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Year 11 and 12 at St Andrews Christian College
Introduction to Senior School

Senior School at St Andrews Christian College involves students from Year 9 to the end of secondary schooling in Year 12. These years are characterised by an increasing awareness of the future and preparation for life after school. We aim to continue the excellent academic learning from our Junior and Middle schools and help students mature towards the future plans that God has in store for them.

A key verse for Senior School is 1 Peter 3:5 and 6:

‘In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.’

When our students graduate from Senior School at St Andrews we want them to:

- have a robust and resilient faith,
- be fulfilling their academic potential
- and be equipped to serve God in the world.

Students who have graduated from St Andrews Christian College have gone on to a whole range of tertiary studies including Law, Commerce, Medicine, Engineering, Industrial Design, Education, Health Sciences, Music, Trade apprenticeships, IT, and many others.

We continue to try and prepare these young people to be able to carry out the instructions in 1 Peter 3:5 and 6.

Greg Crotty
Head of Senior School
Year 9 & 10
at St Andrews Christian College

At St Andrews Christian College, our focus is on individual growth as Christians and as learners. Our desire is that students grow in faith, wisdom and knowledge of God. In a close-knit community such as ours, students are able to lead and participate in prayers and devotions each morning, to start the day centred on Jesus.

It is important that we empower our young men and women so that they can face critical life issues, equipped with practical strategies founded on a solid Biblical base. Our programs are all designed to facilitate this.

With small class sizes and a solid foundation in core subjects such as English, Science and Mathematics, we are committed to preparing students for academic success in VCE and beyond. This booklet is designed to provide information about our subjects and programs.

We pray that this year will be one of marvellous growth, learning and blessing for your son or daughter!

You are most welcome to contact us should you have any queries.

Mrs Jo de Meester
Year 9/10 Coordinator
Staff Contact Details

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Core Curriculum and Subject Choices

The core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Health (Year 9), Occupational Health and Safety (Year 10) and Christian Education are compulsory for all Year 9 and 10 students and are studied in their form groups.

Other subjects such as Geography, History, Art, Music, Commerce, Information Technology, Food and Wood Technology, LOTE, PE and Duke of Edinburgh Award are part of the electives section of the curriculum.

There are expectations around the selection of units which guide students to maintain a broad educational base whilst allowing some choice as to which units they study from each area. They may also do more units in a subject area that they enjoy.

VCE Acceleration

We cater for our most capable students in many ways. One of these is to offer Year 10 students the opportunity to study a VCE subject whilst still in Year 10.

There will usually be one VCE subject in an electives block but other subjects are also available depending on the ability and organisational skills of the student involved.

There are positives and negatives associated with studying a VCE subject in an accelerated manner and any such choice will be a matter of discussion between the coordinators, parents and the student.

Please speak to us if you have questions about how we can cater for your child.
iPad Program

All Year 9, 10 and 11 students at St Andrews are involved in our iPad program. Our goals for this program are to encourage connectedness and innovation in learning, particularly between home and school, in a safe and secure way.

Our iPad program can help to organise and support student learning in the following ways:

- access to our online courseware system at the Editure Education Portal, both in class and at home, where students can access notes, homework, calendars, interactive activities and other resources assembled by their teachers for each class
- subject-specific apps for a broad range of subjects such as Geography, English and Mathematics
- convenient electronic copies of core subject textbooks and novels studied in English
- multimedia tools such as the in-built video camera immediately available for use in creative projects
- quick access to Internet searching, research and resources without the need for computer labs or laptops

We have chosen to facilitate the use of this technology in a different way to most schools. Rather than a “bring your own device” approach, we loan the devices out to each family, and maintain as tight as possible control over their use, and over what may be installed. Students may still take the devices home.

The program is always improving and we encourage any feedback or ideas.
Homework Program and Diary Usage

Homework:
Homework is an essential part of the teaching and learning process. Students are expected to complete all homework tasks by the due date. In Year 9 and 10 students are expected to complete an average of 1.5 – 2 hours of homework per night for 5 nights.

We understand that sometimes commitments outside of school can take precedence over homework. A weekly activities planner has been included in the diary to encourage students to develop a program of study which is organised and purposeful yet balanced with times for recreation, family commitments, sporting commitments, church, youth groups etc.

Some Homework Hints:
1. Plan the homework session by writing down each task in order
2. Subjects the student finds difficult are best placed in the early part of a study period so that they can be tackled with a fresh mind
3. Have a short break between each task
4. Spend 5 minutes each evening preparing for the next day and setting daily goals

Diary Usage:
The diary is the main communication document between the teacher, the parent and the student. Students are also required to record homework in their diary and fill out how long each task took to assist with time management. Parents and teachers are both required to sign the diary once a week. Students should also record any assignment and test results in the diary.

Goal Setting:
Students are encouraged to set goals at the start of every school year. The diary includes a page where students are able to set a long term goal and a goal to complete by the end of each term. Students are reminded to set goals that are SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely.
Nurture and Discipline

NURTURE – PASTORAL CARE:
We strive to make St Andrews Christian College a safe, friendly place where students can achieve their full potential. The key teachers in working towards this goal are the Home Room teachers who see students each day and deal with any concerns promptly as they arise. Students also have access to our School Chaplain, Zoe Watson or our School Counsellor, Mimi Chow. They can make an appointment themselves or may be referred by teachers or parents. External issues can sometimes impact on a student’s learning and students can also be supported through these channels.

POSITIVE ENCOURAGEMENT:
We are committed to encouraging our students with verbal, written and other rewards for a job well done or being a good example to others. There are a range of awards given throughout the year and at the Presentation Night at the end of the year. These recognise achievements and improvements in behaviour, sport, and academic work.

DETentions:
The aim of student discipline is not only for the student to modify their behaviour but also to understand the reason it needs to be modified. For unacceptable behaviour a student may receive a detention. The aim of the detention is the correction of the behaviour, not merely attendance. The students will be counselled in this by the teacher and wherever possible, the task for detention will reflect the nature of the indiscretion.

NOTIFYING PARENTS:
Parents will be notified of their child’s detention by means of a sticker, which will be placed in the student’s diary and signed by the teacher on detention duty when completed. It is expected that parents/guardians will sign the sticker once the detention has been served.

In some instances more serious punishments may be needed and the Coordinator will discuss these steps with the parents and student involved.
LOTÉ

The Language Other Than English (LOTÉ) elective class consists of students who have chosen to:

- continue with their study of French
  or
- study another language through the Victorian School of Languages (VSL). This will be in distance mode.

FRENCH:
Students who choose to continue with their French studies will use the next stage of the *Touché* series. By means of a variety of media – text, audio and internet, students will be exposed to authentic French. Their knowledge of the language and culture of France and French-speaking countries will be increased.

LOTÉ:
Students who would prefer to learn another language may do so, provided it is offered as a distance subject. Students may wish to do this because they speak the language at home or because they are interested in a particular language.

Studying a language this way requires a lot of self-discipline and organisation. Students must send in at least one work set a week and complete a regular telephone lesson with their supervisor. It is also useful if they have someone who speaks the language who can help with the work. We do have a number of staff who speak a variety of languages and could also assist. If a student is interested in studying this way, they need to talk to the LOTÉ Coordinator before enrolling.
Duke of Edinburgh Award

As an exciting addition to our Year 9 and 10 electives this year we are running our third group through the Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze Award course. The Duke of Ed is an internationally recognised award program which encourages young people to challenge and extend themselves in four areas of their lives; service to the community, personal skills, physical recreation and a sense of adventure through two expeditions.

Minimum requirements for Duke of Ed Bronze Award are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering</td>
<td>3 Months* – at least 1 hour per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill</td>
<td>3 Months* – at least 1 hour per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Recreation</td>
<td>3 Months* – at least 1 hour per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adventurous Journey</td>
<td>At least 2 days 1 night (x2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum age on completion</td>
<td>14 years 6 months</td>
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* One of these needs to go for 6 months

In order to meet these minimum requirements the students must select the Duke of Ed elective in both semesters. They will use regular class time, but will also need to include activities outside of school and other activities that they are already involved in order to satisfy the requirements.

The elective is open to both Year 9 and 10 students but there is a strict maximum of 18 places in the Duke of Ed class.
Leadership and Strengths Potential

The Strengths Potential program is linked to our Student Leadership Development Program. Early in semester one the Year 10 students will complete an online questionnaire and have their 5 top strengths identified. This is a very encouraging process for all involved as it only focuses on positives. The students then have an individual interview to discuss how they can use their strengths in practical ways. This applies to teamwork and leadership as well as other situations. This year the facilitator is also going to work with the senior students on the Student Service Council to discuss how the Leadership Team can build on each other’s strengths to maximise the effectiveness of the team.

Driver Education

Towards the end of Year 9 students will participate in the METEC Driver Training course. This course combines theory and practice for beginning drivers and is designed to introduce the students to defensive driving under a variety of road conditions, all within METEC’s safe complex in Bayswater.

The Year 10 students will have a session called “Keys Please” from Vic Roads. The Keys Please student program covers:

- Why 120 hours of driving practice?
- Importance of the partnership between supervising driver (parent) and learner driver (student)
- Stages of learning to drive
- Staying safe on your P’s
- Resources that are available for Learner Drivers/Supervising Drivers.

“No Apologies” Program

In Year 9, students undertake the “No Apologies” program developed by Focus on the Family. It is a discussion-based program with a clear Biblical perspective which explores topics such as love, sex and friendship. “No Apologies” runs at various times throughout the year.
Careers Guidance Program

Work Experience:
All Year 10 students participate in the Work Experience Program which is completed in two, one-week blocks. Work experience provides students with a taste of the world of work and assists students in clarifying their career aspirations. All students are required to complete the OHS elective and Safe@work program before commencing work experience. Students find work experience to be a valuable experience which gives them insight into future careers. It is also a chance to develop self-confidence and communication skills, and to relate school learning to life outside the College.

Start Smart Program:
During a one day Start Smart Program, Year 10 and 11 students build or improve their financial literacy skills. Delivered in a dynamic and interactive way, Start Smart workshops address common financial issues: Smart Earning, Smart Saving, Smart Spending and Smart Investing. The program is designed to equip young people with important financial skills that are relevant to the financial decisions that they will make in their everyday life. A Start Smart representative will be coming to the school to run the program in March.

Careers Expo:
The Melbourne Careers Expo gives Year 10 students an opportunity to further their understanding of post-secondary education options and a chance to explore their career options. Over 190 exhibitors including Australia’s top tertiary institutions, providers of VCE, VCAL and career resources and information and international exchange programs will be at the Expo. Students also benefit from the seminars on VCE subjects, tertiary courses, career, gap year and study advice. Year 10 students will be travelling to the Expo in August as part of the school’s Careers Program.

Vocational Interest Questionnaire & Career Action Plan:
Year 10 students complete the Vocational Interest Questionnaire (VIQ) and start working on their Career Action Plans. After completing VIQ (30-35 min online questionnaire) each student receives a report, ‘Work Interest Profile and Specific Jobs Recommendations’, which guides students through the steps towards their most suitable career paths. This involves making VCE subject choices as well as identifying the courses, training and work experience necessary. While completing the Career Action Plans, students research specific occupations and plan the pathways to reach their career goals.
**Interschool Sport**

Students who love sport can choose to do an increased amount of sport through their elective choices at Year 9 and 10. St Andrews Christian College is affiliated with Christian Schools Sports Network (CSSN) through which we compete against other Christian schools in various sports. We compete on a fortnightly basis in Volleyball, Soccer, Football, Netball, Basketball, Cricket, Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country inter-school events. This provides our students great opportunity to challenge themselves and play sport in a competitive environment.

**Senior Library**

The Senior Library is available for students to use to read or study and is staffed all day. The resources are selected especially for Middle and Senior students. In addition to print resources, the library has two banks of laptops available for student use. There are also printing facilities.

The library is also open each recess, lunch time and after school until 4pm. All Middle and Senior students are welcome. In addition, VCE students are able to come and work whenever they have study lessons.
On to VCE

As students move from Year 9 and 10 into VCE they select 6 subjects that will prepare them for the careers they have chosen or might choose, keeping as many options open as possible. Their career development continues and their roles as leaders of the school increase. The Christian Education they receive is tailored to preparing them for life away from the close nurture of a Christian environment.

More details of VCE at St Andrews Christian College are contained in the second half of this booklet.
Year 11 and 12
at St Andrews Christian College

There are a number of adjustments and changes that students need to make as they move from Year 10 into VCE. The increase in workload and pressure, the balance of school, social, work, church and family life and the big decisions that need to be made about the future. Through strong relationships in a safe environment we want to nurture our students through these challenges. We want to help them know who they are as God’s children and help them to grow personally and academically to become the young adults that God wants them to be.

As the students focus on the direction that their lives are heading, we challenge them to find ways to serve others and to develop their skills, to make the most of their abilities and to reach their goals. All of these contribute to our worship of God.

There are many administrative rules and procedures associated with VCE that are contained in the VCE Handbook rather than this booklet but I hope this booklet gives you a picture of some of the many things that are going on in VCE at St Andrews Christian College.

Mrs. Natalie Farmer
Year 11 and 12 Coordinator
VCE SUBJECT SELECTION
During the second half of Year 10 students undergo a process of choosing their 6 Year 11 subjects. This process is guided by parents and the school through information nights, career tests, VTAC and government publications and individual interviews. Criteria students need to consider include their tertiary study prerequisites, their interest and abilities and keeping as many career options as possible open.
The VCE subjects offered at St Andrews include English, English as an Additional Language (EAL), Literature, Accounting, Business Management, Economics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Health and Human Development, Psychology, Physical Education, I.T., Further Mathematics, Mathematical Methods CAS, Specialist Maths and more. Students also study Music, Visual Communication and Design, Woodwork, History, VET subjects and a range of languages through other providers. This range of subjects will prepare students for almost any tertiary course they aim for.

EXTENSION STUDIES
During Year 12 some capable students will have the opportunity to study a University subject as an Extension Study. This is only open to the best students and applications are made with the recommendation of the school. Results from these studies can assist with a student’s ATAR.

VET SUBJECTS
Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses can contribute to a student’s VCE in place of one of their VCE subjects. In recent years St Andrews students have studied VET courses such as Hospitality, Sports and Recreation, Fashion Design and Christian Ministry. These are run through TAFE and other providers.

CAREER COUNSELLING AND VTAC
Careers Counselling continues through Year 11 and 12 with both group activities and one-on-one appointments. The Age VCE and Careers Expo gives Year 11 and 12 students an opportunity to further their understanding of post-secondary education options and a chance to explore their career options. Over 190 exhibitors including Australia’s top tertiary institutions, providers of VCE, VCAL and career resources and information and international exchange programs will be at the Expo. Students also benefit from the seminars on VCE subjects, tertiary courses, career, gap year and study advice. Year 11-12 students will be travelling to the Expo in May as part of the school’s Careers Program. In September each year the Year 12 students and their parents are guided through the VTAC application process for tertiary courses and support is given when results come out in December.
PRIVILEGES DURING VCE

As the students mature they are accorded added privileges and responsibilities. VCE students have access to a common room which is a designated space in which they can study during spare periods. In the common room, students have access to a refrigerator, microwave, kettle and toaster as well as all of their lockers. When in the common room, students are permitted to listen to music (with headphones) while studying. Some students find this helps them to concentrate on their work and zone out from other distractions.

The new facilities for Senior School (due in 2015) have been deliberately designed to have private study and relaxing spaces which can all be used to promote a good balance of work and rest.

In their final year of school, Year 12, students have the added privilege of being able to leave school early provided they have no further classes on that day.

STUDY SKILLS AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The art of study is not a skill that comes easily to all students. It must be taught. In all VCE classes, teachers provide tips for students to enable them to study more effectively. In addition to this ongoing help, at the beginning of each school year, all VCE students attend a Study Skills Retreat (formerly referred to as the VCE camp). Here, students have some intensive training on such things as how to train your brain, how to take effective notes, how to summarise, the art of mind mapping, creating a positive environment for study and how to order your time to ensure you have a good study/work/life balance.

Relationships between students and staff are strong at St Andrews Christian College and we encourage our students to make the most of the growth opportunities these provide. This is done formally through mentoring or less formally in personal interactions in classes, Bible studies, on excursions and camps or even in the schoolyard.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As students move into their final years of schooling, there are many opportunities to display the leadership abilities that God has placed within them. The ultimate role would be seen as being elected School Captains. In this role, students not only lead the rest of the school body in various events but they also represent the school in public settings both within and outside school. A step below the level of School Captains would be the Community Captains. These students are elected to lead the three school community groups in sporting events, assemblies, fundraising events and within the Student Service Council. There are other areas in which students can demonstrate their ability to lead, for example: being a part of the committee to organise and run the VCE formal or the Valedictory Dinner, participating in the World Vision Global Leadership Convention and Knox Young Leaders days or taking a role in helping to choose and order jumpers for Year 12.

The younger students in the school are constantly looking to our VCE students as positive role models. All VCE students are therefore encouraged to be leaders by example within the school community.
EVENTS – FORMAL, VALEDICTORY DINNER
All students in VCE are invited to attend the VCE Formal. This is essentially a social dinner dance with a formal dress code. The event is organised mainly by a committee of students within the VCE cohort of that year. Students are permitted to bring friends and family. The event is alcohol free and is fully chaperoned by school staff.

At the end of Year 12, students and their families celebrate their completion of their secondary school studies with a Valedictory Dinner hosted by VCE staff. At this dinner, staff reflect on the year that has been with the students the efforts of each student are celebrated. The Principal gives a final address to the students and their families and either the Valedictorian or one or both School Captains are invited to give a short speech summarising their school experience at St Andrews Christian College.

CE AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES
The development of the whole person is imperative if we are to enable students of St Andrews to leave the school as “Leaders by influence, Distinguished by character and Inspired by faith”. For this very reason, Christian Education is an integral part of the curriculum. Every morning, teachers share a Biblical reflection with students inspiring them in their faith. Christian Education classes are given dedicated time. In these classes, students are taught how to formulate their own understanding of what the scriptures teach. In all subject areas, a Biblical Worldview is presented to students. In the Bible we see that our Saviour, Jesus, was a servant king. Our students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their faith through serving both the school and the wider community. Service activities may take the form of helping with gardening in the school grounds, working with younger children in the primary school, praying for and writing to local, state and federal politicians, visiting an aged care facility or serving food at a homeless shelter. The opportunities to serve may come in many forms.

MISSION TRIP AND CAMPS
The opportunities for personal growth and service to others are continued in our camps and school mission trip. As well as the year level camps and study retreat, students may apply to go on the ski trip and on the mission trip. In the past our mission trips have been to India and Vanuatu. As we are currently developing our relationship with Tata School in Vanuatu, our mission trip in 2014 will be to Vanuatu. On this trip students will serve using their gifts and also be stretched by doing activities outside their comfort zone. Students take part in running some lessons, leading games and helping out at the school in any way possible. In doing this they grow in their relationship with God and develop leadership and personal qualities.