



PLUMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

Artwork By Student:
Nyah Napoles (Year 7)



SUBJECT SELECTION

2025

YEAR

8



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Year 8 2025 Elective Courses

Agriculture

Fee: \$15

Course Description

In this course students will be studying a range of plant and animal enterprises which are farmed in Australia. The course will be conducted on Plumpton High School's Farm where you will learn various techniques in growing seeds to planting your own herbs and vegetables. Students will be responsible for a range of activities including their own garden beds and will use a range of tools and techniques to cultivate, tend to and harvest produce to take home or sell to the local community.



At Plumpton High we have some animal enterprises giving students the opportunity to understand the systems, processes and practices in producing animal-based products in a safe and responsible manner. This will include learning various ways to manage, handle and care for a range of animals. Students will also get the opportunity to learn about aquaculture, permaculture and sustainability. Plumpton High School is dedicated to being responsible for its natural and built environments.



The study of Agriculture also provides many hands-on activities that will help to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of best farming practices.

Students are required to wear **firm leather upper shoes** or **leather boots** and a **hat** if they wish to study this course. Students are encouraged to bring sunscreen for practical lessons and may bring a change of clothes for work down at the farm. Students will be expected to change into their change of clothes **before** the commencement of the lesson and be back in full school uniform after the lesson.

Assessment

Students are assessed through a variety of practical activities, reports and experimental presentations.

Chinese

Fee: Nil

Course Description

Throughout the course you will learn about Chinese culture and society, such as festivals, sports and Celebrations. You will also study Chinese writing and comprehension to enable you to recognise and apply Chinese greetings, counting, days of the week and basic conversation suitable to prepare for a trip to China. Students will be introduced to the culture and traditions of Chinese speakers and encouraged to appreciate the diversity of the world we live in today

Why learn Mandarin?

- Mandarin is the language of about a fifth of the world's population
- Because of its physical proximity, China has a special relationship with Australia and is a major trading partner
- Students will work with teachers from Ningbo Province in China on a regular basis as well as Plumpton High School teachers
- Learning languages allows students to gain confidence and self-esteem in using language to communicate with others



Assessment

Students are assessed through listening, speaking and writing in Mandarin. They will be also be asked to produce a project relating to Chinese culture and language.

Computer Science

Fee: Nil

Course Description

This course draws upon the expertise of CS in Schools and the eduSTEM program, developed by Carnegie Mellon University, one of the world's leading universities for robotics, artificial intelligence and computer science.

Students will learn to code, be exposed to more complex programming language using virtual software and computer games. They will test their coding skills by creating and designing computer games. They will explore how to incorporate images, videos and animations whilst designing apps and games. As they progress through the curriculum they will be introduced to a 3D editor, elements of game play and project management concepts as related to interactive game creation.

The course is levelled so that students in years 7-10 can progress through to higher stages of complexity. This course supports concepts taught in mathematics, science and computing. Therefore not all of the concepts will be covered in year 7 but the foundations will be set as they progress through their year level.

Assessment

Students will be assessed through a variety of practical activities, reports and presentations.



Dance

Fee: \$10

Course Description

Dance appeals to students who are creative. Dance is a something we can all do, whether you have taken a dance class before, or you have always wanted to give it a go! Dance can be a way to not only express ourselves, but also can be a lot of fun. Learn to dance like Beyoncé or Usher, or burn the floor creating your own dances. Whatever the reason, Dance can help increase your confidence and can help you shine.

Dance involves:

- **CREATING YOUR OWN DANCES:** This is the main focus of the course, and allows you to create your own new steps and dances. Computer technology is also used to help you create these dances.
- **DANCE TECHNIQUE:** Dance Technique helps you develop your ability, flexibility and strength.
- **DANCE STYLES:** The Dance syllabus is based on modern technique, but in the junior course you will learn about all the difference styles of Dance. These include: Tap Dance, Jazz Dance, Musical Theatre and Cultural Dance.
- **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES:** Studying Dance in Year 7 can lead to various performance opportunities within the school and also could result in you being chosen to represent the school at a higher level.



Assessment

Students are assessed through the components of Performance (40%), Composition (40%) and Appreciation (20%). They work together in groups, pairs and solos to create dance, perform dance and learn technique and explore the history and write about and reflect on dance.

Drama

Fee: \$10

Course Description

Drama appeals to students who are creative. Drama is a great subject for all students; you get to have fun while expressing yourself, playing new characters and interacting with other people. Drama helps to increase your confidence and allow you to have a physical experience in this creative subject.



Drama involves:

- **ACTING TECHNIQUE:** Learn how to act and the skills and techniques that are needed to be an actor.
- **STYLES OF THEATRE AND HISTORY:** Look at the different types of theatre and techniques and how these came about, for example: improvisation, masks, puppets, film and video drama
- **PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES:** Studying Drama in Year 7 can lead to many other opportunities including school productions, stage crew and Drama camps.



Assessment

Students are assessed through the components Making (30%), Performing (30%) and Appreciating (40%). Students work together in groups, pairs and solos to make drama, perform drama and learn technique, explore the history and write about and reflect on Drama.

Engineering

Fee: \$25

Course Description

Engineering is a practical based course which provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to general engineering concepts and builds upon the experiences gained through Technology Mandatory Years 7–8.

Students learn how force, motion and energy can be used in systems, machines and structures. They investigate characteristics and properties of a range of materials, develop skills and techniques in the use of a broad range of tools and safely apply them in the production of projects. Students will develop knowledge of engineering structures and mechanisms as well as control systems and alternative energy sources.



Learning outcomes are addressed through the design and construction of student projects. Students will work with a variety of materials from electronics, metal, wood and utilise computer technologies to develop solutions to problems and explore engineering ideas.

Students are required to wear **firm leather upper shoes** if they wish to study this course.

Assessment

Assessment is a combination of practical engineering solutions, project management folios and research tasks.

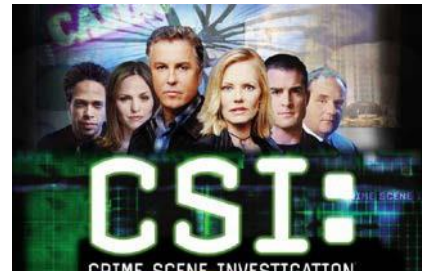
Forensic Science

Fee: \$20

Course Description

Students who enjoy watching CSI and NCIS Crime investigation TV shows will thoroughly enjoy this elective course. Forensic Science is an exciting and interactive course where observation and deductive reasoning combine with the science that students are learning in the laboratory, to solve crimes in the real world.

Students will take a journey into the world of the Forensic Scientist and learn how Forensic Science helps the Police to solve crimes every day. They will discover how forensic evidence is gathered, how it is analysed and how the results of these analyses are compiled to provide detailed picture of the events leading up to a crime. Students are required to wear **firm leather upper shoes** if they wish to study this course.



In this subject, students may discover (please note that not all of these topics will be covered):

- Crime scene procedures and processes
- the importance of observation and deductive reasoning in interpreting results of forensic tests
- DNA profiling and how this is used to identify and link suspects to the crime scene.

Assessment

Students will be assessed through a variety of tasks such as reports, practical activities and presentations.

Mathematical Problem-Solving

Fee: Nil

Course Description

Problem solving is a mathematical process about solving problems. In this course of 'Problem Solving', students will be given an opportunity to use various problem-solving strategies to solve problems, developing their skills to be critical thinkers. They will be exposed to use "Newman's error analysis and Polya's strategies to comprehend and solve problems more confidently.

This course is designed for students who enjoy solving problems and would like to further develop their ability to solve mathematical problems in a variety of contexts.



Solving mathematical problems promotes learning through reading and discussions and provides for positive interaction with others, in collaborative and competitive contexts, supporting the development of key problem-solving skills.

Students will be required to attend incursions and excursions to broaden their understanding of the problems, methods, and solutions.

Assessment

Students are assessed through a variety of practical activities, individual tasks and presentation of their strategies. Student will be creating their own questions with their solutions for problem solving.

Mathematics Extension

Fee: Nil

Course Description

This course is aimed at students who want study higher mathematics in Senior mathematics and further challenge themselves in the field of mathematics. Students will be presented with opportunities to build further on their mathematics ability and explore challenging concepts in the topic of Algebra and its applications.

The course will enable students to build their capacity to tackle harder topics and work independently to extend and challenge themselves further.

Students will also be researching on a topic of their interest and designing a portfolio on it. They will be involved in a project to buddy with a student and work on helping improve his/her numeracy skills and thus adding it to their portfolio.

In addition to this, they will be required to attend workshops, take part in competitions (if chosen) and attend workshops and excursions.



Assessment

Students will be assessed formatively through their class tasks and participation.

Money Matters

Fee: Nil

Course Description

Plan your work and work your plan. That is the motto of millionaires. With this motto in mind Plumpton High School is offering you an opportunity to study the course “Money Matters” This course will focus on making student’s dollar smart! When you study “Money Matters” at Plumpton High School, you will develop understanding skills to manage your finances to be money confident. You will learn to plan your goals and build your organisational skills. No one can succeed without a well-defined plan. You must set goals daily and plan years, months, weeks, and days well in advance. You will study and learn to follow the 5 Ps: *Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance*. Remember opportunities come only to those who are prepared. In addition to this, you will also learn that every millionaire has a system that works for them. They are well organised and flexible enough to adapt to a changing environment. If you are organised, know how to locate information in the fastest way possible and analyse that information, you will have the skills to become a millionaire. You will have access to the latest technology and applications to keep track of and manage your finances.

You will have an opportunity to compare plans, organise lists, prepare budgets, look at share markets, explore real estate, understand credit cards, shop smartly and have a sneak peek at insurance. Plumpton High School is dedicated to making its students money smart.

The study of “Money Matters” also provides many hands-on activities that will help develop a greater understanding and appreciation of being dollar smart. This course will build financial confidence and the street smarts to seize the opportunities the world has to offer and of course you will be starting young.



Assessment

Students are assessed through a variety of practical activities, reports and experimental presentations. Students will be required to come up with a smart plan to be dollar smart.

Music Elective - Taiko

Fee: \$20

Course Description

Taiko Elective is for anyone who wishes to further study music from Year 7 and learn about Taiko drumming. This can be for people who want to develop their skills on any instrument they like as well as learning to play Taiko Drums. Taiko lessons involve:

- **Taiko Lessons:** Learn to play drums as part of a group and as a soloist. Learn pieces from YuNiOn Percussion
- **Music Practical Lessons:** Learn any instrument you would like to learn! Learn pop song, songs from video games and Japanese music.
- **Music Theory Lessons:** Learn to analyse and explain how music functions to a music listener.



Taiko performance requires great energy and teamwork and is a musical activity which is challenging and fun, offering benefits such as reducing stress and aiding relaxation. It is through Taiko performance and musicological study that students will acquire conceptual understandings and musical characteristics which will support their knowledge and application of composition and listening techniques.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on Performing Music, Composing Music and Listening to music. You will demonstrate your knowledge of the musical concepts through the context of Popular Music, Music For Video Games and Japanese Music.

Robotics

Fee: Nil

Course Description

This course has been written for school students by eduSTEM, developed by Carnegie Mellon University, one of the world's leading universities for robotics, artificial intelligence and computer science.

Students apply the mathematical and computational thinking skills that they learn by programming and performing activities and games with physical robots. These robots make the program hands-on and engaging, effectively bringing the content to life. Students work in groups to perform activities and challenges such as navigating robots through mazes uses pre-programmed instructions, which provides a sense of gamification and competition to increase engagement. It also enables students to test and run their programmed instructions in a simulated, computer game-like environment.



The course is levelled so that students in years 7-10 can progress through to higher stages of complexity. This course supports concepts taught in mathematics, science and computing.

Assessment

Students will be assessed through a variety of practical activities, reports and presentations.

Course Description

Sports Studies is a practical based course for students who are interested in participating in a variety of physical activities. It is designed for students who enjoy physical activity and would like to further develop their movement skills and competence in a variety of team sports.

Sports Studies promotes learning through movement and provides students with opportunities to develop their movement skills and analyse movement performance. It also provides for positive interaction with others, in collaborative and competitive contexts, supporting the development of key social skills.

This course caters for a wide range of student needs. It can assist students in developing:

- High levels of performance skill in particular sports
- Strategies and tactics for success in a range of movement contexts
- Skills to enhance safety in physical activity
- Leadership and teamwork skills
- The skills of coach, trainer, referee and fitness leader
- Sports administrative skills of competition and event coordinator



Above: Students participating in an AFL workshop ran by the GWS Giants

Assessment

This course is 65% Practical and 35% Theory and you will be assessed through the practical application of skills and written tasks.