



Year 9

**Curriculum
Handbook**

2009

TRINITY AVENUE, EAST PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
www.trinity.wa.edu.au

INTRODUCTION

Trinity College has its origins in Christian Brothers' College, St George's Terrace, Perth founded by Bishop Mathew Gibney and Brother Ambrose Treacy in 1894. From the beginning, both boarders and day students were enrolled, but as the business section of the city expanded, the site became increasingly unsuitable for a boarding school. In 1938, the boarders were transferred to Mount Henry, Manning, to found Aquinas College.

Christian Brothers' College continued as a day school until 1961 when the buildings and land were purchased by the Perth City Council. The College was then transferred to its present location in 1962, and renamed Trinity College.

In 1968 Trinity became a member of the Public Schools' Association of Western Australia.

Trinity College endeavours to provide a distinctly Catholic environment where the students can form a truly Christian character and where students, parents and teachers can meet in an atmosphere of mutual concern and respect.

The College aims at high standards of academic excellence. The curriculum gives attention to Religious Education, English, Languages and Communication, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Social Sciences, Art and Physical Education. Students are challenged to give of their best, to show a genuine interest in their chosen fields of study, and to develop the power of self-motivation through work in the library, the laboratories and the Art and Music Studios.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

At Trinity College Year 9 students study a number of compulsory or core subjects and have an excellent range of elective subjects from which to choose. The combination of core and elective subjects provide for the interests and academic needs of all students.

The period allocation for subjects includes:

Core Subjects:

Religious Education	3 periods
English	4 periods
Mathematics	4 periods
Science	3 periods
Society & Environment	3 periods
Physical Education	2 periods

Elective Subjects:

Students choose three semesterised elective subjects over the year, two in one semester and one in the other semester along with Health Education which is compulsory.

Or if students choose a whole year elective, they choose one other elective to be studied in conjunction with Health Education. Each elective has two periods per week.

Elective Subjects:

Each elective is studied for two periods each week.

The full year electives are

Italian
Music

The one semester electives are:

Aquatics
Ancient History
Art
3D Art (Sculpture)
Fine Art (Drawing and Painting)
Astronomy
Commerce
Design and Communication
Engineering Systems
English Enhancement
Fitness and Health
Graphics Communication
Health Education (compulsory subject)
Materials Technology
Mathematics: Problem Solving
Media Studies
Outdoor Education

INFORMATION LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

At Trinity College information technologies are primarily used to support and enhance all teaching programmes. Teachers integrate technology into their curriculum programmes to enhance the learning experience of their students.

English, Science, Mathematics, Society and Environment, Information Technology, Music and Design and Technology have specialised computer laboratories provided for their learning area. A Learning Technology co-ordinator assists classroom teachers with the integration of the technology into their programmes.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Career Development is the term used to cover the College activities which assist parents and students to plan realistic career pathways.

The first point of reference is the Career Development Handbook which can be accessed on the College website. This handbook will answer many of the questions parents and students ask about pathways at Trinity.

Formal career curriculum materials are currently introduced in Year 10, however, there are plans to move some of these activities to Year 9.

Parents of Year 9 students will be invited to any one of the several parent career seminars which will be offered each year. These seminars are designed to help parents understand the various pathways at the College and to become more aware of the careers which are available today.

CORE SUBJECTS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education in Year 9 aims to encourage students to find a personal connection with God by enriching their religious knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith tradition in the spirit of the Edmund Rice charism.

The College follows the Archdiocesan Religious Education programmes as mandated by the Bishops. The four units studied over the course of the year are:

Unit 1: The Human Search for Truth;

Unit 2: People Grow Stronger Spiritually;

Unit 3: How can People Handle Their Emotions?; and

Unit 4: Love and Sexuality.

Assessment is on content and application of this content in the students' context. Reporting is in levels/ grades across five outcomes as directed by the Catholic Education Office. Faith is personal and cannot be extrinsically tested, but the content taught in the Religious Education class is supported by the Quest Retreat and the Christian Service Programme. Students attend Mass at regular intervals in the school year.

ENGLISH

Within the English course there are two English subjects offered in Year 9.

English 1

This subject has been designed to extend all students regardless of their level of ability. The subject was also designed in accordance with the over-arching outcome statements.

Throughout the year, students will study a range of texts, including: novels, autobiographies, films and poetry. They will write stories, poetry, essays and other comprehension responses. They will also complete a number of oral tutorials and tasks. Special attention will be given to the feature film, "Gattaca", which will be studied by all classes during Term Two. All students will take part in a reading programme run in conjunction with the College Teacher-Librarian, and will also undertake a number of spelling and grammatical exercises designed to strengthen their functional literacy.

The subject is a diverse and challenging one that gives all boys an opportunity to develop their English skills and knowledge in a supportive and stimulating environment.

English 2

English 2 is a specially designed subject for boys identified as needing extra assistance in English. It will closely mirror the style and structure of the English 1 subject, but will run at a pace more in keeping with the abilities of the boys it contains. It will provide its students with the skills necessary to progress into a senior school course appropriate to the abilities and ambitions of the student.

The subject aims to provide a supportive and stimulating learning environment for reluctant English students as well as those who simply need extra help in reaching their potential.

MATHEMATICS

The programme provides opportunity for the continued development of all outcomes. The course content includes:

- index laws, solving and graphing linear and quadratic functions in **Algebra**;
- applications of the Pythagorean result, finding surface area and volume of prisms in **Measurement**;
- operations involving scientific notation in **Number**;
- angles, congruent triangles and the construction of triangles and quadrilaterals in **Space**;
- collection and interpretation of survey data and the use of summary statistics as well as estimating probabilities using tree diagrams and Venn diagrams in **Chance and Data**; and
- applying investigative and problem solving strategies; explaining and justifying conclusions in **Working Mathematically**.

The use of interactive computer software programmes and CAS calculators will be an integral part of this course.

All mathematics classes are streamed in Year 9 so that each boy has an opportunity to work at a standard to suit his individual ability and performance. The progress of all boys will be continually monitored and re-streaming will occur where performance warrants it.

SCIENCE

Studies in Year 9 continue to focus on the conceptual areas of Life & Living, comparing different animal body systems; Energy and Change, highlighting electricity and alternative energies; Natural & Processed Materials, with emphasis on the properties and interactions between materials; and finally Earth & Beyond, with a focus on geology through rock types, minerals and understanding the changing surface of the Earth. In addition, students continue to undertake scientific investigations that reinforce the scientific method.

Opportunities exist for extension of more able students in a single focus class.

SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT

The Year 9 Society and Environment course focuses on the nature of Australian Society. Students are introduced to Australian History and Law. The course covers such topics as the origins of Australian identity in the 19th Century, Australia's involvement in WWI and how laws are made in parliament. Throughout Year 9, emphasis is placed on developing the ability of students to access, interpret and present information. Students use Information Technology in their Society and Environment class work.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

As a result of their learning in Physical Education, Year 9 students develop the physical and interpersonal skills needed for healthy, active lifestyles, and confident participation in a range of sport and recreational activities that includes a summer sport elective programme and Australian Football (Sport Education in Physical Education).

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

FULL YEAR ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

ITALIAN

Students will learn to use Italian language to achieve the following outcomes:

- Exchange information on topics of interest (eg. leisure time activities, sport, holidays, music, fashion, etc.) by engaging in dialogue.
- Correspond with others through simple letters, short cards or notes for different occasions.
- Obtain and give information on likes and dislikes (eg. foods, places to go, etc.).
- Make arrangements, choices and decisions with others on what to eat and where to go.
- Give and respond to simple invitations or instructions by telephone or in writing.
- Order and pay for goods purchased.
- Extract and act upon information from a variety of short, simply spoken and written texts.
- Cultural aspect: the focus will be on the regions of Italy. Other topics such as fashion (Italian designer) and the freeway system in Italy will be covered.

MUSIC

The Year 9 Music elective builds on the foundation skills established in Year 8. Students who are learning an instrument either within or outside the College are strongly encouraged to take this elective. The Year 9 course puts emphasis on composing for instruments, developing the 'musical ear', keyboard skills, performing in small groups and the study of styles of music from different musical eras. To facilitate learning, students have access to the MIDI keyboard and computer facilities featuring Cubase, Sibelius and other music related software. Theoretical musical concepts are learnt through practical application. Students who participate in one or more of the College's performing ensembles (wind ensemble, swing band, pipes and drums, chorale, orchestra), would benefit significantly from music.

This elective is also important grounding in music reading and writing for those who may wish to choose a Music Course of Study in Year 11 and 12.

SEMESTER ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

AQUATICS

The Year 9 Aquatics course will help students develop a variety of skills that they will be able to use in a recreational environment as well equipping them with valuable life skills that they will be able to use towards employment opportunities in the future. The new aquatic facility will enable a very wide range of activities to be pursued that will help make the course both educationally rewarding and enjoyable.

ANCIENT HISTORY

This semester-length unit will examine the lives and achievements of two of the most important figures in world history – Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar. Students will follow in the footsteps of Alexander as he conquered what was the known world, in the fourth century BC, and delve into the military and political genius of Caesar, who laid the foundation for the Roman Empire. Library and IT resources, as well as works of classic literature, will be utilised by students in endeavouring to uncover the truth about these almost mythological figures. By studying this unit, students will gain a greater appreciation of the impact the ancient world had on the progress of human history, as well as learn valuable lessons about modern conflicts and leaders. It will provide invaluable assistance to students studying the regular Society and Environment course, both by providing the historical basis for studies of Australian History and Law, and honing skills in inquiry, written communication and logical reasoning. Geographical skills and concepts relating to economic systems are also an important part of this course.

ART

This is an enjoyable and practical skills-based course which promotes creativity, innovation and the development of technical skills in a fun working environment. The skills-based approach aims to enable students to achieve confidence and expertise with a range of materials and techniques. Students will participate in a range of art activities in a variety of studio areas which may include painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking or graphic design.

3D ART (SCULPTURE)

Through exploration of a variety of sculptural mediums, techniques and processes, students will develop an understanding of 3 dimensional form and construction. Students will explore creative sculptural activities that encourage personal fulfilment through designing, making and evaluating 3 dimensional artworks. This is a hands-on course which encourages creativity, innovation and the development of technical skills in a fun working environment.

FINE ART (DRAWING AND PAINTING)

Through exploration of a variety of drawing and painting mediums, techniques and processes, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of 2 dimensional art. Students will explore creative drawing and painting activities that encourage personal fulfilment through designing, making and evaluating 2 dimensional artworks. This is a hands-on course which encourages creativity, innovation and the development of technical skills in a fun working environment.

ASTRONOMY

This is a hands-on, activity-based elective that serves as an introduction for more advanced studies in Year 10. Students work with the College's robotic telescope to take digital images and process them using computer software. Students are encouraged to undertake a research project based on their area of interest. They will explore the possibility of life beyond the Earth (astrobiology) and space sciences. Students will build and launch their own rockets.

COMMERCE

This is a relevant and exciting course that introduces students to many issues related to money, finance and business. The course is an excellent background to Business, Accounting and Finance covered in Years 10, 11 and 12. One of the course outcomes is for students to develop good money management skills that will assist them now and in the future. The course may include areas such as: Budgeting, Taxation, Banking, Savings, Investment, Shares and the Stock Market, and Credit.

DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION

During this semester long course students will learn a range of graphic techniques which will aid in the technology process of designing products. All work will be project-based and will include designing and modelling in both 2D and 3D. Such contexts for this elective include CO₂ dragster designing and making, and T-Shirt logo designs.

Students will work practically with materials such as paper, card, foamboard, plastic and balsa wood. As a result, students experience the Design Process through prototyping products used in everyday lives.

ENGINEERING SYSTEMS

The inclusion of Engineering Systems in the school curriculum should help students to develop an understanding of technology as it is applied in industry and commerce.

Using a problem solving approach the course includes **electronics, mechanisms, manufacturing, energy and structures** with real-life situations being emphasised throughout.

The content is taught through a variety of practical projects.

ENGLISH ENHANCEMENT

This subject is not an option as such as students will be invited to partake in this subject. The top performing Year 8 students will be invited into this class with the aim of extending these students through the study of a range of texts including novels, films and documentaries. This course would especially suit students hoping to study the more challenging English courses and Literature in years 10 and beyond.

FITNESS AND HEALTH

The aim of the elective is to extend students interested in improving their sport performance and physical fitness. Students will be introduced to a variety of training methods, fitness activities, and skills for physical activity beyond those covered in the normal Physical Education programme. These include: resistance (weight) training; cross training; and, speed and agility conditioning. Although there will be a theory component, the course will be predominantly practical and complement the other activities offered within the Physical and Health Education programme at the College.

GRAPHICS COMMUNICATION

Graphics Communication is a subject where students develop their graphics and drawing skills. The course covers basic techniques and includes alternative and more demanding exercises than those completed in Year 8. Computer assisted techniques are taught using AutoCAD and CorelDRAW packages commonly used by graphic designers, architects and engineers.

HEALTH EDUCATION

As a result of their learning in Health Education, Year 9 students develop an understanding of health issues and the self-management skills and attitudes needed for healthy active lifestyles and confident participation in sport and recreational activities. They are then able to make responsible decisions about health and physical activity and promote their own and others' health and well-being, now and in the future. Students focus on a range of relevant health and well-being contexts such as: Occupational Health & Safety; Lifestyle Diseases - Cancer; Mental Health & Resilience; and Drug Education.

MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

This semester length project based course allows students to design and make items using a range of differing resistant materials including wood, metal and plastic. Students will be taken through the design process for each project and the course builds on the skills and knowledge gained in Year 8 Design and Technology.

MATHEMATICS: PROBLEM SOLVING AND COMPETITION

This subject is designed for students who enjoy Mathematics and want to experience mathematical concepts outside of the normal syllabus. It is not just extra lessons to improve your level in your regular Mathematics programme.

Students who have **above average Mathematics** ability are strongly encouraged to participate in this most rewarding elective.

This Mathematics elective is separate from the Year 9 mainstream Mathematics course and has very little common content. The course provides interesting and enjoyable activities and applications. Activities draw upon a wide range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts to develop Mathematical ideas.

Students will have opportunities to enter National and State-wide competitions, use computers, use Mathematical games **and learn problem solving strategies**. This is an enriching and extension elective **not** a supportive elective.

MEDIA STUDIES

The media studies option in Year 9 gives students the opportunity to experience and create a range of print and non-print media, including newspapers, magazines and films. Students study a range of different texts and text types in order to better understand and appreciate the complexities of textual production. The course is comprised of practical and theoretical components.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The Year 9 Outdoor Education programme is designed to develop the students' preparedness for wilderness activities. The course focuses on First Aid, camp cooking and canoeing.

In view of the practical nature of the course it is essential all participants are prepared to be actively involved in all activities in varying and sometimes challenging conditions. Due to the emphasis on water-based activities, students are required to swim 200m in open water as a pre-requisite.

The course will culminate in a one day canoeing excursion for students who receive a satisfactory level of achievement. The course provides a firm grounding for the College's ongoing Outdoor Education programme.