



CURRICULUM DOCUMENT

YEAR 8 2021

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME TO YEAR EIGHT (2021) STUDENTS

Dear Parents and Guardians

Thank you for trusting us to be partners with you in the education of your daughter/son, and to work with you to help them achieve their full potential.

I extend a warm welcome to all of the students (and their families) who will be part of the Mercy College Year Eight community in 2021 as we welcome a small group of new students from other schools to our existing Mercy cohort of Year Seven students. We wish them well as they involve themselves in our lower secondary part of the College and continue to develop the independence that we expect of our Year Eight students.

Since the move to our present location nearly fifty years ago, Mercy College has established a proud tradition that is grounded in the College motto *Love in Action*. The staff will work with every Year Eight student (and their parents) as they journey through high school. Please do not hesitate to contact your daughter/son's teachers if you have any concerns or queries.

Although changes to secondary school education seem to be never-ending, the ingredients for success remain unchanged, and so I encourage each Year Eight student to commit to the following:

- being at school every day;
- paying attention and working hard in every lesson;
- knowing when assessment tasks and assignments need to be finished, and organising your time at school and at home to ensure that these timelines are met;
- becoming involved in as much College life as you can; and
- enjoying the whole Year Eight experience.

Best wishes to you all.

Mr Greg Quinn
Vice Principal

October 2020

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This handbook provides a guide to the courses that Mercy College would like to offer students in 2021. **However, the College will not run a course if there are insufficient enrolments. Some course combinations may not be possible because of timetable constraints.**

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION 2021

Position	Name	Email	Phone
Principal	Mrs Lisa Fogliani	Lisa.fogliani@cewa.edu.au	9247 9214
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Deputy Principal (Pastoral Year 8, 10, 12)	Mrs Simone Morgan	simone.morgan@cewa.edu.au	9247 9210
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Director of Infrastructure	Mrs Donna Bird	donna.bird@cewa.edu.au	9247 9244
Director of Engagement	Mrs Jennie Jago	jennie.jago@cewa.edu.au	9247 9256
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Careers & Guidance Counsellor	Mrs Heather Gardiner	heather.gardiner@cewa.edu.au	9247 9271
Head of Year 8 (2021)	Mr Anthony Davis	anthony.davis@cewa.edu.au	9247 9238
Head of Learning Area - Religious Education	Ms Cassandra Hall	cassandra.hall@cewa.edu.au	9247 9255
Head of Learning Area - Arts	Mrs Eleisha Hathaway	eleisha.hathaway@cewa.edu.au	9247 9263
Head of Learning Area - English	Mr Stan May	stan.may@cewa.edu.au	9247 9270
Head of Learning Area - Health & PE	Mr Andreas Bouzinekis	andreas.bouzinekis@cewa.edu.au	9247 9273
Head of Learning Area - Humanities	Mr Matt Clarke	matt.clarke@cewa.edu.au	9247 9230
Head of Learning Area - Mathematics	Mr Andy Coombs	andy.coombs@cewa.edu.au	9247 9274
Head of Learning Area - Science	Mrs Amanda Huke	amanda.huke@cewa.edu.au	9247 9250
Head of Learning Area – Technologies	Ms Alison Reed	alison.reed@cewa.edu.au	9247 9295
Head of Vocational Education & Training	Ms Laura Matthews	laura.mathews@cewa.edu.au	9247 9298
Head of Soccer Academy	Mr Trim Morgan	tristram.morgan@cewa.edu.au	9247 9681

Please do not hesitate to contact College staff members if you require any assistance.

Year Eight 2021 - General Information

In 2021 the College week will be made up 30 periods per week. Each day there will be six periods with classes running for 50 or 55 minutes. The day will begin with Pastoral Care Group (PCG) at 8:35. Students will also have an addition extended PCG of 45 minutes each Wednesday morning. The breakdown of periods allocated for Year Eight subjects will be as follows:

Religious Education	3 periods
English	5 periods
Mathematics	5 periods
Science	4 periods
Humanities	4 periods
Physical Education & Health <u>or</u> Soccer (P.E. & Health)	3 periods
Languages (Japanese)	1 period
Digital Technology	1 period
Elective One	2 periods
Elective Two	2 periods

Compulsory Subjects

All students study Religious Education, English, Humanities (HASS), Mathematics, Science, Digital Technology, Languages (Japanese) and Physical Education & Health, . Students at all ability levels complete the same core W.A. curriculum, although some classes may complete work at different levels of complexity in English, Mathematics and Science.

The Soccer Academy staff will ensure that the requirements of the Western Australian PE & Health curriculum are met in the Soccer (P.E. & Health) program.

Electives

The subjects that will be offered as electives in Year Eight in 2021 are listed below. Each elective runs for a semester and students will have the opportunity to take two electives each semester.

Students will have the opportunity to indicate their preferred electives during Term Three 2020. Whilst the College endeavours to ensure students are able to study the electives of their choice, sometimes this is not possible due to timetabling and resource restrictions. Guidelines from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) also mean that all students must undertake at least one elective subject from each of the following categories:

Performing Arts
Visual Arts
Design & Technology

Changing Electives

A 'Year Eight Subject Notification Letter' advising students and parents of the subjects they are enrolled in for Year Eight in 2021 will be distributed to all students during Term Four. Requests for changes to these Elective classes will be considered from January 27 2021. Students will need to come to Secondary Administration to check whether the change they wish to make fits the timetable and to collect an Elective Change Form.

To avoid disruption and make it possible for all teachers and students to move along with the teaching and learning programs, **all changes must be finalised by the end of Week Three Term One 2021** (for Semester One Electives) and Week Two of Term Three (for Semester Two Electives). Requests for changes after these dates will only be considered on the basis of health and safety reasons.

2021 Year Eight Subjects

Learning Area	Subjects Offered	
	Compulsory	Electives
Religious Education	Religious Education	
The Arts		Dance Drama Media Music Visual Art
English	English English Support	
Health & Physical Education	Physical Education <u>or</u> Soccer (Physical Education) Health	
Humanities	Humanities	
Languages	Japanese	Japanese (elective)
Mathematics	Mathematics Methods Mathematics Applications Mathematics Essential Mathematics Foundation	
Science	Science Science Foundation	
Technologies	Digital Technology	Computational Thinking & Robotics Fashion Design & Technology Food Technology Graphics Technology Metal Work Wood Work

Achieving and Recognising Excellence

Excellence is one of our five core Values. In our Mercy context, Excellence means making the most of the gifts and talents God has given us. All of us can achieve Excellence – and we do this when we consistently do our best to grow, learn and become the best person we can be. Some of the ways the ways students can give themselves the best chance to achieve their version of academic excellence include:

Homework and Organisation

There is excellent evidence that academic achievement improves when students consistently spend an age appropriate amount of time completing homework tasks that are purposeful and well planned by their teacher (Hattie, 2011; Marzano & Pickering, 2007; Xu, 2013). Homework and Home study gives students the opportunity to revise concepts, consolidate their learning, reflect on issues discussed during the day, focus on areas that require additional support and better prepare themselves for the next day's learning.

Students are expected to record all homework in their Mercy Organiser. In Year Eight most students should be completing about one-and-a-half hours of homework and study per day.

Managing time and being organised are two life skills that also underpin academic success. Students are encouraged to make a start on assignments upon receiving them, divide them into manageable sections and decide on regular and effective times to work on them.

Mercy College Organiser

All students are provided with a Mercy College Organiser at the beginning of the year. Students are expected to have their Mercy College Organiser with them for every class. We would encourage parents to review their child's Mercy College Organiser each week so that they are aware of homework and assignment tasks and can provide support and encouragement to ensure completion of tasks to a high standard.

Student Laptop

Students must bring their notebook computer to school every day, fully charged, take it home at the end of each day and maintain it in good working condition.

Laptop computer – at school:

- is expected to be ready for use in all subjects;
- must be kept locked (with a school lock) in the student's locker when not in use in the classroom; and
- must be carried securely in the case provided

Laptop computer – outside school:

- must be charged ready for the next day's use;
- must be carried in the case provided and in the student's backpack;
- may be connected to the student's home network under parent/guardian supervision; and
- should only be used by the student to whom it has been allocated.

Parents as Partners

One of our key goals is to engage as much as possible with our community, and particularly with our parents. We welcome communication and feedback through emails, phone, or a face to face meeting because we know that when parents, students and teachers work together, learning increases and student outcomes improve.

All subject and assessment outlines are available on SEQTA so that parents can monitor progress and assessments that occur throughout the term. If a student is absent from school, he/she can access the learning area programs from home. Students can also make use of the programs to revise tasks and prepare and plan for future tasks and assessments. SEQTA Direct messages are also another way to communicate with classroom teachers.

The Secondary Administration staff can assist with logging on to, and using, SEQTA. They can be contacted on 9247 9220.

Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings

There are three scheduled opportunities during the year for parents to meet formally with teachers to review their child's academic progress, effort, attitude and formal written reports. The first

opportunity is the Parent – Teacher – Student meetings that occur early in Term Two. A second set of Parent – Teacher – Student meetings occur in Term Three. The third opportunity is through the Learning Journeys that take place in the second half of September

If a teacher requests an interview in any subject on a formal written report, parents and students **must** attend the meeting. During these interviews, an action plan can be established to encourage improved performance.

Parents are strongly encouraged to communicate with their child's teachers at any time throughout the year to discuss progress. The best way to contact staff is usually via email – firstname.surname@cewa.edu.au.

Awards

We present Academic awards with the aim of encouraging students to strive to reach their potential and promoting the Mercy College value of Excellence.

Merit Awards

These recognise students who demonstrate Mercy values in their daily life at Mercy College.

Mercy Signatures

Teacher signatures in the Mercy Organiser signify the achievement of personal academic excellence.

10 signatures	Bronze	Bronze Award
25 signatures	Silver	Silver Award
50 signatures	Gold	Gold Award and Gold Pin
100 signatures	Platinum	Platinum Award and Platinum Ring

Semester One Academic Awards

The top student in each subject where there are five or more enrolments receives the Subject Award.

An Achievement Award is presented to the student who has shown the greatest progress and growth in each subject. These awards are presented at an assembly at the beginning of Term Three and again at the end of year Presentation Assembly

Honour Club

Students who achieve excellence across the full range of subjects are recognised through their induction into the Mercy Honour Club. Members are presented to the College community at the beginning of Term One (for results achieved at the end of the previous year) and Term Three

Pastoral Care Reporting of Academic Achievement

Formal written reports go home to parents at the end of Terms One, Two and Four.

- The **Term One** Report is an interim description of a student's achievement, effort and attitude. Classroom teachers use a rating scale to reflect on a student's performance in relation to: completing class work, homework, working cooperatively, working independently and demonstrating responsible behaviour.
- The **Semester One** and **End of Year** reports (issued at the end of Terms Two and Four) contain the following information:
 - An attendance percentage
 - A PCG comment outlining the student's effort, attitude and participation in College life.
 - A College Grade from A (excellent) to E (very low achievement) in each subject studied. The College grade will reflect student achievement in relation to other students who are studying that particular course at Mercy College.
 - An indicator of the SCSA Grade from A to E in each West Australian Curriculum course studied. These grades reflect student achievement in relation to the achievement standards described in the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* as set out below.

Letter grade	Achievement descriptor
A - Excellent	The student demonstrates excellent achievement of what is expected for this year level.
B - High	The student demonstrates high achievement of what is expected for this year level.
C - Satisfactory	The student demonstrates satisfactory achievement of what is expected for this year level.
D - Limited	The student demonstrates limited achievement of what is expected for this year level.
E - Very low	The student demonstrates very low achievement of what is expected for this year level.

- A rating scale to reflect a student's performance in relation to: completing class work and homework, working cooperatively, working independently and demonstrating responsible behaviour.
- A description of the students' achievements in Christian Service Learning on the end of year report.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Head of Learning Area: Ms Cassandra Hall

Contact details: 9247 9255
cassandra.hall@cewa.edu.au

Compulsory Subject for all Year Eight students

In Year 8 students learn what people understand about God from creation and describe the relationship between people and the universe. They identify characteristics of community embodied in the Church. They learn that Catholics celebrate their relationship with God in the Mass and the Seven Sacraments. Students will be challenged to explore a variety of spiritual, moral and social issues through the following topics:

- Belonging and Acceptance in Catholic Communities
- The Universal Need for God
- God's Original Plan for Creation
- Growing in the Image of God

THE ARTS

Head of Learning Area: Mrs Eleisha Hathaway

Contact details: 9247 9263
eleisha.hathaway@cewa.edu.au

All Year Eight students will study at least one of the following Performing Arts course in 2021

DANCE

Dance is a performance-based subject. Students will study the elements of choreography, safe dance practice and techniques of different dance genres. These include Hip Hop and Contemporary Dance. Students will participate in a variety of teacher lead workshops and choreography as well as create their own group dance works. Assessments will be based upon participation in class and group performances, involvement in workshop activities and the writing of reflective responses. Dance has a strong focus on fitness and healthy lifestyles as well as developing teamwork, social skills, confidence and communication skills.

Students studying Dance are highly encouraged to involve themselves in the extra-curricular opportunities available to them such as, Dance Team, Liturgical Dance, Extension Dance, Catholic Performing Arts Festival, Dance Showcase and School Production.

DRAMA

Drama is a performance based subject. Students will study performance and stagecraft skills, play-building processes and expressive movement, with a focus on mime, stage-fighting and slapstick. Drama focuses on developing teamwork, social skills, confidence and communication skills. Students will work in groups to explore and create their own drama works and will learn the skills associated with both performance and theatre etiquette. Assessments will be based upon participation in group performances, involvement in workshop activities and the writing of reflective responses.

MUSIC

Year Eight Music is a performance based course, aimed at allowing students the opportunity to experience the joy of creating and performing music. Students will gain experience on the keyboard and drum kit which, with their ukulele knowledge from Year Seven will allow them to create a band performance of a rock or pop song. Students will be required to master their individual parts and work with other class members in creating their rock or pop performance. Students who have a background on an instrument (including voice) other than ukulele, drum kit or keyboard are encouraged to incorporate their own instrument into their performance.

All Year Eight students will study at least one Visual Arts course in 2021

ART

This course has been developed to provide students with a broad range of skills in a variety of studio areas (e.g. sculpture, drawing and painting). Students are given opportunities to practise personal and visual communication skills, improve confidence and to develop problem-solving skills. Visual arts terminology and image analysis skills are introduced using the students' own artworks, along with the artworks of historical and contemporary artists.

MEDIA

Year 8 Media encourages students to continue to explore the media industry beyond traditional forms. Looking at vlogs and infomercials, students will work in an interactive and group-orientated manner. Using industry standard equipment and programmes, students will explore how simple choices create engaging and persuasive texts with their classmates. This highly interactive, relevant and collaborative class provides students with a wide range of future-proof skills including creative thinking, problem solving and ensuring students are confident users of technology. Students will be given access to the full Adobe suite to facilitate their learning.

ENGLISH

Head of Learning Area: Mr Stan May

Contact details: 9247 9270
stan.may@cewa.edu.au

Compulsory Subject for all Year Eight students

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Head of Learning Area: Mr Andreas Bouzinekis

Contact details: 9247 9273
andreas.bouzinekis@cewa.edu.au

Compulsory Subject for all Year Eight students

General Physical Education

The General Physical Education program develops the student's acquisition of movement skills, concepts and strategies to enable students to confidently, competently and creatively participate in a range of physical activities in the contexts of basketball, volleyball, futsal, cricket and athletics. Students learn about how the body moves; how to approach and resolve challenges; how to optimise movement performance; and the benefits of physical activity to themselves, others and communities. Through movement in a variety of contexts and settings, students acquire, practise, manage and

refine personal, interpersonal, social and cognitive skills. The General Physical Education curriculum leads to a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities in NWAAS sport, champion schools netball and basketball, swimming, athletics, running club and badminton.

Students in Year Eight who choose Soccer complete the Soccer program in place of a General Physical Education program.

Health Education

Health is compulsory for all Year Eight students. In Health 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.

HUMANITIES

Head of Learning Area: Mr Matt Clarke

Contact details: 9247 9230
matt.clarke@cewa.edu.au

Compulsory Subject for all Year Eight students

Students will have the opportunity to explore aspects of Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, History and Geography. During their study 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.

Civics and Citizenship

A study of freedoms that enable active participation in Australia's democracy within the bounds of law, including freedom of speech, association, assembly, religion and movement. Students continue to build on their understanding of the concepts of the Westminster system, democracy and participation. They investigate the types of law in Australia and how they are made. They consider the responsibilities and freedoms of citizens, and how Australians can actively participate in their democracy. Students explore the different perspectives of Australian identity.

Economics and Business

The concept of markets is introduced to further develop students understanding of the concepts of interdependence, making choices and allocation. They consider how markets work and the rights, responsibilities and opportunities that arise for businesses, consumers and governments. Work and work futures are explored as students consider the influences on the way people work now and consider how people will work in the future. Students focus on national and regional issues, with opportunities for the concepts to also be considered in relation to local community, or global, issues where appropriate.

Geography

The concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability and change continue to be developed as a way of thinking and provide students with the opportunity to inquire into the significance of landscapes to people and the spatial change in the distribution of populations. They apply this understanding to a wide range of places and environments at the full range of scales, from local to global, and in a range of locations.

History

Students develop their historical understanding through key concepts, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability. These concepts are investigated within the historical context of the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern period, c. 650 AD (CE) – c. 1750. They consider how societies changed, what key beliefs and values emerged, and the causes and effects of contact between societies in this period.

LANGUAGES - JAPANESE

Teacher: Ms Mari-Anna Reiljan-Dillon

Contact details: 9247 9250
mari-anna.reiljan@cewa.edu.au

Compulsory Subject for all Year Eight students – all students will study Japanese for one period a week in both Semester One and Semester Two.

Students wishing to further develop their Japanese skills and knowledge can elect to continue studying Japanese in Year Nine.

MATHEMATICS

Head of Learning Area: Mr Andy Coombs

Contact details: 9247 9274
andy.coombs@cewa.edu.au

Compulsory Subject for all Year Eight students

The proficiency strands **understanding, fluency, problem-solving** and **reasoning** are an integral part of mathematics content across the three content strands: number and algebra, measurement and geometry, and statistics and probability. The proficiencies reinforce the significance of working mathematically within the content and describe how the content is explored or developed. They provide the language to build in the developmental aspects of the learning of mathematics. The achievement standards reflect the content and encompass the proficiencies.

At this year level:

- **understanding** includes describing patterns involving indices and recurring decimals, identifying commonalities between operations with algebra and arithmetic, connecting rules for linear relations with their graphs, explaining the purpose of statistical measures and explaining measurements of perimeter and area
- **fluency** includes calculating accurately with simple decimals, indices and integers; recognising equivalence of common decimals and fractions including recurring decimals; factorising and simplifying basic algebraic expressions and evaluating perimeters and areas of common shapes and volumes of three-dimensional objects
- **problem-solving** includes formulating and modelling practical situations involving ratios, profit and loss, areas and perimeters of common shapes and using two-way tables and Venn diagrams to calculate probabilities
- **reasoning** includes justifying the result of a calculation or estimation as reasonable, deriving probability from its complement, using congruence to deduce properties of triangles, finding estimates of means and proportions of populations.

SCIENCE

Head of Learning Area: Mrs Amanda Huke

Contact details: 9247 9250
amanda.huke@cewa.edu.au

Compulsory Subject for all Year Eight students

Year Eight students learn general science through a 'core' science syllabus derived from the West Australian Curriculum, composed of the following:

Science Inquiry Skills – involves identifying and posing questions; planning, conducting and reflecting on investigations; processing, analysing and interpreting evidence; and communicating findings. Students will carry out full science investigations within a range of science concepts.

Biological Sciences – is concerned with understanding living things. Students will develop their understanding of cells, the human digestive system, the human respiratory system, the human circulatory system and plant and animal reproductive systems.

Chemical Sciences – is concerned with understanding the composition and behaviour of substances. Students will develop their understanding of the Particle Theory, the chemical and physical properties of substances and elements, compounds and mixtures.

Physical Sciences – is concerned with understanding the nature of forces and motion, and matter and energy. Students will develop their understanding of types of energy and that energy can be transferred and transformed from one form to another.

Earth and Space Sciences – is concerned with Earth's dynamic structure and its place in the cosmos. Students will develop their understanding of the Earth being subject to change within and on its surface through studying rocks and the rock cycle.

TECHNOLOGIES

Head of Learning Area: Ms Alison Reed

Contact details: 9247 9282
alison.reed@cewa.edu.au

All Year Eight students will study at least one of the following Technology courses in 2021

COMPUTATIONAL THINKING & ROBOTICS

Computational Thinking and Robotics are two areas instrumental to the technological advancements we are seeing in society; from driverless cars to brick-laying robots. This course is complementary to the Year Eight Digital Technology course.

In this course, students will learn about "Design Thinking", and how to break big problems down into smaller, more manageable problems which can be solved. They will learn the skill of evaluating and redesigning their solutions. Students will develop this skill through collaborative efforts, but also through a practical application with robotics. Lego EV3 robots will be used in this course, and students will be tasked with completing challenges with their robots based on Olympic events.

This course is well-suited to students who enjoyed the programming aspect of the Year Seven Digital Technology course, or those that are interested in learning about robotics.

FASHION DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

This very practical course teaches students all the basic techniques and skills needed to make a variety of simple garments and items using sewing machines and overlockers. Patterns can be provided by the College, but many students prefer to choose, and purchase, their own patterns to make clothes that are totally unique. Topics such as; how to take accurate body measurements, how to read a commercial pattern, fashion design and care labelling are also covered.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Building on the skills learnt in Year Seven, students create a range of food products, developing confidence and independence in food preparation techniques, whilst using a variety of kitchen equipment, tools and materials. Students use these culinary skills to produce a range of sweet and savoury recipes such as; Honey & Sesame Chicken Stir Fry, Patty Cakes, Corn Fritters and Chicken Pies.

Due to the importance of time management, group work and interpersonal skills have a strong focus along with safety and hygiene issues. Students will work through the technology process to plan and create their own meals in their theory lessons. They will also learn about basic nutrition and healthy eating, using food models such as the Healthy Eating Pyramid.

METAL WORK

Metalwork offers students an introduction to basic design principles, material properties, workshop procedure and safety, the use of various tools, machines, 3-Dimensional printers and laser cutters, used in a manufacturing environment. All projects will follow a design process that encourages creativity and sound design practice. The course is well suited to students who enjoy designing and manufacturing products using metal.

WOODWORK

Woodwork offers students an introduction to basic design principles, material properties, workshop procedure and safety, the use of various tools, machines, 3-Dimensional printers and laser cutters, used in a manufacturing environment. All projects will follow a design process that encourages creativity and sound design practice. The course is well suited to students who enjoy designing and manufacturing products using wood.