achievement.
- Instil in their child an appreciation and respect for their studies and encourage them to participate in the spirit of the Academy.
- Applaud good student outcomes and celebrate success.
- Acknowledge and support specialist staff.

Staff Responsibilities

- Encourage students to display positive attitudes and to participate within the spirit of the Academy.
- Teach students the required knowledge and skills and extend their abilities to meet high expectations.
- Ensure mutual respect in all contexts and situations.
- Provide positive feedback when students improve their skills and outcomes and celebrate success and self-efficacy.
- Reinforce the School Values and VPSHS Academy Values through modelling positive attitudes and perceptions.
- Keep students informed regarding current industry practice for engagement in future pathways.
- Support students to manage time and work load.
- Be consistent when making decisions.
- Provide a safe and supportive environment for students to learn.
- Ensure Workplace Health & Safety regulations are enforced.

Victoria Point State High School Contact Details

General

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VPSHS Academy Staff

Academic Academy	Head of Department – Humanities Christina Kasper ckasp1@eq.edu.au
Vikings Sport AFL	Sports Coordinator Tom Marshall tmars193@eq.edu.au
Dance Creative Industries	Head of Department – Arts Jo Bieron jbier1@eq.edu.au
VPtv Media Creative Industries	Head of Department – Arts Jo Bieron jbier1@eq.edu.au
Robotics STEM Technologies	Head of Department – Technology Michelle Galpin mmend12@eq.edu.au