

# Junior Subject Guide

Year 9



Every student succeeding

*Learn, Think, Perform*

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# INTRODUCTION

Victoria Point State High School is committed to offering you 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 you progress with the necessary skills to enter the next phase of your education, or with the skills required to enter the workforce.

This book is designed to inform you of your options of learning pathways:

- Health, Humanities & Enterprise
- Languages
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- The Arts

The information provided will also detail the expectations associated with the different learning pathways and the subjects offered within these pathways.

The Victoria Point State High School curriculum consists of subjects which are aligned with Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (QCAA) requirements. More detailed descriptions can be sourced on the school's website ([www.vpshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.vpshs.eq.edu.au)).

To ensure your learning is as engaging and productive as possible please ensure you take the time to read the information about the specific focus of each of the learning pathways, the core subjects and the electives you choose. To assist you to make informed decisions about your elective subjects we suggest you:

- Explore all options outlined in this book.
- Ask questions of relevant staff (Family Group Teachers, Curriculum Teachers, Heads of Department)
- Choose subjects which interest you and will be beneficial to future pathways you may be interested in.
- Apply yourself to your current program of study to provide yourself with the best chance of meeting all the requirements for your preferred pathways.

You are also expected to participate in the Family Group program that focuses on student wellbeing and the development of skills to become a valuable member of 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 you 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 you would have successfully fulfilled the academic, engagement and financial expectations of the previous year's electives before consideration for successful enrolment in new electives.

# Core and Elective Subjects



## English

English



## Health and Physical Education

Physical Education



## Humanities

Economics and Business  
Geography  
History



## Languages

Auslan  
Japanese



## Mathematics

Mathematics



## Technologies

Design Technologies  
Digital Technologies  
Food Technology  
Industrial Technology and  
Engineering



## Science

Science



## Creative Industries - The Arts

Drama  
Media  
Music  
Visual Art and Design



## School Culture & Community

Family Group  
VPSHS Academy

# CORE SUBJECTS

## English

### Health, Humanities and Enterprise

Core

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

### Assessment

## 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. You 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

### Assessment

## 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).

### Assessment

## Mathematics

### Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Core

In Year 9, you 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.

The use of technology, graphic calculators and computers will be a key strategy in our teaching mode

#### Assessment

- Exams
- Assignments, reports and investigations

## Science

### Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Core

In Year 9 Science, you will further your 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, you will study the atom as a system of protons, electrons and neutrons, and they will explore how this system can change through nuclear decay. You will also investigate how matter can be rearranged through chemical change, and how these changes affect the world around us. You will expand your understanding of Physics through the study of the concept of conservation of matter and will apply your understanding of energy and forces to global systems such as continental movement.

#### Assessment

- Examinations
- Research reports, practical investigations and multimedia presentations

## School Community and Culture

### Wellbeing – Family Group

Core

You 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 you develop an understanding of social awareness and practice skills that enable productive and healthy relationships both at school and beyond. You are also given the opportunity to engage in the sporting culture of the school through participation or representation.

# ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

## Auslan Languages

Elective

Auslan focuses on skills in communicating - listening, reading, speaking and writing. 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.

You will engage with a range of Auslan texts, and express feelings and emotions creatively in the language. You will participate individually and in groups in tasks and learning experiences, explaining or justifying positions, elaborating opinions, and giving and receiving multistep instructions. You may select this course if they have prior experience of Auslan.

### Assessment

- Communicating and Understanding tasks include: viewing, reading, signing and writing assignments
- Exams relating to topics studied.

## Design Technologies Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Elective

This subject focuses on how to design, sketch and prototype your own projects within a given context. You 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. Individual expression and creativity are encouraged in a reflective learning environment.

### Assessment

- Design projects (sketching and workshop tasks)

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

### Additional Costs/Requirements

\$25.00 subject levy per year. Please Note: 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, etc.)

Subject levies may vary from year to year.

## 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 you creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication skills.

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

#### Assessment

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

## 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 explore contemporary issues, events and case studies that cover personal, local, national, regional, and global contexts. 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.



In this subject you will have the unique opportunity to build valuable skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, financial and digital literacy, teamwork and communication.

## Assessment

Practical assessment tasks, multimodal presentations, project work.

# Food Technology

## Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Elective

This subject is based on the development of practical skills and knowledge in the areas of nutrition and, food selection and preparation. You will study nutritional needs, food science and food technology. You will gain experience in meal planning, costing of meals and basic food preparation skills. This is the first course in the pathway leading to Senior Food and Nutrition or Hospitality Practices.

## Assessment

- Exams,
- food folio (including practical tasks)
- research assignment.

Please Note: You will be required to supply ingredients for some practical cookery lessons, as advised. You must also be dressed appropriately for practical work in compliance with the school dress code regarding shoes, hair, jewellery and nail polish.

# Health and Physical Education

## Health, Humanities and Enterprise

Elective

Physical Education involves you learning in, about and through physical activity. Emphasis is placed on the study and application of appropriate participation, safety and behavioural practices within specific sporting and recreational activities. You will participate in a series of individualised written and physical learning experiences based on the study of selected physical activities. This is the first course in the pathway leading to Senior Physical Education or Recreation.

## Assessment

- Exam,
- Research assignment and research report
- Multimodal presentations.

# Industrial Technology and Engineering

## Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

Elective

This subject focuses on theoretical understandings and practical applications related to trade-based industries, such as furnishing, plastics, engineering, sheet metal and construction. You will problem solve to make products and develop industry knowledge and, skills in industrial technology machinery and engineering concepts. You are also given opportunities to develop graphical design skills to produce technical drawings used in a variety of trade industries.

## Assessment

- Projects and practical demonstrations, e.g. Edge-lit signage with electronic function; Mantle Clock; Sheetmetal Carryall; CO2 Dragsters

Please Note: Workplace Health and Safety regulations stipulate wearing of approved personal protective equipment for workshop access (e.g. approved enclosed footwear, safety glasses (supplied), etc.).

## Additional Costs/Requirements

\$50.00 subject levy per year. Please Note: 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, etc.)

Subject levies may vary from year to year.

## Japanese Languages

Elective

This subject focuses on skills in communicating - listening, reading, speaking and writing – in the Japanese language. Activities and discussions are conducted to develop understanding and awareness 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.

You will offered opportunities to participate in Japanese cultural experiences and excursions: e.g. Obento lunch, movie festivals and restaurant visits.

## Assessment

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

## Media Creative industries - The Arts

Elective

In the study of Media, you will be guided through necessary skills in:

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

Graphic design, photography, web design, film appreciation, video production and editing will be studied throughout Years 9 and 10. You will develop skills in the operation of digital cameras, lighting, green-screening, audio, after effects – just to name a few. You will be introduced to a genre of film, or a focus task like advertising. You will be guided through processes to examine what has been done in the real world, and then plan for your own production. Software used in the editing suites is the Adobe Master Collection and additional After Effects software when relevant.

### **Assessment**

- Making tasks including Design (Storyboard, script), production (photography folio, 1-3-minute productions). Post-production (editing and adding after effects)
- Responding tasks focusing on analysing and evaluating film and media.

## **Music**

### **Creative Industries - The Arts**

Elective

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

### **Assessment**

- Tasks that focus on performing (playing and/or singing), composing (writing music) and responding (describing the music that they hear and see).

## **Visual Art and Design**

### **Creative Industries - The Arts**

Elective

Each art making task encountered in the program requires you to research, problem solve, design multiple solutions and then create the artwork. You will 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 you' own art making practice. Digital photography is, where possible, incorporated into the course depending on you' 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

## Academic Academy

The Academic Academy is by invitation-only and is studied as part of the core discipline of Humanities - 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 you with the specific skills aimed at enhancing future studies and providing you with the opportunity to achieve your highest ATAR in order to maximise your university options.

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

You will embed critical and creative thinking skills to respond and evidence the standards of the Australian Curriculum, including:

- 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

You 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 you will collaborate to construct your 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. You 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 You; 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.

### Creative Industries Academy: Dance - Advanced

The Dance Academy is by *application and audition only*, with specific pre-requisites for successful enrolment:

Newly enrolling student: Minimum C standard in Year 8 English, Mathematics.

Continuing student: As above and a minimum standard in Year 8 Dance Academy – Intermediate.

This program is an accelerated class and requires you to have a good level of coordination, dance ability and an ability to pick up routines easily. You will compete in competitions and eisteddfods as a class troupe and attend performances. The costs involved in attending these activities is covered in the course levy.

You will study:

- The Functions of Dance
- Popular Dance styles such as Hip Hop, Social Dance, Musical Theatre Dance and Dance from Around the World.

#### Assessment

- Group performances of both teacher and student choreographed dance works, small group choreographic works,
- Written analysis of dance and exams.

### Creative Industries Academy: VPtv Media - Advanced

The Media Academy is by *application only* and successful enrolments must satisfy the following prerequisites:

Newly enrolled students: Minimum C standard in Year 8 English, Mathematics.

Continuing students: As above and a minimum standard in Year 8 VPtv Media Academy – Intermediate.

This program provides you with a 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 provide you with opportunities to practice your skills in real life situations, including setting up a studio shoot, operating the vision switcher, auto-cue and cameras. This is done in a live studio setting with an industry expert as a facilitator and costs are covered by the course levy. You will also be given authentic experiences to practice your media skills in the school and the wider community.

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

#### 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.

# STEM Technologies Academy: Robotics - Advanced

The Robotics Academy is by *application only* and successful enrolments must satisfy the following prerequisites:

Newly enrolling student: Minimum C standard in Year 8 English, Mathematics.  
Continuing student: 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. You will learn about digital systems and programming and, 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. You will investigate the way in which artificial intelligence is used in robots.

## Assessment

- Projects and multimodal tasks
- Written tasks

## 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 your chosen field.

## Scholarship Value

The VPSHS Academy - Scholarship Value of \$200 - \$400 will be issued to 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.

Students applying for a scholarship are required to complete an application form.

# Code of Behaviour

## Student Code of Conduct

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 'Student Code of Conduct'. 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

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 you 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 'Student Code of Conduct' 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 your child to always uphold the School Values and follow Codes of Conduct and support the decisions of staff and management.
- Develop in your child a commitment to an honest effort and positive attitude in order to maintain or improve your skills and level of achievement.
- Instil in your child an appreciation and respect for your 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 your 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

School Administration Phone Number	(07) 3820 5888
School Fax Number	(07) 3820 5800
School Website	<a href="http://www.vpshs.eq.edu.au">www.vpshs.eq.edu.au</a>
School Administration email	<a href="mailto:admin@vpshs.eq.edu.au">admin@vpshs.eq.edu.au</a>

## VPSHS Academy Staff

Academic Academy	Head of Department – Humanities Christina Kasper <a href="mailto:ckasp1@eq.edu.au">ckasp1@eq.edu.au</a>
Dance - Creative Industries	Head of Department – Arts Jo Bierton <a href="mailto:jbier1@eq.edu.au">jbier1@eq.edu.au</a>
VPtv Media - Creative Industries	Head of Department – Arts Jo Bierton <a href="mailto:jbier1@eq.edu.au">jbier1@eq.edu.au</a>
Robotics STEM - Technologies	Head of Department – Technology Michelle Galpin <a href="mailto:mmend12@eq.edu.au">mmend12@eq.edu.au</a>



## Victoria Point State High School

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