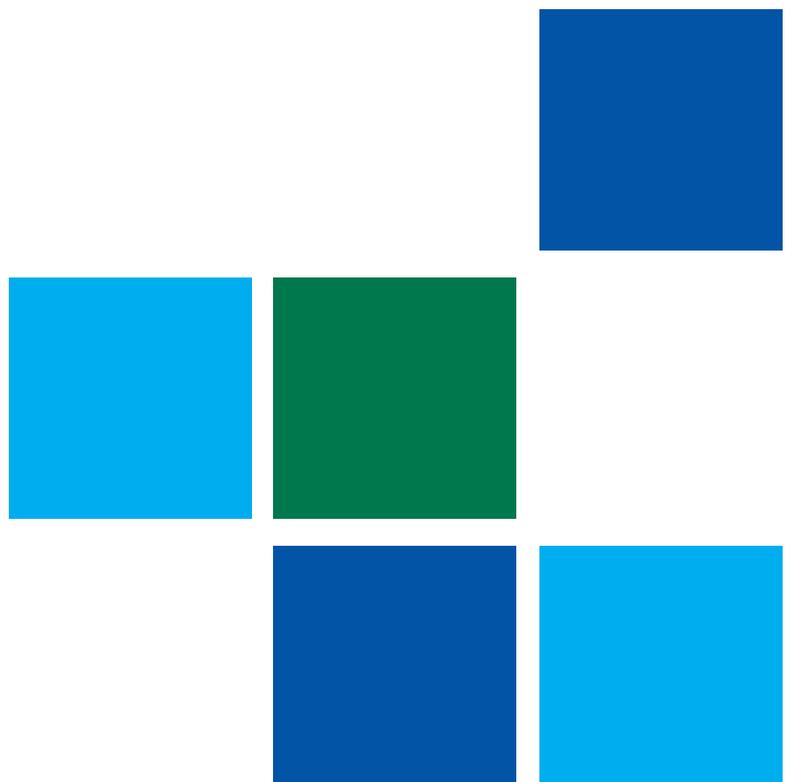


**2023**

**Year 9**

**Student Handbook**



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Costs indicated in this handbook are the proposed costs for 2023. They are an indication of the cost per unit. Actual costs will appear on the Charges and Contributions sheets sent out by the College before the end of the school year.

The college cannot guarantee any course or combination of courses will appear on the timetable due to the availability of resources or insufficient students selecting the course.

# INTRODUCTION

## PURPOSE OF THIS CURRICULUM GUIDE

This Curriculum Guide provides information to parents and students on the nature of compulsory and elective courses available to students in Year 9. It provides information on the content of the many courses available and details of the costs associated with each course.

While this guide is comprehensive in its coverage, students and their parents are encouraged also to seek answers to their questions from other sources, including teachers at the College, the Year Coordinator, the internet and the various special programs coordinators.

## COURSE CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES

Please note that the course charges listed in this handbook are an approximate cost only. During Term 4, a College account will be sent to each parent or guardian detailing the contributions and charges to be paid for their child. Payment is due at the beginning of the school year.

## ORGANISATION OF YEAR 9 CLASSES

### COMPULSORY COURSES

#### English

Students work in classes as directed by the Head of Learning Area.

#### Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

Students work in classes as directed by the Head of Learning Area.

#### Science

Students will be grouped into one of two pathways, as directed by the Head of Learning Area. Students work in classes as directed by the Head of Learning Area.

#### Mathematics

Students will be grouped into one of two pathways at the beginning of Year 9 as directed by the Head of Learning Area. Students work in classes as directed by the Head of Learning Area.

#### Health Education and Physical Education

All students except Golf and Hockey Specialists are required to complete a full year course in Health & Physical Education.

### OPEN CHOICE COURSES

All students will have the opportunity to select some courses that cater for their interests or special skills and talents. These courses can be divided into two categories - Electives and Approved Specialist Programs.

#### Electives

These are courses available to all students. The College offers

its students the opportunity to complete courses in a diverse range of courses from The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Languages and Technologies learning areas. The choices available offer students the chance to develop their interests and skills. Students cannot choose DiT if studying EMITS. Many have a cost component in them for materials, travel costs, special equipment, etc. which should be considered when making a choice of electives.

**The College endeavours to place students into their choices. However, some reselections may be required if a selected course does not run because it is selected by too few students, or the classes available are full at the time of enrolment.**

### Approved Specialist Programs

These courses are only available to students who have been through the selection process and been offered a place. At Como, Approved Specialist Programs are offered in Golf, Hockey, Contemporary Music and Enriched Mathematics, Information Technology and Science (EMITS). Usually, students enrolled in a specialist course in Year 9 will be continuing on from their studies in the same course begun in Year 7. In summary, each student will find himself or herself in a Program of Study that will vary in its requirements according to the type of enrolment. The different requirements of each program are outlined in the section titled Key Learning Areas Approved Specialist Programs.

## SELECTING A PROGRAM OF STUDY

### OVERVIEW

For the great majority of students entering Year 9, the General Studies Program will be the basis of their course selection. However, students specialising in Enriched Mathematics, Information Technology and Science (EMITS), Golf, Hockey or Music will need to be aware that there are certain constraints on their course selections. These constraints are outlined below and again in the section of this book that explains how to complete the course selection form.

Students entering Year 9 need to recognise that they are moving towards Senior School and that their course selections for Year 9 may have an impact on their ability to pursue their desired programs of study in Year 10 and then Years 11 and 12. Thus, every student should take every step to ensure they make the best decisions possible about their Year 9 program by seeking as much advice as possible and by giving consideration to their abilities, talents, interests and aspirations for the future. Pre-requisites for ATAR Courses offered in 2023 are summarised on page 5.

### THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR YEAR 9

For every student there will be courses that are compulsory and a varying number of periods in each week available for Elective courses. Students enrolled for any Specialist Studies Program have certain compulsory courses associated with the relevant program.

# THE COMPULSORY PROGRAM

## Curriculum Program

All students are required to study a curriculum set by the Schools Standard and Curriculum Authority. Students are required to complete year long courses in English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences and Health and Physical Education.

## Elective Courses

All students choose from the available elective courses. The number of electives a student is permitted to choose will depend on the type of program in which he/she is enrolled. Elective courses are offered by the following Learning Areas:

The Arts	Health and Physical Education
Languages	Technologies

## Approved Specialist Programs

Each specialist course is available only to a student whose enrolment in that course has been approved by the College. The College offers several Specialist Courses to approved students. Entry into a program offering a specialist studies course is by either practical or written testing.

In 2022, Year 8 students will use the website Subject Selection Online to select electives. A direct link is available on the Como Secondary College website. Click the link and this will take you to your selection pages. Parents will have received an email containing their PIN number. This is very important as the generated PIN is to be used when you see and approve your child's selected Course choices. SSO will not allow you to complete the process of subject selections until this approval has been done. Students will need to login using their school email address Firstname.Lastname@student.education.wa.edu.au. The student PIN will be identified in an email sent to you prior to the commencement of course selection. Just follow the instructions when you land on the website. If you do not have internet access at home, local libraries have computers and it is possible to use these.

Students will need to choose from the electives on offer – make sure the reserve subjects are not the same as the first choices. There are no prerequisites to studying these electives in Year 9.

We encourage students and parents/guardians to discuss the selections together and to read the subject selection handbook prior to logging on to make your selections. These provide valuable information about each subject and will help you to make informed decisions. We suggest you make a note of your preferences separately and then log on to finalise your selections.

Important: Those students who have not made choices online using SSO will be placed into electives as the school can fit them and according to SCSA content requirements.

Please note

It is government policy that parents should contribute towards the cost of educating their children. Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges. Because students are able to choose the courses

that will offer them the learning outcomes they desire, it is considered fair and equitable that all parents should pay for the courses that their children select. Parents of students who choose the more expensive option subjects need to consider the costs during the subject selection process.

High cost subjects are those incurring a proposed cost of greater than \$60 and payment of a 50% deposit is required to confirm acceptance and placement in these classes. (All subject charges are proposed for 2023 and are subject to change.) Specialist programs are to be paid in full at the time of the subject selection process. You will be re-directed to CommBank BPoint to finalise your subject preferences should high cost subjects be selected. Should students not gain a place in these subjects, payments will be set against other subjects or a refund made where necessary.

Pre-requisites for ATAR Courses offered in 2023 are summarised here

## Year 11 and 12 ATAR Courses

Benchmarks apply to the courses in the column below.

Code

Year 10 minimum benchmark for recommendation to study the course

Applied Information Technology	AEAIT	<b>B grade or higher in Digital Technologies in Year 10 (General or Extension).</b>
Biology	AEBLY	<b>B grade or higher in English and a B grade or higher in Biological Sciences in Year 10. As Biological Science is included in Semester 2 learning, students will be provisionally accepted into ATAR Biology based on their Semester 1 grade which must be a B or higher. This will be reviewed when the Biological Science grades are available.</b>
Business Management and Enterprise	AEBME	<b>C grade or higher in Year 10 Humanities and Social Sciences, and a B grade or higher in English.</b>
Chemistry	AECHE	<b>B grade or higher in English and a B grade or higher in Chemical Sciences in Year 10.</b>
English	AEENG	<b>B grade or higher in Year 10 English Reading and Writing.</b>
Geography	AEGEO	<b>B grade or higher in Year 10 Humanities and Social Sciences and in English.</b>
Human Biology	AEBHY	<b>B grade or higher in English and a B grade or higher in Biological Sciences in Year 10. As Biological Science is included in Semester 2 learning, students will be provisionally accepted into ATAR Human Biology based on their Semester 1 grade which must be a B or higher. This will be reviewed when the Biological Science grades are available.</b>
Literature	AELIT	<b>B grade or higher in Year 10 English Reading and Writing.</b>
Mathematics Applications	AEMAA	<b>An A or B or C grade in EMITS or Pathway 1 or 2 Mathematics in Year 10 and a B grade in any strand.</b>
Mathematics Methods	AEMAM	<b>An A or B grade in EMITS or Pathway 1 Mathematics in Year 10 and an A grade in Number and Algebra and/or Measurement and Geometry strands.</b>
Mathematics Specialist	AEMAS	<b>An A grade in EMITS or Pathway 1 Mathematics in Year 10, and an A grade in Number and Algebra and Measurement and Geometry strands.</b>
Media Production & Analysis	AEMPA	<b>B Grade or higher in English</b>
Modern History	AEHIM	<b>B grade or higher in Year 10 Humanities and Social Sciences and in English.</b>
Physical Education Studies	AEPES	<b>B grade or higher in English AND a B grade in HPE Sport focus or Health and Physical Education or Golf or Hockey.</b>
Physics	AEPHY	<b>B grade or higher in English and a B grade or higher in Physical Sciences in Year 10. As Physical Science is included in Semester 2 learning, students will be provisionally accepted into ATAR Physics based on their Semester 1 grade which must be a B or higher. This will be reviewed when the Physical Science grades are available.</b>
Psychology	AEPSY	<b>B grade or higher in English and a B grade or higher in Biological Sciences in Year 10. As Biological Science is included in Semester 2 learning, students will be provisionally accepted into ATAR Psychology based on their Semester 1 grade which must be a B or higher. This will be reviewed when the Biological Science grades are available.</b>
Visual Art	AEMAR	<b>B grade or higher in Year 10 English. Completion of Visual Art subjects in Year 10 will be an advantage</b>
MUSIC ATAR	AEMUSJ	<b>Equivalent theory and practical level of Year 10 Music and achieve a B grade or equivalent AMEB levels.</b>

# KEY LEARNING AREAS

## COMPULSORY COURSES

### ENGLISH

**Cost: \$30.00**

Students should recognise that their studies in Year 9 English will impact on their class allocation for Year 10. At the end of Year 10, students need to achieve a B grade in English to be eligible for recommendation to study at ATAR level in Year 11. The program is essentially a continuation of the regular English offering, albeit with additional demands and challenges. One aim of the lower school English program is to prepare students for the demands and challenges of the senior school English curricula.

Students will be required to work through programs designed to enhance their proficiency in four key areas: Reading; Writing; Speaking and Listening, and Viewing. The program will encourage an inclusive approach to language. This means that students will be required to develop their proficiency in the key areas in an integrated way, using a range of texts designed for different purposes, contexts and audiences. The study texts are drawn from the following areas: Non-fiction; Fiction; Media; Drama and Poetry.

Assessment in English is on-going. Teachers will be observing, assessing, and recording students' learning and classroom behaviour all the time. All students will receive a letter grade at the conclusion of each semester. The first is interim, the second is final.

A student's performance in any formal test or examination held in Year 9, together with their, class performance and semester grade, will be used to determine which English course a student will be recommended to pursue in Year 10.

Students are expected to arrive at lessons properly resourced. Students should have adequate stationery, including writing and correction equipment, A4-sized file paper and file.

### MATHEMATICS

**Cost: \$30.00**

Students are placed in a pathway based on their achievement at the end of Year 8. Their progress is continually monitored and adjustments to the classes are made at the end of each assessment period. In Mathematics students learn to use ideas about measurement and geometry and statistics and probability; and mathematical ways of representing patterns and relationships to describe, interpret and reason about their social and physical world. Mathematics plays a key role in the development of students' numeracy and assists learning across the curriculum.

Student learning in Mathematics in Year 9 will provide the grounding for the study of Mathematics in Year 10. In broad terms, only students in Year 10 Pathway 1 Mathematics and Pathway 2 Mathematics should consider ATAR units in Year 11, however, students should be aiming at achieving A and B grades for all outcomes. Only those in Pathway 1 or EMITS Mathematics with a final grade of A should consider higher level ATAR units in Year 11. It is recommended that students discuss their proposed choice of Senior School Mathematics subject with their teacher during Year 10.

### SCIENCE

**Cost: \$40.00**

This course is delivered in four term-long modules. Each term will focus on one the unifying areas of study from the content strand of the Western Australian Curriculum, Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences and Physical Sciences. The other two strands from the Western Australian Curriculum, Science as a Human Endeavour and Science Inquiry Skills will be integrated into each of the four terms.

Success will allow students to select any of the Science ATAR courses in Year 11 – those Courses being: Human Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Selection of these courses will require a certain level of achievement in Science. Teachers will make course recommendations for each student towards the end of Year 10. As a general guide for success in these courses, students would need to achieve a B Grade.

### HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

**Cost: \$30.00**

In Year 9, Humanities and Social Sciences consists of Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Geography and History. Students develop increasing independence in critical thinking and skill application, which includes questioning, researching, analysing, evaluating, communicating and reflecting. They apply these skills to investigate events, developments, issues and phenomena, both historical and contemporary. Unit titles cover: Biomes and food security and Geographies of interconnections, Our democratic rights, Australia and the global economy, The making of the modern world.

### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

#### Health and Physical Education

**Cost: \$35.00**

**S1 9HE5 and 9PE5  
S2 9HE6 and 9PE6**

[This course is compulsory for all students except those in the Golf and Hockey Studies courses.](#)

Students who aspire to ATAR Physical Education Studies in Years 11 and 12 need to achieve a B Grade in Health and Physical Education and is it desirable that they select Health and Physical Education (Sport Extension) as an elective course.

In Health and Physical Education, students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to make decisions and take action to strengthen their sense of personal identity and autonomy, build resilience, manage risk and develop satisfying, respectful relationships. They learn to take a critical approach to questioning physical activity and health practices and to use inquiry skills to research factors that influence the health, safety, wellbeing, and physical activity patterns of themselves, individuals, groups and communities.

Students participate in a range of physical activities in contexts such as: Athletics, Volleyball, Fitness, Soccer and Cricket.

# KEY LEARNING AREAS

## APPROVED SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

These courses are not available to students enrolled for the General Studies program.

### CONTEMPORARY MUSIC STUDIES **Cost: \$190.00**

#### 9MUSP5

Required prior study: Students must be enrolled for the Contemporary Music specialist program and must have completed Contemporary Music Studies in Year 7 and 8 or its equivalent.

Students other than those who enrolled in the Specialist Music program in Year 7 may enter the program by successful audition. Students enrolled in the Contemporary Music Specialist Studies Program MUST select this course for study in both semesters for Year 9. Other elective courses should be chosen from the list of electives available to all Year 9 students.

This year long course is designed to develop musicianship, including skills and knowledge in composition, aural development, music software, theory and history with an emphasis on improvisation and the disciplines required for high quality ensemble performance work.

Students studying this course MUST:

- Enrol for tuition on an approved musical instrument;
- Join at least one College Band or College Ensemble group.

Rehearsals for college bands are conducted after college hours. This course will prepare students for entry into the ATAR Music course or for VET Certificate III in music industry qualifications.

### GOLF STUDIES **Cost: \$870.00**

#### 9GFSP5

Desirable: Students have participated in Golf Studies in Year 7 to 8. Students entering this program are selected by application and trial.

Students who choose this course should be looking to choose Golf: Certificate II in Sport Coaching or Physical Education Studies in Years 11 and 12.

The course covers all compulsory content under the Personal, social and community health (Health Education) curriculum strand.

Students will participate in physical activities relating to golf in order to develop their skills and understanding of movement and physical activity and develop the necessary skills, strategies and tactics and knowledge of game play and rules within the sport. Coaching and officiating are an essential part of this course.

Students in this course will receive Coaching from club professionals from Collier Park Golf Club and explore elements of Physical Education Studies topics such as: Functional Anatomy; Motor Learning and Coaching;

Biomechanics; Sports Psychology; and Exercise Physiology.

### HOCKEY STUDIES **Cost: \$490.00**

#### 9HKSP5

Desirable: Students have participated in Hockey Studies in Year 7 to 8. Students entering this program and selected by application and trial.

Students who choose this course should be looking to choose Hockey: Certificate II in Sport Coaching or Physical Education Studies in Years 11 and 12.

The course covers all compulsory content under the Personal, social and community health (Health Education) curriculum strand.

Students will participate in physical activities relating to hockey in order to develop their skills and understanding of movement and physical activity and develop the necessary skills, strategies and tactics and knowledge of game play and rules within the sport. Coaching and officiating are an essential part of this course.

Students will explore elements of Physical Education Studies topics such as: Functional Anatomy; Motor Learning and Coaching; Biomechanics; Sports Psychology; and Exercise Physiology.

### ENRICHED MATHEMATICS, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY and SCIENCE (EMITS) **Cost: \$220.00**

#### 9EDT5

##### MATHEMATICS

EMITS students will complete an enriched and extended version of the Pathway 1 Mathematics course with particular emphasis on the higher order concepts of Algebra. All students will study content from Number, Measurement, Chance & Data, Space and Algebra. Students participate in a range of national assessments and competitions.

Participation in out of school problem solving competitions such as Have Sum Fun. Talented EMITS mathematics students are encouraged to nominate for the esteemed National Mathematics Summer School held in Canberra each year.

##### SCIENCE

EMITS students will complete an extended and enriched Pathway I Science course. This will include the following:

- More complex science content that is intellectually challenging and taught at a higher level. This includes more quantitative science, more abstract science theory including mathematical equations and deeper explorations into student and teacher selected science domains.
- Explorations into current science research. Students will be required to read current science journals and present topics of interest to peers. Public speaking and literature reviews are crucial aspects of the scientific method.

# KEY LEARNING AREAS

- More difficult and specialised school based assessments.
- Excursions and guest speakers. Students will be exposed to the latest local research by engaging in a range of excursions and public lectures to places such as UWA, Curtin University and Scitech. In addition to this, the college has invited practising scientists and research students into the school.

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (Digital Technologies)

Digital Technologies, Semester 1 focuses on image formatting and editing, drones, computer hardware, and HTML based webpage design.

This course will explore photography and graphic design methods at intermediate levels. Projects assigned during the course will increase students' skill in the areas of digital photography and graphic manipulation. Students will also explore computer hardware in detail, as well as explore the new frontiers that drones have brought to society.

Digital Technologies Semester 2 focuses initially on Python programming as well as on a variety of film editing projects such as creation of a new advertisement and filming and editing a music video using green screen technology.

The curriculum, which includes a large amount of hands-on experience in individual and team-based projects, is designed to encourage the student to develop critical thinking skills and a well-rounded knowledge of multimedia and its applications.

## CREATE@COMO

**Cost \$150.00**

English  
Existing Create students will be in a discreet English class that extends their skills through a focus on texts written in English. They will learn how to read different texts and analyse the style, use of different types of language, and meaning, in depth. They will also learn how to write clearly, concisely and analytically in stylistically different forms.

Mathematics, Science and HASS classes will be based on appropriate pathways determined by students' grades the previous year.

Performing Arts and Visual Arts as in the handbook.

## 9PACCG5

**Cost \$33.00 per semester**

Performing Arts Create General  
Existing Create students only. Caters for students with a focus on a greater diversity of dance/drama styles and greater degree of difficulty than previous courses. All students will be encouraged to participate in performances such as YOH fest.

## 9VACCG6

**Cost \$30.00 per semester**

Visual Arts Create General  
Existing Create students only. Students will go on a journey of discovery, experimentation and problem-solving, learning studio drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture. All students will exhibit their work and will be encouraged to enter their work in competitions.

# KEY LEARNING AREAS

## ELECTIVE COURSES

All courses are 2 periods per week

### THE ARTS

#### **VISUAL ART** **Cost: \$33.00**

##### **S1 9VARG5** **S2 9VARG6**

Students may select Visual Art for one or two Semesters. Therefore, across the course of the academic year completely different art projects will run, chosen from the various studio areas.

This course is intended to introduce students to the creative process, giving them the opportunity to explore a range of media and drawing techniques to inspire the development of ideas leading to the creation of exciting artworks.

Students will develop creative skills and expressive techniques selected from the studio areas of Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Textiles and Printmaking.

Each project will investigate artists and art movements relevant to an original theme in order for students to develop critical appreciation and knowledge of the present and past role of the arts in our community.

#### **MEDIA ARTS** **COST \$55.00**

##### **S1 9MAG5** **S2 9MAG6**

In Year 9, students are provided with opportunities to extend and refine their skills and processes in Media. The Media Arts program builds a foundation for students interested in pursuing a career in film production, social media marketing and photographic design.

##### Semester 1

Students have the opportunity to develop their skills in film, photography and social media. They create, produce and analyse a range of media work from contemporary and past times, and develop their skills in music video production, social media marketing campaigns and photographic skills.

##### Semester 2

This is a hands-on, dynamic program for emerging broadcasters, podcasters and radio producers. Audio storytelling is booming, but not all podcasts and broadcasts were created equal. Through specialised training and collaboration, in class and during live broadcasts, students learn at an advanced level that the cornerstones of good content are communication, storytelling and knowing the audience.

Broadcasting, film, radio and podcasting will take students to the next level by preparing them for future roles in radio, podcasting and multi-platform broadcasting. Students will learn by doing; working in a stimulating, supportive

environment, engaging in challenges to grow their craft, collaboration and creative skills

#### **MEDIA ARTS - PHOTOGRAPHY** **Cost: \$55.00**

##### **S1 9PHOG5** **S2 9PHOG6**

This course is an introduction to digital photography using digital cameras and basic image editing software. This course includes print production for making black-and-white and color photographs and studio techniques that include portrait lighting and still life photography. Topics include camera and lens operation, memory cards, file formats, exposure, white balance, composition, lighting, creativity, image editing software and output. No prior photography experience is required. Students use digital photography for the production of a photographic portfolio.

Students extend and refine their skills and processes for problem-solving, working as a team, following timelines and using processes and strategies to ensure safe and responsible use of media equipment.

#### **DANCE** **Cost: \$40.00**

##### **S1 9DANG5** **S2 9DANG6**

The General Dance course caters for a greater diversity of dance styles and greater degree of difficulty than previous dance courses.

Students will have the opportunity to explore contemporary, hip hop and jazz genres. Time will be allocated for students to develop their own choreography with a view to performing the finished works. The courses are different in each semester.

Specialist teachers will be incorporated into the program for the latest dance genres. Students will experiment with their own choreography and will have the opportunity to learn about stagecraft, lighting and costumes.

#### **DRAMA** **Cost: \$33.00**

##### **S1 9DRAG5** **S2 9DRAG6**

This course explores different styles of theatre and challenges students to develop their own dramatic performance. Areas studied include:

- Group scripted performances
- Forms and styles of theatre such as Melodrama and commedia dell'arte
- Performance and direction
- Stage craft – lighting, design, costume and set

# KEY LEARNING AREAS

## LANGUAGES

**Students who select a Language must study it for both semesters.**

**A “language bonus” is offered by all WA universities to boost tertiary entrance scores when studied in Years 11 and 12 ATAR Courses.**

**FRENCH** **Cost: \$40.00 per year**

**9FREG5**  
**9FREG6**

Students will continue to develop the ability to comprehend and communicate in French through listening and responding, and speaking. They will view and read a variety of French texts and respond, plus write texts in French. Students will develop understandings about aspects of the culture of French speaking countries; recognise patterns and rules when using French, and use different strategies to make meaning of the French language.

To make progress towards achieving the outcomes above, we will study how to: order food and drink, discuss food preferences, describe people, describe a series of events, use numbers to 1000, travel around France and other French speaking countries and communities.

**INDONESIAN** **Cost: \$40.00 per year**

**9IND5**  
**9IND6**

How do you find out where the nearest shopping center is? What do you say when you need to direct a taxi or describe where to meet? What are the must-visit places in Perth, and why should our sister school students go there? Wow, there's a hip-hop scene in Indonesia? And each region has a different style of music, and food? Let's explore!

Year 9 Indonesian is a year-long course (2x per week) in which students build on and extend their Indonesian language skills. The emphasis is on developing speaking, writing, and comprehension skills with highly practical, hands-on activities.

There is a strong media and technology component involved and the course is open to beginners through to background speakers.

**ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE** **Cost: \$30.00 per year**

**9ELD5**  
**9ELD6**

These English language support classes in years 9-10 respond to the individual needs of students requiring additional, explicit instruction in the literacy skills of reading and writing, together with the academic requirements of listening to and speaking formal English. In reading the classes aim to increase speed, word recognition and improve spelling; while in writing students practice their written composition so that it is fast, as

neat as possible and only uses academic or formal language. Year 9 students are therefore prepared to sit their NAPLAN tests with more confidence and the year 10s competently approach their OLN Reading and Writing assessments which commence in year 10. A significant amount of time is spent perfecting students' ability to structure paragraphs which is also essential for success in the ISTs (Internally Set Tasks) and ESTs (Externally Set Tasks) they will undertake as senior students.

## HASS

**RUNNING YOUR OWN BUSINESS** **Cost: \$25.00**

**9BUSG5**

Business Management and Enterprise elective will develop the knowledge and skills of researching and establishing a small business enterprise. You will learn about business structures, business planning, marketing and financial requirements for small business. You will apply these skills to a real life small business venture that you will create, establish and run as a part of this elective.

This elective will prepare students to continue with Business Management & Enterprise in Years 11 & 12.

## TECHNOLOGIES

**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES 1 and 2** **Cost: \$50.00**

**S1 9DiTG5**  
**S2 9DiTG6**

Semester 1 and 2 units will study different content, software and skills.

Year 9 Digital Technologies focuses on further developing skills and understanding in computer programming, Graphic manipulating, data collection and manipulation, and web design.

Students will use a wide range of hardware and software, including software such as the Adobe Suite to design, develop and evaluate a range of digital solutions. Students will also develop their problem solving skills by working through a range of coding problems.

This course prepares students for future digital technology related subjects including Applied Information Technology in Years 11 and 12.

**FOOD TECHNOLOGY 1 and 2** **Cost: \$50.00**

**S1 9FDG5**  
**S2 9FDG6**

Semester 1 and 2 units will study different content, software and skills.

Venture into the exciting world of food and cooking. With a

# KEY LEARNING AREAS

focus on learning cookery methods and handling a range of produce, students will continue to develop new skills as they share the fun and passion of cooking. Students investigate ethics, environment and nutrition and learn to apply their skills.

## **MATERIALS DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY 1 and 2 Cost: \$50.00**

### **S1 9D&TG5**

### **S2 9D&TG6**

Semester 1 and 2 units will study different content, software and skills.

Students develop knowledge and skills in designing and producing 3D products from wood, metal and / or plastics by:

- Selecting materials based on their mechanical properties and the effects on the environment and community.
- Interpreting plans and technical drawings.
- Safely manipulating materials using a wide range of tools and equipment to produce a product that meets specifications and aesthetic and functional requirements.

The skills and knowledge learnt provide a foundation for Y11 & Y12 courses like MDT Wood.

## **ENGINEERING SYSTEMS GENERAL 1 and 2 Cost: \$50.00**

### **S1 9ESG5**

### **S2 9ESG6**

Semester 1 and 2 units will study different content, software and skills.

Students develop knowledge and skills in designing and producing products using the principles of force, motion and energy and the technology process. Students research, investigate and design functional systems to complete set tasks. There is a focus on mechanical systems including:

- Hydraulic and pneumatic movements
- Gearing systems
- Pulley systems

Students have the opportunity to design using CAD software and are able to input designs into simulation software to understand the effects the components have on one another. This process helps students understanding of how materials and systems interact.

The skills and knowledge learnt provide a foundation for Y11 & Y12 courses like MDT Metal.

# COLLEGE CHARGES AND THEIR PART IN SCHOOL FUNDING

## The Reason for College Charges

The College receives funding each year to cover the basic cost of running the College. These funds are used for a range of whole-of-college expenses, including the following:

- Maintenance and minor repairs of equipment, grounds, classroom furniture and buildings
- Minor structural improvements
- Payment for relief staff during camps and excursions
- Professional development of College staff
- Day-to-day administration costs (eg postage, printing, stationery, College promotion)
- Payment of utilities

Teachers and other College staff are paid directly from the government.

## The Legal Position

The State Government through the Department of Education provides placement at educational facilities for all students who choose to attend Government colleges. The Government does not provide for many goods and services students use and it is reasonable for parents to meet these costs. Secondary colleges have a legal right to charge for goods and services that are used by students in a course of study which the Student Centred Funding does not cover. Because of this shortfall, the College levies a charge on students taking such courses to cover the cost of those "extras" and ensure the College can offer the best possible education to its students.

## Determining College Charges

For Year 7-10 students, the maximum voluntary contributions a college may charge is currently fixed at \$235, however additional compulsory charges above that figure can be requested for consumables, additional resources and extra high cost options. The College endeavours to keep its charges to a minimum while maintaining a high standard of curriculum delivery. The Government endorses the levying of a college charge that covers basic needs associated with teaching the essential curriculum, such as photocopying, access to textbooks and use of specialized equipment. For Years 11 and 12 there are no maximum charges set by the State Government. The College set their own charges for these years and such charges are compulsory. The College can also request a 50% confirmation charge for these years.

## Where do contributions and charges go?

Some examples include: ingredients in home economics, transport, photographic equipment and supplies, art materials, timber, metals, and consumable tools, external instructors, sporting equipment, etc.

## Who should pay?

It is government policy that parents should contribute towards the cost of educating their children. Given that all students benefit from the pool of collected fees, it is fair to expect that all parents should pay the balance of contributions and charges. Because students are able to choose the courses that will offer them the learning outcomes they desire, it is considered fair and equitable that all parents should pay for the courses that their children select. Parents of students who

choose the more expensive option subjects need to consider the costs during the subject selection process. All would agree that it is unfair for those parents who meet their financial commitments to be seen to subsidise the education of those students whose parents do not pay their contributions and charges. Como Secondary College is committed to maintaining an even-handed and responsible approach so that all parents should make contributions towards their children's education.

## A Compassionate View

This College is only too aware that the payment of contributions and charges can be a burden for some families. To overcome the problem of paying all the due charges at once, a time payment scheme may be arranged by contacting the College at the start of the year as all payments are due at the end of Term 1. Any family wishing to pay by instalments should contact the College to make arrangements to do so as the College will not approach families to organise these payments. Families experiencing problems with payment of charges should contact the College, we do need to talk to you about this. Ignoring accounts and reminders is unhelpful to all parties. The College is also keen to assist parents in selecting options that they can afford. To this end estimated subject charges will always be provided to parents prior to selection of subjects.

## The Availability of Subsidies and Assistance

For parents on low incomes, subsidies are available, provided the College receives an application for the subsidy before the deadline (usually the last day of Term One). Holders of Health Care and Pensioner Benefit cards can receive a subsidy of up to \$235 per year for College charges, and a further \$115 for uniforms. Application for a subsidy should be made by collecting an application form from the College (also available on the school website). The Education Program Allowance will be paid directly to the College and will be applied to voluntary contributions for Years 7-10. For those parents/guardians who elect to pay their clothing allowance to the College these funds will be deducted from the compulsory charges first and then voluntary contributions and charges. For Year 11 and 12 students in receipt of the allowance, the funds will be applied directly to compulsory charges.

## Collecting Voluntary Contributions and Charges

Paying parents expect not to subsidise non-paying parents. The College takes a positive approach to collecting voluntary contributions from parents/caregivers of students in Years 7 to 10. In particular, the College will highlight the benefits to students if all parents meet their voluntary contributions. With respect to compulsory charges for Years 7 to 12, the College will actively seek full payment of compulsory charges when appropriate. The College Board, in support of this process, has endorsed the following actions:

- Regular statements sent home to parents/guardians
- The College will carry forward any amounts owing to the College for course charges to the debtor family's account for the following year

# COLLEGE CHARGES AND THEIR PART IN SCHOOL FUNDING

- Parents who refuse to communicate with the College and have made no effort to pay will be referred to our debt collection agency as permitted in the regulations
- Specialist Program costs need to be paid in full at the time of online course selection.
- High cost subjects (over \$50 per semester) require a 50% confirmation charge at time of online course selection.
- Until all outstanding amounts owing are paid, the College may choose to:
  - Insist that students choose cheaper options, especially when a family appears to have decided to refuse to pay course charges
  - The College has discretion to exclude students from extra-curricular activities (eg camps, tours, excursions) if fees are not paid in full

## Camps and Excursions, Trips and Tours Interstate and Overseas

Camps and excursions are an important part of the educational experiences of our students. In most cases the camp or excursion will be an integral part of the course. It is our policy to obtain parent permission for all camps/excursions/tours, along with payment in full of all associated costs prior to students' attendance. Without parent permission, students cannot attend a camp or excursion. When attending camps or excursions, students are to abide by the College rules and wear school dress, where appropriate.

## Interstate and overseas trips—Specialist Course Students

The College cannot accept monies for these trips until obligations to pay specialist programs and College course charges have been fulfilled. The College has discretion to exclude students from extra-curricular activities (eg excursions, tours) if College course charges are not paid in full.

**PLEASE NOTE:** payment plans may commence at any time – why not prepare early for next year and start NOW with a monthly direct deposit from your bank account to the College account:

Account Name: Como Secondary College  
BSB: 066 102  
Account No: 00903523  
Ref: student name

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The following information is provided in the hope of making the College charges and contributions structure clear for parents and caregivers. Como Secondary College has directed its efforts towards keeping costs as low and as equitable as possible. The Como Secondary College Board has examined the contributions and charges structure in detail and has approved the amounts shown in accordance with the Education Act.

## Voluntary Contribution Years 7-10

Revenue collected from your voluntary contributions is used to help cover expenses for students in compulsory learning areas. Examples of these expenses are textbooks ranging in price from \$35-\$50 each, physical education equipment, audiovisual equipment, information technology facilities, graph paper and photocopied materials.

## Compulsory Charges Years 7-10

Extra cost optional courses outside the basic core program incur additional charges above the voluntary contribution of \$235 for Years 7-10 students. For example, Sports, Visual Art, and Food attract compulsory charges for items such as consumable materials and venue hire. Charges relate to items that students consume over and above what is supplied by the Department of Education. Elective costs included here are indicative. They will be confirmed later in the year following due process. You will be notified of any discrepancies.

**Full charges for optional course charges are required to be paid prior to the end of Term 1.**

## Special Programs

Golf, Hockey, Music and EMITS (Enriched Mathematics and Information Technology) are offered as specialist programs at Como Secondary College and incur additional charges above the voluntary contribution.

**100% charges for Special Programs are required to be paid at the time of Subject Selection Online (SSO).**

**High cost subjects** incurring a proposed cost of greater than \$60 are considered high cost and payment of a 50% deposit is required to confirm acceptance and placement in these classes. (All subject charges are proposed and are subject to change.) You will be re-directed to CommBank BPoint to finalise your subject selections should high cost subjects be selected. If fees for high cost courses are not paid, students will be moved to lower cost courses.

## OTHER OPTIONAL COSTS

### Como Secondary College Student Diary

Each student is required to have a Como Secondary College information directory and homework diary at a cost of \$10.00 each. These will be issued in the first week of Term 1. Parents are asked to encourage daily use.

### College Yearbook

A yearbook for all students is available at the end of the year at a cost of \$20.00 per student. Payment for the yearbook must be made before the end of term 3.

### Library Contribution

The Library contribution is \$25.00 per student. The College is required to purchase a large and expensive range of equipment and books. The Department of Education provides limited funding for these resources for this centre.

# COLLEGE CHARGES AND THEIR PART IN SCHOOL FUNDING

## Whole School Activities

The Whole School Activities cost is \$10.00 per student which enables the College to fund special events during the school year eg NAIDOC, Healthy Choices Week, bullying seminars.

## Newsletters

A payment of \$10.00 per student is requested to help offset the cost of producing the newsletter, daily crier and other handouts.

## VOLUNTARY APPROVED REQUESTS

### College Chaplain

A levy of \$25.00 is requested to support the presence of a non-denominational chaplain who is an integral part of the College's Student Services program. The Chaplain provides support for students struggling or dealing with a wide range of pastoral issues and is not an employee of the Department of Education. This position is funded by the community and your donations in addition to a payment from the state government that is not guaranteed from year to year.

### P&C Contributions

The P&C Association seeks your continued support by appealing to parents for a contribution of \$50.00 per student. This amount appears on the College Charges and Contributions sheet. This contribution enables the P&C to purchase much needed equipment and resources for student use.

### Information Technology

We are requesting \$50.00 to assist with the upgrade, support, management, training and ongoing maintenance of the school's computer network.

### Bus

We are requesting \$10.00 to assist with the upgrade, support, management and ongoing maintenance of the school's 2 buses.

## OTHER COSTS

### Smartrider Cards

Smartrider cards are issued to all students, the initial card is free. Replacement cards can be issued at a cost of \$5.00 per card. All cards include a photo for identification purposes.

### Copies of Reports and Student Timetables

Student timetables are printed and distributed to students at the beginning of each term. Additional copies of timetables are 50c each. Semester reports will be available on Connect. Copies of reports are \$5.00 each.

## Text Books/Workbooks

For some courses the College supplies all materials, textbooks and resources in return for the payment of a hire or resource charge; however, some courses require that students purchase workbooks. A replacement cost will be charged if any textbooks are lost or badly damaged. This allows us to keep the cost of school fees down to a minimum.

## The Course Charges

The family of every student will receive a fully detailed list of the charges associated with their chosen program. This schedule will include:

- Any workbooks that need to be purchased and their listed recommended retail price
- The charges associated with each course selected
- Any other compulsory charges levied by the College
- Any voluntary contributions approved by the College Board

The workbook list and schedule of charges is posted out to families by the end of the school year.

The estimated charge for each course is included with the description in the Student Handbook.