



HUNTER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

Subject Selection Booklet

YEAR 8 2026



RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY EXCELLENCE

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CORE SUBJECTS V ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

This booklet provides information which will help our students and parents/carers make subject choices for Year 8 in 2026.

Students will still be required to study a Core Curriculum, but in addition there are elective courses which will allow for some freedom of choice. In this way we cater for mandatory study requirements and student interest. Choices made in Year 8 are for one semester only.

We hope this booklet will enable students and parents to better understand the curriculum and to make an informed choice of subjects. If more information is required, parents should not hesitate to contact the relevant Head Teachers.

INTRODUCTION TO YEAR 8 COURSES

In Year 8, all students will study the mandatory CORE subjects and one ELECTIVE subject for each semester.

Core Subjects	
English	
Mathematics	
Science	
Geography	
Technology (Mandatory)	
PDHPE	
Sport	
Visual Art	
Elective Subjects	
Semester One X Elective	Semester Two X Elective

WHAT ARE ELECTIVE SUBJECTS?

All students must participate in one elective subject per semester. During the selection process, students will have the opportunity to indicate a backup subject as a second option. Students should enter the subject choices in order of preference. In the event a course isn't available, a student's second option will be allocated.

Details of all subjects offered are found in this booklet.

All subjects studied in Year 8 provide a basis for the subjects studied in Years 9 and 10.

WILL ALL ELECTIVES RUN NEXT YEAR?

All elective subjects listed in this booklet are on offer. However, only those electives chosen by a sufficient number of students will run next year. Students decide via their choices which subjects run.

It is very important that students choose carefully. Once all subject selection sheets are in:

- Selections will be tallied
- Decisions will be made on which subjects will and will not run
- Students will be allocated an elective from their choices.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING ELECTIVES

When choosing electives, it is essential to consider a student:

- Career aspirations
- Interests
- Abilities and talents

This is a very personal choice, and students are advised to ignore outside pressure (e.g., peer pressure) when selecting subjects. If you have any questions about specific subjects, please consult the Head Teacher.

INTRODUCTION TO ABORIGINAL STUDIES

FACULTY: HSIE

HEAD TEACHER: JESSICA BURG (Rel.)

This project will allow students to explore Aboriginal Culture, while working collaboratively in a group setting. Students will be able to choose what their whole class project is, deciding how to present it to the wider community. Each student will have input exploring the possibilities of dance, dreamtime stories, bush tucker, bush medicine, cultural excursions, fishing, heritage and history and art making including emu callers, clap sticks, boomerangs or didgeridoos. This project is open to students of all cultural backgrounds.

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE & PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

FACULTY: SCIENCE

HEAD TEACHER: MATHEW ROBSON

This course brings real-life farming experiences into the classroom using unique "virtual excursions", projects including tractor driving, growing crops and working with farm livestock. At the end of the course, we sample what we have grown in delicious and nutritious recipes. Experience the benefits of improved mental health and well-being through social interactions and a sense of community. It also gives you the opportunity to consider careers that you may have never thought possible. This course is suitable for students who enjoy the outdoors and would like to learn skills that will be valuable for future employment.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS STUDIES & COMMERCE

FACULTY: HSIE

HEAD TEACHER: JESSICA BURG (Rel.)

Introduction to Business Studies and Commerce is a project-based learning activity that allows students to gain a feel for running a business. Students will utilise skills of communication, problem solving and teamwork to develop a business based on personal interest. Possibilities include jewellery making, food-based enterprise or the establishment of a whole school fete.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

FACULTY: CAPA

HEAD TEACHER: TAMARA AUBREY

Students will have the opportunity to develop, create and perform! As a class, we will decide what project to develop and how this will be presented to the wider community. Everyone will have the opportunity to develop acting skills through drama games, improvisation and play building while exploring social or cultural topics. Students will work as a group, developing skills in drama film, script writing, stage and costume design or performance.

INTRODUCTION TO FOOD TECHNOLOGY & HOSPITALITY

FACULTY: TAS

HEAD TEACHER: BRENT SCRIVENER

Experience the excitement and buzz of running your own bakery! You and your co-chefs will design, create, promote and sell your baked sensations to your peers in the new school bakery/caf . You will have firsthand work experience of working in a caf  and baking delicious delights. As small teams you will decide on what to sell at the bakery each week and cook the goods for your friends. Use your creative thinking and cooking skills to have fun!

Real life situation.....teamwork.....creative thinking.....fun!

INTRODUCTION TO INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY: TAS

HEAD TEACHER: BRENT SCRIVENER

This subject will provide students with opportunities in designing and making small projects using different materials, tools and techniques. These projects range from toy design through to barbecue equipment and various timber projects. This “hands-on” elective will enable students to develop and appreciate a variety of practical skills used to create quality projects. Theory and portfolio work is directly related to the practical work covered. Students electing this course will develop a wide range of valuable skills. Workshop safety, care and maintenance of equipment, appreciating and economically using a range of natural and renewable resources is an important feature of this course.

This subject will provide a firm foundation for further study in Stage 5 Timber/ Metal technology to Stage 6 Industrial Technology Timber and VET Construction.

INTRODUCTION TO iSTEM

FACULTY: SCIENCE

HEAD TEACHER: MATHEW ROBSON

The iSTEM Elective aims at integrating Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (iSTEM) into our everyday lives and thinking beyond what is currently considered normal. Students will work on developing their computer programming and robot building skills as they explore the wonderful world of Robotics using Lego; enhance their knowledge of aeronautics using the Power Anchor and Skylap planes to examine aerodynamics and build model aircraft. The iSTEM course is suited to those students who aspire to think outside the box, with a curious mind and a desire to design ideas for tomorrow.

INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL STUDIES

FACULTY: HSIE

HEAD TEACHER: JESSICA BURG (Rel.)

Do you want to know how to convict a murderer?

Then this is the subject for you! Bail me out will give students the opportunity to learn all about the key features of the Legal System.

Investigate real crimes, listen to fascinating podcasts, put yourself on Trial. Students will apply a range of critical thinking skills and examine how the Australian Legal System operates.

Opportunities will exist to participate in excursions to the Police Station, Court House and Maitland Goal.

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC

FACULTY: CAPA

HEAD TEACHER: TAMARA AUBREY

This course is designed to develop performance skills through playing as a soloist and in an ensemble. Students will learn to play a range of musical instruments including; electric guitar, bass, drums, keyboards as well as developing their singing skills. Students are provided with opportunities to perform at CAPA concerts and other performance events in the local community. There is a focus on performing current rock songs and learning more about what it takes to be a successful rock star. Who knows, you may be the next 'Rock Star'!!!

INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORTS STUDIES

FACULTY: PDHPE

HEAD TEACHER: ALEX THOMPSON/CARTER LOVELL

Introduction to Physical Activity and Sports Studies aims to enhance students' capacity to participate effectively in physical activity and sport, leading to improved quality of life for themselves and others. Students engage in a wide range of lifelong physical activities, including recreational, leisure and adventure pursuits, competitive and non-competitive games and individual and group physical fitness activities to develop key understandings about how and why we move and how to enhance quality and enjoyment of movement. Participation in this course will provide opportunities for personal challenge in both collaborative and competitive contexts and supports the development of key social skills necessary for strong interpersonal relationships, organisation, leadership and communication.

INTRODUCTION TO TEXTILES & DESIGN

FACULTY: TAS

HEAD TEACHER: BRENT SCRIVENER

Interested in Fashion? Design? Develop a label you're proud of including clothes, bags and accessories. Design, create, promote and market your collection through using textile materials. Take the opportunity to share your talents in Fashion and Design. Throughout this course you will learn to design and draw fashion illustrations and make textile projects.

INTRODUCTION TO VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN

FACULTY: CAPA

HEAD TEACHER: TAMARA AUBREY

TAKE YOUR ART TO THE STREET. If you are interested in art and want to create projects that are based on skate, street and surf culture, then Street Art is for you. In this course you will learn drawing, painting and design skills using a variety of media and techniques that practicing street artists use. You will get to create a range of artworks, include making stickers, designing your own pair of shoes, and so much more. Let your artistic expression flow!

2026- Contributions

1. Voluntary School Contributions

These contributions are used to improve the overall school environment and provide valuable resources that benefit all students. In the past, these funds have helped us purchase items such as a school bus, sporting and play equipment, and supported upgrades to our facilities. While voluntary, these contributions make a meaningful difference in what we can provide for our students.

2. Subject-Specific Contributions

These contributions are directly linked to specific subjects and are used to purchase materials that enhance learning experiences in those courses. This might include items like art supplies, ingredients for food technology, science experiment materials, or specialist equipment in practical subjects. These contributions help us ensure students have access to rich, hands-on learning that deepens their understanding and engagement.

This year, we have introduced a flat rate subject contribution, which replaces the individual payments previously requested for each subject. Please note that while this flat rate covers the majority of subject needs, additional contributions may still be requested for subjects that involve major works (such as Visual Arts or Industrial Technology), or for excursions and other significant learning experiences.

The table below outlines the contributions.

Year	Voluntary	Subject
7	\$95	\$70
8	\$95	\$70
9	\$95	\$80
10	\$95	\$80
11	\$95	\$85
12	\$95	\$85

We greatly appreciate the support of families who are able to contribute. Every contribution, big or small, helps us continue to provide high-quality opportunities for all students. We also understand that managing school expenses can be challenging at times, so all contributions can be made through part payments spread across the year.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss contributions further, please don't hesitate to contact the school.