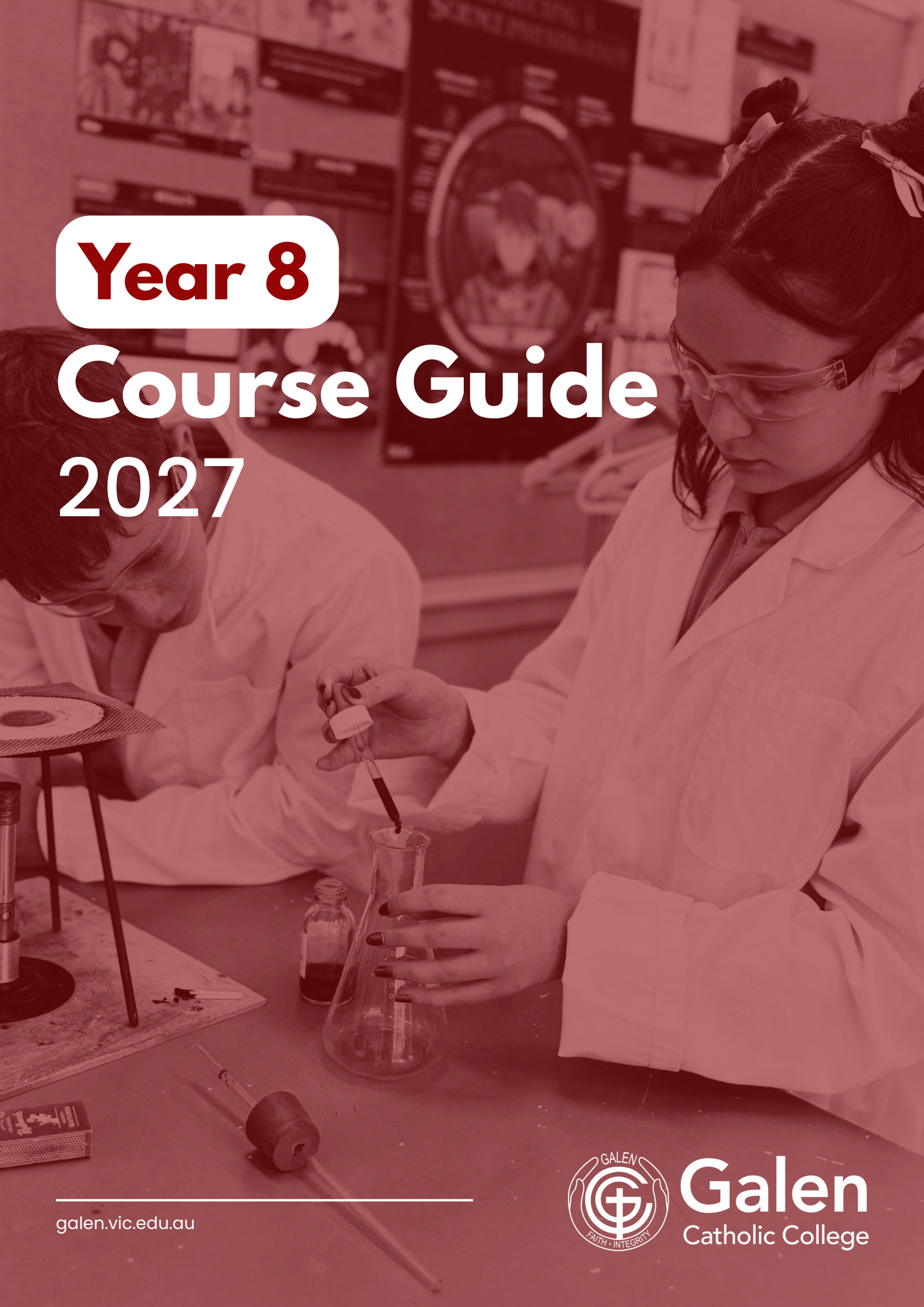


**Year 8**

# Course Guide 2027



# Contents

<b>Year 8 Overview</b>	<b>3</b>
Subject selection process	3
Where to get more information	3
<b>Year 8 Curriculum</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Year 8 Core Subjects</b>	<b>5</b>
English	5
Maths	5
Science	6
Religious Education	6
Health & Physical Education	7
Humanities	7
Languages (Indonesian or Italian)	8
Literacy Units 1 & 2 (optional)	8
<b>Year 8 Elective Subjects</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Arts</b>	<b>9</b>
Drama	10
Media	10
Merriwa Woka	11
Music	11
Visual Arts	12
Visual Communication Design (VCD)	12
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>	<b>13</b>
Food	13
Materials	13
Textiles	14
Animation & 3D Modelling	14
B4 Computing	15
Robotics	15
<b>Contacts</b>	<b>16</b>



# Year 8 Overview

Our Year 8 program at Galen provides a broad and balanced curriculum designed to strengthen foundational skills and encourage exploration.

Students study core subjects all year, including: English, Maths, Science, Religious Education, Health/Physical Education, Humanities, Languages.

Alongside core learning, students study four electives across the year, allowing them to explore interests and try new areas.

## Subject selection process

Students select their Year 8 electives using our online system. Students choose six preferred electives. From these, the school allocates four (two per semester) based on availability and student preferences.

When choosing electives, students are encouraged to:

- Select subjects they genuinely enjoy
- Try new areas to broaden their experience
- Consider future pathways into Year 9 and beyond

**Deadline:** Final selections for Year 8 (2027) must be submitted by **Friday the 31st of July at 9am.**

## Where to get more information

Students and families can seek guidance from:

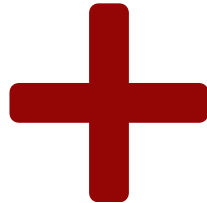
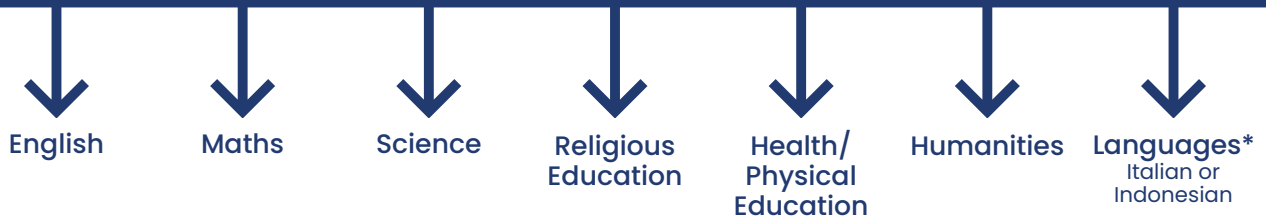
- Subject teachers
- Homeroom Mentors
- Stage Leaders
- House Leaders
- Older students and siblings

These conversations help students make informed choices that match their goals and strengths.



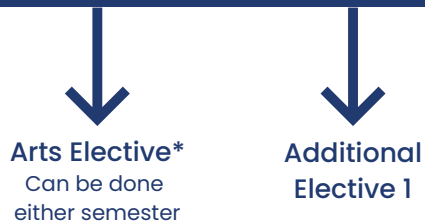
# Year 8 Curriculum

## COMPULSORY CORE – STUDIED ALL YEAR

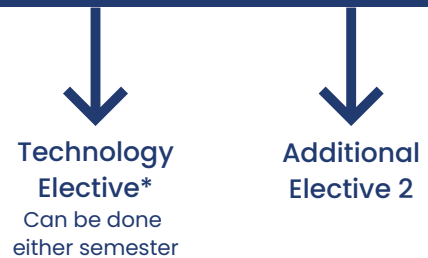


## ELECTIVES

### SEMESTER 1



### SEMESTER 2



# Year 8 Core Subjects

## English

### What students do

- Read, view and analyse novels, poetry, media and digital texts
- Create imaginative, informative and persuasive writing
- Participate in discussions, debates and oral presentations

### How they learn

- Explore how context, purpose and audience shape meaning
- Practise writing through structured tasks and creative activities
- Build skills through reading, research and collaborative learning

### What they gain

- Strong literacy and communication skills
- Confidence in analysing and creating texts
- A deeper understanding of how language influences ideas and perspectives

## Maths

### What students do

- Work across all six mathematical strands (Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability) in line with the Victorian Curriculum 2.0
- Solve problems using real-world contexts
- Practise skills to build accuracy and fluency

### How they learn

- Use evidence-based resources that support direct and explicit instruction
- Make connections between mathematical ideas
- Apply technology and communication solutions

### What they gain

- Strong foundations in core mathematical concepts
- Improved reasoning, problem solving and fluency
- Confidence applying mathematics in everyday situations



# Science

## What students do

- Investigate cells, body systems, energy, light, sound and chemical reactions, the rock cycle, and tectonic activity
- Conduct experiments and analyse scientific data
- Explore how science explains natural phenomena

## How they learn

- Use hands-on experiments to test ideas
- Apply scientific models to explain observations
- Discuss findings and compare evidence

## What they gain

- Practical scientific investigation skills
- Understanding of key scientific concepts
- Confidence in analysing data and drawing conclusions

# Religious Education

## What students do

- Explore themes of belonging, faith and community
- Study Scripture, the liturgical year and key religious figures
- Participate in prayer, liturgies and social justice activities

## How they learn

- Follow the Source of Life curriculum
- Engage in discussion, reflection and service opportunities
- Connect learning to real-life experiences

## What they gain

- Understanding of Catholic traditions and values
- Awareness of others' needs and the importance of service
- A sense of connection, purpose and spirituality

# Health & Physical Education

## What students do

- Participate in a wide range of sports and physical activities
- Learn about mental health, nutrition, decision-making and respectful relationships
- Build movement skills and analyse performance

## How they learn

- Practise skills through games, drills and team activities
- Explore health topics through discussions and inquiry tasks
- Apply strategies to real-life scenarios

## What they gain

- Improved fitness, coordination and teamwork
- Knowledge to make healthy, informed choices
- Confidence in physical activity and personal wellbeing

# Humanities

## What students do

- Investigate Geography, History, Civics and Economics
- Explore Medieval Europe, Shogunate Japan, democratic systems and environmental interactions
- Analyse sources and complete research tasks

## How they learn

- Use inquiry questions to guide learning
- Work with maps, timelines, case studies and primary sources
- Discuss ideas and present findings

## What they gain

- Strong critical thinking and research skills
- Understanding of how societies develop and function
- Awareness of global issues and their own role in society

## Languages (Indonesian or Italian)

### What students do

- Expand on vocabulary and grammar to interact in familiar contexts
- Read, write, listen and speak in the target language
- Explore social norms and cultural practices and traditions from Italy and Indonesia

### How they learn

- Practise through conversations, role-plays, comprehension activities and written tasks
- Engage in interactive activities and a variety of language tasks
- Compare cultural practices and perspectives

### What they gain

- Confidence communicating in another language
- Greater cultural awareness and global understanding
- Skills that support English literacy and future language study

## Literacy Units 1 & 2 (optional)

*This subject is offered to students at the end of Year 7 based on recommendations from their English teacher. Students studying Literacy Units 1 & 2, will NOT study a language.*

### What students do

- Build essential literacy skills in reading comprehension, spelling and writing
- Practise strategies to understand, interpret and respond to texts
- Strengthen foundational skills needed for success across all subjects

### How they learn

- Work in small groups with targeted instruction
- Use structured literacy activities tailored to individual needs
- Receive explicit teaching and guided practice based on teacher recommendations

### What they gain

- Increased confidence in reading, writing and spelling
- Stronger literacy foundations to support learning in all subjects
- Personalised support that helps close gaps and build long-term skills



# Year 8 Elective Subjects

## Arts

- Drama
- Media
- Merriwa Woka
- Music
- Visual Arts
- Visual Communication Design

## Design & Technology

- Food
- Materials
- Textiles
- Animation & 3D Modelling
- B4 Computing
- Robotics



# Arts

## Drama

### What students do

- Perform scripted and improvised scenes
- Explore character, movement, voice and storytelling
- Work collaboratively to create performances

### How they learn

- Practise through games, workshops and rehearsals
- Analyse performances and reflect on their own work
- Use stagecraft elements such as costume and props

### What they gain

- Strong communication and teamwork skills
- Confidence performing in front of others
- Creativity and expressive skills

# Media

### What students do

- Create short films, radio pieces and photo stories
- Analyse media texts and their influence
- Explore film, audio and print media

### How they learn

- Use cameras, editing software and digital tools
- Work in groups to plan and produce media projects
- Study real media examples to understand meaning and impact

### What they gain

- Practical media production skills
- Critical thinking about media messages
- Understanding of visual storytelling



# Merriwa Woka

## What students do

- Learn on Country with a focus on Yorta Yorta knowledge
- Explore land management, culture and sustainability
- Participate in outdoor learning experiences

## How they learn

- Engage with local Indigenous perspectives
- Participate in fieldwork and hands-on activities
- Reflect on cultural understanding and environmental responsibility

## What they gain

- Respect for Yorta Yorta knowledge and Country
- Practical environmental and cultural awareness
- A deeper connection to place and community

# Music

## What students do

- Play instruments, sing and create music
- Learn music theory and notation
- Compose and perform pieces

## How they learn

- Practise individually and in groups
- Use digital tools for composition
- Analyse music from different genres

## What they gain

- Musical skills and performance confidence
- Understanding of rhythm, melody and harmony
- Creativity and teamwork



# Visual Arts

## What students do

- Create artworks through drawing, painting, printmaking and ceramics
- Develop observational drawing skills using nature as inspiration
- Explore art history, including Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander art

## How they learn

- Practise techniques through hands-on projects
- Research artists and analyse artworks
- Develop ideas through folio work, trials and reflection

## What they gain

- Strong fine-motor and visual communication skills
- Creative problem solving and lateral thinking
- Confidence analysing and making art

# Visual Communication Design (VCD)

## What students do

- Explore communication, environmental and industrial design
- Create visual solutions using drawing and digital tools
- Apply design elements and principles

## How they learn

- Follow the design process to develop ideas
- Practise drawing, rendering and layout skills
- Analyse real design examples

## What they gain

- Practical design and communication skills
- Understanding of how designers solve problems
- A foundation for future VCD pathways

# Design & Technology

## Food

### What students do

- Prepare a range of meals, baked goods and savoury dishes
- Investigate nutrition, food choices and sustainability
- Explore food safety, bacterial growth and correct food handling

### How they learn

- Follow recipes and demonstrations
- Practise cooking skills in hands-on sessions
- Design, plan, produce and evaluate food products

### What they gain

- Practical kitchen and food handling skills and the Do Food Safely Certificate
- Knowledge of healthy eating and food systems
- Confidence preparing meals independently

## Materials

### What students do

- Design and build projects using wood and other materials
- Use hand tools and power tools safely
- Create functional items through the design process

### How they learn

- Practise construction techniques through guided projects
- Test materials and evaluate design choices
- Keep a folio with sketches, plans and reflections

### What they gain

- Practical building and skills in using material specific tools
- Creative problem-solving and design thinking
- Confidence working independently and safely

# Textiles

## What students do

- Design and create textile products
- Use sewing machines, overlockers and Cricut machines
- Explore decorative techniques such as applique, printing and embroidery

## How they learn

- Follow the design process from planning to evaluation
- Practise sewing and construction techniques
- Experiment with fabrics and embellishments

## What they gain

- Practical textile and design skills
- Creativity and confidence working with materials
- Understanding of how textile products are made

# Animation & 3D Modelling

## What students do

- Create animations and 3D models
- Design characters, scenes and digital stories
- Build simple 3D objects using modelling software

## How they learn

- Follow tutorials and demonstrations
- Practise skills through creative projects
- Experiment with digital tools to refine designs

## What they gain

- Skills in animation, modelling and visual storytelling
- Confidence using industry style software
- A foundation for future digital design pathways



# B4 Computing

## What students do

- Explore how computers work at a fundamental level
- Build and experiment with the B4 educational computer
- Learn basic Python coding

## How they learn

- Use hands-on experimentation with hardware
- Complete an online coding course
- Write simple programs and interactive text adventures

## What they gain

- Essential computing and coding skills
- Understanding of computer systems
- Confidence using technology creatively and logically

# Robotics

## What students do

- Build and program robots using VEX robotics kits
- Complete engineering challenges that require problem solving and creativity
- Apply coding to control movement, sensors and automated behaviours

## How they learn

- Work through hands on construction tasks using real components
- Use coding platforms to design, test and refine robot functions
- Collaborate with peers to troubleshoot, improve designs and complete challenges

## What they gain

- Practical skills in robotics, engineering and coding
- Strong problem solving and logical thinking abilities
- A solid foundation for future STEM pathways, including engineering, programming and digital technologies

# Contacts

## Year 7 & 8 Stage Leader

**Jacob Schonafinger**

[jacob.schonafinger@galen.vic.edu.au](mailto:jacob.schonafinger@galen.vic.edu.au)

## Deputy Principal - Learning, Teaching & Innovation

**Anthony Batters**

[anthony.batters@galen.vic.edu.au](mailto:anthony.batters@galen.vic.edu.au)

## Learning Diversity Leaders

**Wendy Eefting**

[wendy.eefting@galen.vic.edu.au](mailto:wendy.eefting@galen.vic.edu.au)

**Jeremy Campbell**

[jeremy.campbell@galen.vic.edu.au](mailto:jeremy.campbell@galen.vic.edu.au)



**Galen**  
Catholic College

