



ARMIDALE SECONDARY COLLEGE

Our Future, Our Learning

Year 8, 2025 Elective Subjects Handbook

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SUBJECTS STUDIED IN YEAR 8

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History and Geography
- Technology Mandatory
- Languages - Japanese, French, German and Cultural Studies
- Visual Arts
- Music
- Personal Development, Health & Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Elective
- Sport
- Special Religious Education (SRE): Opt-in



ARMIDALE
SECONDARY
COLLEGE

Languages at Armidale Secondary College

Bonjour! 🇫🇷

Guten
Tag!

Konnichiwa!



YEAR 8 LANGUAGES

100 hours Mandatory Language Learning – One year study of ONE Language

Why Study Languages?

Learning languages provides the opportunity for students to engage with the linguistic and cultural diversity of the world and its peoples. Students broaden their horizons in relation to personal, social, cultural and employment opportunities in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. Proficiency in languages provides students with an opportunity to engage more effectively with the global community, provides them with significant cultural insights and creative thinking that can enhance their employment opportunities.

Contemporary research and practice have established a clear link between the learning of languages and improved literacy skills for a range of students, including second or additional language learners as well as background speakers. Through the development of communicative skills in a language and understanding of how language works as a system, students further develop literacy in English, through close attention to detail, accuracy, logic and critical reasoning. Learning languages exercises students' intellectual curiosity, increases metalinguistic awareness, strengthens intellectual, analytical and reflective capabilities, and enhances creative and critical thinking.

Through learning languages, students develop an intercultural capability and an understanding of the role of language and culture in communication, and become more accepting of diversity and difference. They develop understanding of global citizenship, and reflect on their own heritage, values, culture and identity.

At Armidale Secondary College we will strive to continue the rich cultural and language learning opportunities we have given our students in the past. We have been able to offer **French, German and Japanese** with great success for a number of years and are pleased to carry on this rich experience for our students and gifted language learners within our student body.

Structure

Students must choose a language in Year 8 as mandated by NESA. We are proud to be able to offer 4 choices: **French OR German OR Japanese OR Cultural Studies**. Students will study their chosen Language for a complete year continuously - 5 periods/cycle. Classes are capped at 2 German, 2 Japanese, 2 French and 2 Cultural Studies.

Pathways

After studying a language in Year 8, students may continue with French, German or Japanese in Stage 5 OR if they do not study a language in Stage 5, they are eligible to study a Stage 6 Beginners course in French, German or Japanese. In recent years we have had many students having success with Stage 6 Language Courses completing their HSC in French, German and Japanese.

Course Requirements

A4 96 page notebook

Scissors, glue stick, pens, pencils

Other study materials will be available in classrooms

Homework

Learning a language requires ongoing commitment, therefore students will be expected to review classwork on a daily basis.

There will be regular in class and online quizzes that students will need to study for.

Any homework set by the class teachers is expected to be submitted. This could include: cultural assignments, vocabulary learning, recorded speaking and writing tasks etc.

Assessment Strategies

Formative assessment will be ongoing relating to all classroom tasks, group work, collaboration and critical thinking skills. Formal assessment may include: end of unit quizzes, vocabulary tests, speaking, listening, reading and writing tasks. A variety of cultural assignments may also be used.

All aspects of language will be assessed on a regular basis using a variety of tasks assessing students' listening, reading, writing and speaking ability. Self-assessment and peer-assessment strategies will also be incorporated within teaching pedagogies as assessment for learning allowing continuous student driven motivation striving for excellence.

GERMAN



English is a Germanic language (just consider the names of parts of the body or common everyday verbs), and it is quite common for anglophones learning German to rapidly develop an affinity with the rhythms and nuances of the language. While it is the official language of only six European countries, it is widely spoken all over the continent, and indeed all over the world, including, remarkably, such countries as Brazil and Kazakhstan. The literary, musical, scientific and historical significance of German is obvious to any scholar, but the reasons for seizing the opportunity to learn it are far more fundamental: students would not only be learning to communicate in a language so closely related to English, but they would also be learning a great deal about English and its origins, and, it is hoped, having a lot of fun doing so. Also to be borne in mind is the fact that German organisations (government and non-government) offer all sorts of scholarships to Australian secondary and tertiary students, and while this in itself is not a reason to study German, it is a very welcome bonus.

FRENCH



French is a major world language. The ability to communicate in French is of great benefit in business, trade and commerce, tourism and hospitality, the arts, government and diplomacy, science, technology and medical research. Studying French provides access to a significant part of the culture, traditions and attitudes of French speaking countries and communities. French is spoken throughout the world and is an official language for people involved in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the United Nations and the European Union. There is a large and active French-speaking community in Armidale.

Studying French opens up areas like international exchange and tourism in France and the French speaking world. In French classes, students will develop linguistic ability and gain cultural understanding through learning about French cuisine, music, film, art, fashion and history, to name a

few. Students will engage with technology such as online language learning software, apps and VR. There may be opportunities for students to join organised Study Tours to Europe and/or New Caledonia to build on their learning of French in later years.

JAPANESE



Japanese is the official language of Japan, one of Australia's northern neighbours in the Asia region. Australia has a significant number of Japanese national residents, and we have a large Japanese community in Armidale.

Students will engage with elements of modern Japan, including popular culture such as technology, anime, manga, music and fashion, as well as with rich cultural experiences of cooking, calligraphy, origami, shibori indigo dyeing and tea ceremony. Topics of study will also include such things as: About me and Japanese Teenagers, Let's travel to Japan – food and sightseeing, Daily life – Japan and Australia.

Students will begin to learn to read and write the Japanese scripts of Hiragana, Katakana and some Kanji. They will engage with technology and apps as well as a range of tools to create videos and scripts in Japanese. They will also engage with Japanese students in Hokkaido via video conferencing and be able to host Japanese students from Toyama when they visit us on their annual school homestay visit. We also have a bi-annual trip to Japan that has been very successful with large numbers of students travelling to Japan for homestay and travel.

CULTURAL STUDIES

This course is the ideal languages course for students who need more literacy support when accessing languages. Students who are achieving a D or below in English are encouraged to choose this course. In Cultural Studies, students learn a language through the use of structure and repetition. There is a focus on skill building and cultural knowledge as being the foundation of this course.

Summary

We look forward to working with happy and motivated Language learners in 2024! Our classrooms are engaging and vibrant learning environments where we can study together to learn about ourselves and the lives of teenagers around the world! Make sure you choose carefully and find the language and culture that most suits you! See you next year in the Languages Classroom.

ELECTIVES AT ASC

The Year 8 elective program at Armidale Secondary College is unique as very few schools offer electives to students for this year group. For Year 8 students, this is an opportunity to develop understanding and skills in an area of interest. Exposure to these electives will also allow them to make better choices about their electives in Years 9 and 10.

Year 8 students will study one elective for Semester 1 then change to their second choice for Semester 2.

The electives that will be offered in 2025 to students in Year 8 will be:

Subject	Contribution fee per semester		Contribution fee per semester
Agriculture	Nil	History's Mysteries	Nil
Art Attack	\$20	Metal Technology	\$30
Cultural Cooking	\$60	Multimedia Studies	\$10
Dance	Nil	Music	\$10
Digital Design	Nil	Rugby League	Nil
Drama	Nil	Sculptural Explorations	\$15
Fashion Design	\$20	Sport for Life	Nil
Food Technology	\$60	Stagecraft - Mask Making	\$15
Forensic Science	Nil	Wood Technology	\$25

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS OFFERED IN 2025

Please note that subject offering depends on the number of interested students.

Agriculture

Course Contribution: \$Nil

Course Outline

Agriculture is one of Australia's most important industries. There are many excellent job opportunities for young people.

The Agriculture Course 7-10 is structured to achieve effective learning by direct experience, where possible, with plants, animals, soils etc. It involves a balance between theory and practical applications, including problem solving, researching, planning, managing, producing and marketing. Students also have the opportunity to explore moral and ethical issues associated with living things and the environment.

Agriculture is offered as an elective subject in Years 9 and 10 and is offered as a HSC subject.

Course Requirements

- Exercise book - approximately 60 pages
- Practical work often done on the school farm
- Sturdy footwear is a must and a hat in summer is strongly advised
- Occasionally a change of clothes or a pair of overalls could be required.

Homework

Periodic homework is given to complement classwork.

Assessment

Assessment is divided into categories of knowledge and skills. 'Knowledge' is assessed primarily through class tests. 'Skills' involves students attempting various tasks e.g. Research, report – written and/or oral, practical tasks.

Art Attack

Course Contribution: \$20 per semester

Course Outline

Art Attack is an extension course that allows students to extend their creativity. Students will be given the opportunity to explore various art materials and methods not offered in the mandatory course. This may include 3D sculpture, printmaking, clay, painting and photography.

Students will develop a portfolio of best works that reflect their creative flair and technical skills whilst also learning about various inspirational artists.

You do not need to be “good at drawing”. The course is about unlocking your creative mind and having fun with the arts.

Course Requirements

- Pencils - 2B and HB
- Eraser
- Visual Arts diary

Assessment

Students will present their most successful works in a portfolio along with planning in Visual Arts Diary.

Cultural Cooking

Contribution: \$60 per semester

Course Outline

This course provides students with knowledge and skills in:

- Food habits of other cultures
- Culture studies
- Nutritional requirements
- Practical cookery

Students visit a different country each week and learn about its culture and food habits. Each practical lesson students will prepare a dish from that country.

Course Requirements

- A4 folder
- Course contribution for costs of practical lessons

Assessment

- Homework
- Research assignment
- Practical experiences

Dance

Course Contribution: \$Nil

Course Outline

This course is designed around three interrelated areas of dance study:

- * Composition
- * Performance
- * Appreciation

Together these will form the basis of a balanced dance elective.

Areas of Study

- **Skill Development** - this area looks at the physical requirements of dance performance and their development, ie. skills, sequencing, space, time, dance dynamics and safe dance practices.
- **Composition and Choreography** - this will provide the students with the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the principles and practices of composition and choreography.
- **Appreciation** - this looks at various international influences on dance styles plus the variety of dance styles ie. folk, jazz, classical, modern etc.
- **Performance** - students will be required to choreograph and be involved with a number of performances throughout the year (eg. North West Dance Festival).
- **Theory of Dance** - this area looks at the various cultural and social influences on dance, the history of dance and the development of dance.

Course Requirements

Students will need suitable dance clothes for all practical classes. It is important that students are able to move freely to be able to dance most effectively.

Homework

Various homework tasks may be assigned to students.

Assessment

- Teacher observation of group work, skill development and involvement in classroom and practical lessons
- Completed, organised and up to date worksheets and bookwork
- Student presentations of dance items individually and in groups

Digital Design

Course Contribution: \$Nil

Course Outline

This course introduces students to knowledge and skills in the Graphics Technology course, with particular emphasis on using computers and a variety of word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and CAD programs to produce technical drawings and 3D Models.

Students will learn about:

- Australian architectural drafting standards
- Sketchup
- Inventor
- Revit-Architecture
- OnShape

Course Requirements

Students will require a small A4 sketch book, a memory stick, 5mm clutch pencil with H or HB lead, a good quality pencil eraser. All other equipment will be supplied for use at school.

Homework

To ensure that all coursework is kept up to date and submitted when required.

Assessment

The bulk of the assessment policy will involve the progressive assessment of classwork and drawings.

Drama

Course Contribution: \$Nil

Course Outline

This course is an introduction to Drama. Drama encourages the development of collaborative skills and engages students in a creative process of developing and expressing emotions and ideas. Drama develops communication skills vital to all employment areas. It assists students to develop positive self-concepts and to be self-motivated.

Performance is central to the Drama course - developing voice, movement and improvisation skills, creating characters and exploring scripts. During the second half of the semester, students of Drama will work in groups, to rehearse and perform a scene in class. They will use theatrical devices work shopped in class, and an understanding of performance conventions to create a final show for their peers.

Course Requirements

One A4 exercise book 48 pages (the Drama logbook)

Homework

- Each practical lesson will require students to make a brief reflection in their log book
- Performances will require lines to be learned

Assessment

Processes and performances in Drama are equally valued. Students will be continually assessed based on their growth of skills in the subject. Assessment includes strategies for self-assessment and peer assessment to help students to take responsibility for their own learning.

Fashion Design

Course Contribution: \$20 per semester

Course Outline

A practical semester course introducing the basic skills for designing and constructing products and/or garments (one personal garment is the minimum requirement).

Experiences can include fabric decoration techniques such as machine embroidery as well as printing and dyeing.

Course Requirements

- Students provide own fabric and notions for garment construction
- A4 display folder

Homework

- Complete set practical construction techniques
- Read fashion magazines and newspaper articles
- Fashion sketching

Assessment

- Fashion designing and sketching
- Practical Construction

Food Technology

Course Contribution: \$60 per semester

Course Outline

This course involves students investigating food through “hands on” applications and processes such as designing, researching, making, communicating and managing.

It provides opportunities for students to evaluate the impact of food technologies on the individual (health), society, environment and resources.

Course Requirements

- A4 folder
- Equipment appropriate to practical exercises

Homework

- Regular completion of class work
- Complete design briefs
- Research/assignments

Assessment

- Research/assignments
- Practical application

Forensic Science

Course Contribution: \$Nil

Course Outline

An opportunity for students to experience real “hands on” investigation techniques used by forensic scientists. Activities include fingerprinting, footprints, odontology, fibre analysis, profiling based on clothing and pocket contents, glass analysis and investigations of actual cases.

Students may be invited to participate in web-based crime games/simulations including the environmental science game Murder under the Microscope.

Course Requirements

- An exercise book (96 pages)

Homework

- Completing missed work
- Completing assignments
- Homework sheets

Assessment

- Assignments and/or
- Practical test and/or
- Case Studies Report

History's Mysteries

Course Contribution: \$Nil

Course Outline

What are some of history's mysteries? Who 'done' it? What was it? Why did it happen?

These questions and more will be explored in this elective. You will develop your skills as an historian to investigate the past and its impact on the present and the future.

History's Mysteries will promote a better understanding about the forces that have changed the world. Students will learn the knowledge and the skills to become a more responsive and engaged human being, and to discover their own place in the stories of their families, communities and the wider world.

This course allows students to explore areas of personal interest through projects and competitions, and to undertake authentic historical inquiry.

Course Requirements:

- 1 x 96-page exercise book or digital equivalent
- Students will also need stationery items such as coloured pencils, scissors and glue

***Napoleon Bonaparte said: "History is a set of lies agreed upon".
Join us in History's Mysteries to see if this is true.***

Metal Technology

Course Contribution: \$30 per semester

Course Outline

Basic Metal is a practical course that allows the student to specialise in the design, planning and construction of useful projects from such areas as:

- Metal machining
- Metal fabrication
- Sheet metal work
- Art metal work

Students will experience the use of a wide range of hand tools, stationary machinery and a variety of joining processes, such as soldering, brazing and riveting.

Appropriate footwear and safety glasses will be required when using tools and machinery.

Homework

Homework is required from time to time to keep up to date with bookwork.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on **SKILLS** (class practical, problem solving) and **KNOWLEDGE** (test, documented work).

Multimedia Studies

Course Contribution: \$10 per semester

Course Outline

Students will engage in a series of exciting projects which combine digitised media types into meaningful presentations. Students will gain skills in the creation and editing of a variety of media types including:

- Text and hypertext
- Graphics
- Sound
- Video
- Animations

Students will learn to critically evaluate multimedia presentations through an assessment of works presented in the popular media and on the internet. They will be introduced to the basics of file formats and the impact of modern technology on how information is presented.

Course Requirements

Students will require a display folder.

Homework

Homework will involve working on the design of projects.

Assessment

Assessment of course outcomes will be judged by the completion of projects and some research.

Music

Course Contribution: \$10 per semester

Course Outline

Music elective offers a wide variety of music making experiences beyond compulsory music including: digital music production, performances on a variety of instrument as well as voice within a variety of musical styles. Students will engage with Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software to record and produce an album of their work. Students will develop skills in recording techniques associated with various technologies. This elective includes an excursion to a professional recording studio. Students will be expected to work both individually and collaboratively.

Students are expected to make a commitment to developing their instrumental and recording skills by regularly practicing.

Course Requirements

- The contribution fee will cover the cost of the software and technology required.
- A willingness to work collaboratively with other students.
- A willingness to record yourself on software with voice and instruments
- Internet at home is desirable.

Assessment

- Recorded compositions, both original and covers as groups and individuals
- Observational assessment of skill development and confidence

Homework

Students are expected to regularly engage with DAW software to improve their recordings.

Rugby League

Course Contribution: \$Nil

Course Outline

The Rugby League course incorporates both theory and practical components that look at many aspects of this game. Skills developed by students in this course can be transferred to many other sporting pursuits or can be utilised as developmental tools for other aspects of life.

Modules covered include:

- Rules and laws of Rugby League
- History of Rugby League
- Skill acquisition and development - passing, catching, tackling, kicking and evasion
- Development of tactics and strategies
- Development of practice of skill drills
- Principles of coaching
- Training techniques - fitness, skill, and team
- Code of conduct - sportsmanship and fair play
- Nutrition for sports performance
- Psychology for sports performance - stress management, mental rehearsal
- Sport injury prevention, treatment and rehabilitation
- Performance enhancement - legal and illegal

Assessment

- Teacher observation of practical performance
- Peer assessment of practical tasks
- Physical skills test
- Written tests and quizzes
- Major project

Sculptural Explorations

Course Contribution: \$15 per semester

This course provides students with the expertise and creativity to explore various 3-dimensional sculptural techniques. This includes ceramics, plaster, junk sculpture and much more. Students will learn to transform their ideas into 3-dimensional form considering the use of space, decorative qualities and surface treatment, along with building technical abilities and sculptural methods.

Students will also develop an understanding of sculptural developments throughout art history through class projects and group activities.

You do not need to be a fabulous artist - just come with a willingness to explore and experiment.

Course Requirements

- Pencils - 2B and HB
- Eraser
- Visual Arts diary

Assessment

Students will exhibit and photograph their strongest completed works along with their Visual Arts Diary.

Sport for Life

Course Contribution: \$Nil

Course Outline

Sport for Life is an exciting course where students actively participate in a range of recreational, leisure and sports options to enhance positive physical habits and a commitment to lifelong health. This course is designed for students who have an interest and or ability in physical education, health, sport, and exercise.

As society becomes more aware of the needs to improve fitness levels, it is important that opportunities are provided for students to gain the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to make informed decisions about participating in sports, games, and exercise programs.

Participation in this course will provide students with many opportunities to enhance and refine their own physical skills and fitness levels through a variety of sports, games, and activities.

Areas of study include (but not limited to):

- Body and energy systems, nutrition, sports safety, and movement skill development
- Lifelong recreational pursuits – fitness vs physical activity and fitness training
- Games and sports of the world
- Sports Coaching

Course Requirements

- 1 x 96 page exercise book or digital equivalent
- ASC sports uniform
- Appropriate footwear (football boots/futsal shoes)

Stagecraft - Mask Making

Course Contribution: \$15 per semester

Course Outline

This course is designed to extend drama students' skills and provide an experience in Stagecraft in Theatre. Students will be given the opportunity to research the use masks, both in Aboriginal

communities and around the world. Students then design and construct masks (and props) to explore the practical aspects of drama performance.

During the process of mask-making, students will learn to manipulate plaster of Paris, acrylic paints and decorative elements to create a character for the stage.

These masks will then be used to develop a group-devised performance experimenting with these dramatic elements, incorporating movement and music. At the end of the course you will have your mask to display on your wall as a keepsake.

Homework

Design and research

Assessment

Process and performances in drama are equally valued. Students will be continually assessed based on their growth of skills in the subject. Assessment includes strategies for self-assessment and peer assessment to help students to take responsibility for their own learning.

Wood Technology ***Course Contribution: \$25 per semester***

Course Outline

A practical course where students design, plan and construct a range of projects primarily from timber. The challenge of each project increases throughout the course and includes the use of portable and fixed machinery, hand tools and the wood lathe.

Course Requirements

- HB pencil to be brought to each lesson
- The contribution fee assists to offset the cost of materials
- Appropriate footwear and safety glasses will be required when using tools and machinery

Homework

Students are required to complete any set theory work. Students absent from any class are required to see the teacher and catch up any work missed.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on **SKILLS** (class practical, problem solving) and **KNOWLEDGE** (test & documented work).