Religious Education

The aim of Year 7 Religious Education is to present to students opportunities to further explore and grow in awareness of their spiritual development.

As part of the Diocesan Religious Education Curriculum “Awakenings”, students are introduced to Units on “Jesus Christ”, “Sacraments”, “Christian Life” and “Christian Prayer”. Assessment in Religious Education, as in other areas of the curriculum, is based on classroom participation, assignments, class work and the student’s overall progress.

In addition, students attend Trinity College liturgical celebrations and participate in class-based prayer.

English

Year 7 English is a stimulating program aimed to develop the reading, writing, speaking and listening of all students. The units studied encompass a variety of texts, such as novels, films, newspapers and poems. Students work on units based on the following three Australian Curriculum English areas:

- **Language**: consolidating and extending spelling, grammar and vocabulary.
- **Literature**: studying texts which engage students with contemporary and historical issues.
- **Literacy**: develops the oral language use and written communication skills of each student. Homework consists of text based assignments, skills work, weekly skill-based homework sheets and the reading of texts for class.

Class texts are chosen from: *Tuck Everlasting*, *Red Dog*, *Hitler’s Daughter*, *Blueback*, *Boy Overboard*, *Girl Underground* and *Bridge to Terrabithia*.

Wider reading is encouraged and students are invited to visit the library to stimulate and fuel their reading.
Mathematics

The principal aim in Year 7 is to build on and reinforce the students' understanding and proficiency using the four basic processes (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and their application across other areas of mathematics. Students will be introduced to topics drawn from Number and Algebra, Statistics and Probability and Measurement and Geometry.

Mathematical problems found in everyday life are incorporated into most units of work and students are introduced to a range of problem solving strategies. Assessment includes formal topic tests, extended problems and assignments. Students complete a weekly homework sheet. This sheet aims to revise skills on an ongoing basis as well as to encourage students to attempt some problem-solving activities.

Science

This introductory unit of Science aims to help students develop an understanding of the world around them. Students learn how to articulate scientific terminology and use laboratory equipment in a safe and effective manner. Through inquiry-based activities, a framework is established that encourages students to become critical, analytical and independent thinkers.

This course encourages students to build their curiosity and equips them with the skill base to independently use scientific understanding and processes to find answers to their questions.

Specific areas of study include classification, ecology, mixtures, forces and machines. The 'Ecosystem' unit focuses on habitats and the organisms within them, foodwebs and their influences, as well as endangered and introduced species. The 'Forces' unit examines the classification and measuring of forces and the effect of forces on objects.

Indonesian

The study of Bahasa Indonesia develops students' skills in understanding and using the language of a country which is one of Australia's closest neighbours and is the fourth most populous country in the world. Links between Australia and Indonesia have been strengthened in recent decades in areas such as tourism, education and business. The study of Indonesian promotes the strengthening of these links. The acquisition of a second language provides students with greater opportunities in employment as global citizens.

Year 7 students study topics that are relevant to their world: introductions, friends, eating, past times and entertainment, transport, schooling, health, daily routine, housing and etiquette. Indonesian culture and grammar are an integral part of these topics, as are the acquisition of communication skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Humanities

Humanities at Year 7 introduces students to human societies and environments and to people and their culture, past and present. The subject can be split into three domains: History, Geography and Economics, with each area being undertaken at Year 7.

We encourage the use of research skills and inquiry processes as students learn to plan an investigation and ask key questions. They question and analyse a range of data and sources including artefacts, photographs, maps, stories, special events, interviews, site visits and electronic media. Students learn to form conclusions supported by evidence and present information in a variety of ways.

Topics undertaken include: Investigating Our Past, An Ancient Civilization, Geospatial Skills, Water Liveability, Our Economy and You, and Money Matters. Typical assessment takes the form of research tasks, oral presentations, mapping, practical activities and source analysis, all completed in both group and individual environments.
**Health and Physical Education**

The health and physical education program is devoted to maximising student participation to ensure they develop the key skills and knowledge for a healthy life. Students participate in a wide range of activities from within the following classifications; Games and Sports, Challenge and Adventure Activities, Lifelong Physical Activities, and Rhythmic and Expressive Activities. Typical sports and activities include; netball, football, basketball, badminton, bat tennis, European handball, cross country, athletics, softball, tchoukball, soccer, gridiron, volleyball, skittles and dodge ball.

Students study a different theory unit each semester. Semester one’s topic is nutrition, while the semester two focus is on the mental and physical benefits of activity.

Trinity College is a member of School Sport Victoria and, at various times throughout the school year, the students will have the opportunity to represent Trinity at the following sports: swimming, tennis, athletics, cross country, clay shooting (Swan Hill), basketball, netball, Super 8s cricket, golf and football.

Students are required to wear the correct house or Trinity College sport uniform to physical education classes and representative sport.

**Digital Technologies**

The Year 7 Digital Technologies programme is skills-based. All students learn touch typing, using an interactive program. They develop skills in using a range of programs including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Photoshop. Students explore technology-related issues, including file management, responsible use of the internet, email and cyber-safety.

Students also learn how to connect to the school’s network and how to use their iPads. Students will use the skills gained in this elective in their other subject areas.

**Drama**

The Year Seven Drama unit is designed to give the students a taste of Performing Arts and introduce them to the basic skills and techniques required to perform. Throughout the unit, students will develop skills in movement, voice, body language, improvisation and journal writing.

The aim of the unit is for students to work together in groups to create their own performance which will be presented to an audience at the end of the course. The students will display the skills they have refined throughout the unit, utilising stagecraft elements such as costumes, props and lighting.

**Art**

The Art program in Year 7 has been designed to encourage students to create, make, explore and respond. The unit includes designing, painting, drawing, clay and the introduction and study of the elements and principles of art. The unit strives to build curiosity and self esteem in young people’s approach to the visual arts and their personal development, as well as developing an interest in indigenous cultures and their influences Assessment includes all completed art pieces and a work book.

**Food**

The Home Economics curriculum is structured to give students an understanding of food and nutrition whilst building skills and proficiency in the kitchen.

In addition to practical skills and safety procedures, students explore a wide variety of kitchen equipment and will acquire self-confidence and a pride in their work. Our programme aims for the greatest possible growth of each student in every aspect of kitchen craft and in obtaining knowledge and skills in food preparation.

Assessment includes a combination of practical exercises, assignments, group projects and the student’s general attitude to their work.
Woodwork aims to introduce, develop and fulfil each student’s potential through direct experience and skill development. In a productive and positive environment, students learn safe and proficient working habits, with an emphasis on a responsible but creative attitude. We encourage problem-solving techniques and independence so that students are able to design, plan and construct projects to their ability. Students develop co-ordination where they are able to accurately and confidently use hand tools, procedures, static machines and small portable tools.

Graphics
The Year Seven Graphics Program has been designed to give students an introduction to the use of drawing as a communication tool. Students will learn some basic rules and conventions involved in setting up pages, presentation and organisation of a folio of work. This program will cover instrumental and freehand drawing and give students the opportunity to explore a range of drawing techniques. They will be encouraged to be creative and confident with their drawings and with participation in class discussion. As a class, we will look at and discuss a range of existing visual communications which we see in everyday life and learn to recognise and identify the various purposes and intended audiences of these.

Music
Music in Year 7 involves listening, creating, performing and discussing music. Students will learn the basics of music notation and theory through the use of keyboards. They will listen to different styles of music, from classical to modern, and discuss how they are created. Students are also introduced to the instruments available for tuition at Trinity.

Textiles
Textiles involves acquiring practical skills and learning about the processes, design and final production of an article. Students are taught to use a sewing machine, how to read a pattern and to follow other instructions as required to successfully complete their selected item. Classes work through processes which gradually become more complex as they develop many new and more sophisticated techniques. Students in junior levels design and create a range of articles which involve hand-stitching and basic machining.

Student Learning Support
The Learning Centre is staffed by teachers and learning support officers. These staff members provide support for students with various educational needs. Support is provided in various ways and may be through withdrawal from the classroom to work individually or in small groups, with a focus on particular skills, or assistance may be provided within the classroom situation. Awareness programs directed specifically at literacy and numeracy are available for use with Year 7 groups and other students as required. Other tasks attached to the unit involve teaching English as a Second Language and diagnostic testing to assist in determining alternative programs for particular students. When necessary, referrals are made to the Catholic Education Office for further testing and to engage other professional support.

Regular contact is maintained with parents, teachers and the network of support services involved in the development and care of all students with special needs. We work to provide a planned individual approach so that students benefit from a program which considers their ability and their specific needs.