



Year 9

Curriculum Guide

2026

CHALLENGE AND CHOICE



KOROWA
ANGLICAN GIRLS' SCHOOL

Express Yourself!

ENGLISH

LANGUAGES

DRAMA

VISUAL ARTS

MUSIC

DANCE

KOROWA VALUES YOUNG PEOPLE AS INFLUENCERS

Young people want to make a difference, to address real issues and seek to influence today's decision making at a community and political level. Possessing strong communicative skills and the ability to effectively use technology as a conduit of communication is vital.

Today's technology has enhanced awareness of issues, however many young people are not sure how to actively and effectively leverage media, which often results in armchair activism where they may simply just agree or share information. We believe young people can be effective communicators and collaborators to create a positive influence about issues they are passionate about.

The range of subjects and signature programs allows students to develop communication skills and build confidence to be a leader.

ENGLISH

In Year 9 English, you will explore a range of texts to develop your understanding of yourself as an individual and as a member of the global community. You will also explore current issues and gain insight into diverse perspectives and values.

You will develop your communication skills and learn to create compelling texts, to articulate your ideas effectively, and to engage in thoughtful discussions. The focus is on empowering you to articulate your thoughts and ideas with greater precision and impact.

All students at Korowa in Year 9 will study English as a core subject.

Additional support is available for eligible EAL students to develop their language skills and confidence in English.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics courses support, challenge and provide the opportunity for you to be extended in your own way.

Students are allocated to a Mathematics class that best meets their learning needs based on a comprehensive review of external and Year 8 assessments.

The three levels of Mathematics are: **Mainstream**, **Extension** and **Accelerated**.

Mainstream and Extension will offer similar content, allowing for a different approach to the delivery for these two groups. Placement in Mainstream or Extension Mathematics will not influence the selection of subject at higher levels. This differentiated approach to learning will assist you to gain confidence and to establish a sound mastery of skills to ensure your readiness to start the final years of your secondary education with the strongest foundation.

Students in Accelerated complete Year 10A Mathematics from the National Curriculum. Those who have shown mastery in 10A Mathematics may undertake, by invitation, Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2 in Year 10. The Head of Department, with documented evidence and advice from appropriate staff, will make the selection of students for this class.

LANGUAGES

"A different language is a different vision of life." - Federico Fellini

How does learning languages open doors to other people and other cultures?

With the four languages, Chinese, French, German and Japanese, you continue to engage in a highly globalised world where travel, trade and international cooperation are key activities. Throughout the year, you have the opportunity to consolidate and build upon your previous knowledge of your one or two selected languages. You become more confident communicators in your other language(s) and continue to develop an understanding for the language learning process, through the skills of reading, listening, speaking, writing and viewing.

Studying cultural differences and norms will enhance your intercultural understanding which is an important part of being a connected, globalized citizen. Interacting in another language opens your world literally and figuratively.

PERFORMING ARTS

Ever wanted greater social connection, confidence or creativity?

Skilful communication is the most sought after attribute that not only successful people share, but is an essential skill in the modern workplace from effectively pitching an idea to influence an audience to working cooperatively. Drama and Dance provides the stage upon which communication, collaboration, expressive skills and creativity are developed as students become innovators and problem solvers. These subjects are highly practical in nature, allowing the space and freedom for students to explore, create and perform, to express themselves and to share their ideas with others.

Drama: Act & React

Refine your skills on and off the stage through an exploration of theatre and performance styles from Musical Theatre, Contemporary Australian theatre and Improvisation. Learn the stagecraft skills required to bring scripted theatre to life through the creative rehearsal process right through to live performance. Immerse yourself in movement, music, performers and production. Whether on the stage or behind the curtain, learn how every role comes together to make magic on stage.

Dance:5,6,7,8

In Dance, students build on their awareness and understanding of the body, and of how to create connections between technical movements, other performers, and production elements in space. Students build their technical skill by learning a variety of different dance styles including K-Pop, Commercial Jazz, Contemporary Dance and Musical Theatre, whilst also exploring their creativity and expression through composing choreographic dance pieces. Students will work with local industry professionals and view live dance performances to increase their understanding of the larger dance industry and the exciting possibilities a dance career could entail beyond the studio.

MUSIC

Music Makers

How can we understand cultural and historical contexts through music language exploration, and bring these to light in expressive musical performances?

Students will develop their aural skills and build on their understanding of the Elements of Music. Students will build skills to understand your role within an ensemble, and as a soloist, learning to control tone and volume in a range of styles. Students will extend their technical and expressive skills in performance, drawing on music from a range of cultures, times and locations. Students will reflect on the development of traditional and contemporary styles of music and how musicians can be identified through the style of their music. This will be explored through regular in-class performances, music analysis, musicianship and regular feedback on instrumental technique and skill.

Kool Skools

How do you write, record and produce a song?

In this unit, students will develop the skills needed to write a popular song using both standard notation and DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) technologies. Learning will be brought to life in a final recording project where students will visit Empire Studios and record a final EP or Album, giving valuable insight into the professional music industry.

VISUAL ARTS

If 'a picture is worth a thousand words', then studying the Visual Arts will give students the skills to find their visual voice. Students experience and develop skills in a broad range of media, such as drawing, painting, printmaking, ceramics, computer-based art, photography, textiles and design through our rich visual arts elective program.

The Visual Arts teach students to analyse and evaluate art forms and design from different cultures, times and places. By learning to make connections between visual conventions, practices and viewpoints they develop ways to express visually their own and respond to others' ideas. Visual Arts develops lateral thinking, creativity, spatial awareness and problem-solving skills, essential attributes for navigating our contemporary landscape.

Art Express

How can visual imagery be used to explore our identity?

This subject is an exploration of both two dimensional and three-dimensional art. In 'Who am I?' You will learn how to draw yourself as a large self-portrait using wonderfully messy materials such as charcoal and conte. You will learn about facial proportion and ways to bring realism and expression into your drawing. 'My Identity, My Space' looks at self-expression relating to your immediate environment. Through the medium of painting/printmaking or mixed media, you will use your own personal space, whether physical or metaphorical to create an artwork. You will also have the opportunity to explore and develop your three-dimensional skills through Ceramics. Building on your skills from Year 8 Art you will use techniques such as carving, relief sculpture, or learn how to create a sculpture using an armature, taking your charcoal portrait into the third dimension! We will have the opportunity throughout the year to visit exhibitions to explore the world of contemporary art in Melbourne.

Creative Textile

How do artists manipulate materials, techniques, and processes to develop and express their intentions in art works?

This is a practical based course which encourages students to explore a variety of techniques and processes to create their own imaginative fabric artworks. Techniques may include; stencilling, free machine embroidery, marbling and machine sewing, silk screen printing, tie dye, cut fabric collage and surface embellishment. Students will use a range of textiles equipment to further enhance the quality and appearance of their artwork and finished products. Students also research a variety of topics as inspiration for creative design work, along with research into various textile and fabric artists and designers.

Explore Design

How do we tell stories through still and moving images that will engage audiences?

In this subject, students will explore photography and media forms. Students will learn practical media skills using digital and analogue cameras, lights and editing software to explore a variety of multimedia practices. Students will experience working in the darkroom and studio environments to produce portfolios, photo essays, animation and print media such as zines and graphic novels.

Foundations of Design

What exactly is design and how can it change our world in a positive way?

Becoming a designer is one of the most powerful ways you can make a positive impact in the world whether it be in the fields of architecture, interior design, product design, communication design and user experience (UX) design. In this exciting elective students will learn about what designers in these different fields do, and how they use design processes to solve problems that relate to human experience. Students will engage in projects that require the design of logos and brand identities, UX navigation, architectural models, and products for real and fictitious clients. Students will learn to use a range of manual and digital media to suit specific design projects and work individually and in teams to design all kinds of things that can help change our world.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ever wondered why we reach for our jackets when we're cold, how medical imaging can see inside the body, or why soft drinks are bad for teeth? Underpinning each of the elements of STEAM, Science in Year 9 takes a real world approach. Students will examine the systems and interactions which have observable effects in our daily lives. Analysing these, at times complex, systems will develop abstract thinking skills while at the same time building capacity to experimentally investigate and develop engineered solutions. Through developing a deep understanding of theoretical models across physics, chemistry and biology, students will be able to make more evidence-based predictions about the world around us.

Gamified Coding

How do we turn lines of code into interactive games? How can programming help us solve problems in fun and creative ways?

In this subject, students will develop the core skills needed to think algorithmically and create object-oriented programs using the Python scripting language, one of the most widely used coding languages in the world.

They will apply their understanding through hands-on projects, designing a series of interactive games that combine user activity with algorithmic data processing to create engaging and immersive experiences. Students are actively building games, applying programming concepts, and seeing real-time results from their work, making learning both practical and rewarding.

Students will not only learn the language of code, they will learn to think like coders: logical, creative and ready to bring ideas to life.

Applied Design and Technology

How can technology be used to create innovative and effective designs? How can we manage projects to achieve success?

In Applied Design and Technology, students undertake practical investigations of several digital technologies, such as Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software, 3D printers and CNC automated routers, as well as a range of different design materials and methods. They apply this knowledge through individual and small group projects, working to design and create a miniature Formula 1 racing car and a model remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV).

Through these projects, students develop their understanding of project management, with a focus not only on the design and technology used, but also on other important aspects such as branding, marketing design, managing project timelines, and planning resource use.

Students may be invited to participate in the STEM Racing competition based on the quality of their projects, and will also be eligible to apply for a position on Korowa's ROV Team, which competes in the MATE ROV World Championship.

Knowledge Architects

Knowledge architects are visionaries who interrogate the lessons of both past and present to imagine and ultimately build a better future for all. Since ancient times, students of the Humanities have been at the forefront of our most complex and important debates about issues of social, cultural, economic, ideological and political significance. History and Geography are core subjects that are studied for a semester each by all students. Through these subjects students develop transferable skills which are highly sought after including the ability to write, argue and research.

HISTORY

History: The Making of the Modern World

How did new ideas and technological developments contribute to change during 1750 to 1918? What was the origin, development, significance and long-term impact of imperialism in this period? What was the significance of World War I?

The Year 9 curriculum provides a study of the history of the making of the modern world from 1750 to 1918. It was a period of industrialisation and rapid change in the ways people lived, worked and thought. It was an era of nationalism and imperialism, and the colonisation of Australia was part of the expansion of European power. The period culminated in World War I, 1914–1918, the ‘war to end all wars’. The content provides opportunities to develop historical understanding through key concepts, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability. These concepts may be investigated within a particular historical context to facilitate an understanding of the past and to provide a focus for historical inquiries.

The Feminine Touch - Women Through the Ages

This unit delves into the often overlooked contributions and experiences of women throughout history. From ancient civilizations to modern times, students will uncover the pivotal roles women have played in shaping societies, politics, arts, and culture. Through lectures, primary source analysis, and discussions, this course examines the challenges women faced, the strides they made, and the impact of their actions on the course of history. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of gender dynamics and the ongoing fight for equality. Cleopatra, Hypatia, Boudica, Queen Elizabeth I, Queen Victoria, Emmeline Pankhurst, Ada Lovelace, Rosalind Franklin, Mary Wollstonecraft and Sacagawea are some of the notable individuals whose work, influence and impact will be explored over the course of this unit.

GEOGRAPHY

Harvesting Change: Balancing Biomes and Food Security

How can we balance the demands of agriculture with the preservation of biomes to ensure global food security?

With the burgeoning global population, the balance between agriculture and preserving biomes becomes paramount. This course leads students through the fascinating world of biomes, their characteristics, and relationships with climate. Human impact on biomes, especially through agriculture, is critically analyzed. Students will unravel the complex fabric of food security, understanding its importance, and the factors influencing it. A focus on the challenges to global food production and case studies, including Australia’s Murray-Darling Basin, will illuminate the delicate balance required. Engaging assessments will inspire thought on harmonizing agricultural demands with environmental stewardship for sustainable food security.

Managing Money and Our Place in the World Economy

COMMERCE

Entrepreneurship is an inherently human and creative act that builds something of value or meaning from spartan beginnings. It requires hard work and dedication, idea and solution generation, a willingness to take risks and the ability to relentlessly pursue a vision with passion and integrity. Industry shapers have the ability to change the way we live and work. They shape social and economic well-being and can even change the fate of nations. Courses such as 21st Century Global Markets or Money, Markets and Me provide critical skills and tools to prepare students to own their own business, help existing organisations and social enterprises to locate and fill market gaps, develop leadership skills, or move into public policy.

21st Century Global Markets

How can we thrive in the digital & technological age?

As economies, businesses and individuals become increasingly connected in the digital/ technological age, it is more important than ever for businesses to understand the global forces that impact and affect their competitiveness. Throughout this elective you will gain knowledge and skills to understand Australia's place in the global market, how fundamental economic principles impact businesses and consumers, and how Australian businesses survive and thrive. You will also explore how the same global forces are changing the nature of work.

Money, Markets and Me

How do I set myself up to become financially successful?

Imagine it's 10 years into the future. Some people may be finishing a degree, backpacking through Europe or even starting a business. The future may seem far away, but we all can reap the rewards of the financial decisions made today, years from now. This elective introduces you to a range of basic personal financial skills to empower you to live a happy and secure life, including saving and spending, investing, personal financial decision-making, and how to be a smart consumer. As a key learning experience, you will also have an opportunity to apply your knowledge of investments with a virtual \$50,000 in the national ASX Sharemarket Game.

A Lifetime of Wellness

Developing and maintaining a healthy lifestyle is vital in today's modern world. Crafting sustainable solutions with a low impact on the Earth is a priority in our program development. Creativity, collaboration, communication, problem finding and solving are all characteristics of subjects that sustain a healthy lifestyle. Programs establish healthy habits, routines, physical movement, nutrition and wellbeing strategies which last a lifetime while building resilience, comradery and collaboration.

As a core subject all students participate in **Physical Education** learning about what it means to be fit, how to improve personal fitness, how to test fitness, and how to design a fitness program for a selected activity. Students will practise skills for maintaining respectful relationships while evaluating behavioural expectations in a range of movement activities. Students will aim to improve their own performance in physical activities and sport as they explore tactics and strategies of play. Reflecting upon their participation in class, students will also consider their contribution and its impact on a variety of physical activities.

Health as a core subject offers students insight into the different dimensions that make up an individual's overall health and wellbeing. They will investigate types of health promotion that can benefit these dimensions and compare the levels of health experienced by young people in low- and high-income countries around the world. Students will gain skills and knowledge to assist them in forming respectful relationships throughout their lives and use critical thinking skills to reflect on why young people take risks and the possible harms and benefits that can come from these behaviours.'

FOOD STUDIES

Café for a Day

This unique course offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of entrepreneurship. Throughout the course, students engage in a comprehensive exploration of various topics such as the development of a diverse menu that caters to different tastes and dietary restrictions, cost and time management, and the promotion of nutrition and sustainability. They will experience hands-on practical activities where they are required to collaborate with their peers to produce dishes of high quality. As a culmination of their learning journey, students will have the opportunity to apply their acquired expertise by taking on the responsibility of running a café for a day. Overall, this course provides a foundation of practical skills, critical thinking abilities, and ethical values that can benefit students in a wide range of professional endeavours and industries. Whether pursuing careers in the culinary arts, dietetics, event planning, hospitality management, marketing, social entrepreneurship, or any field that values teamwork, creativity, and responsible decision-making, students will be equipped with the essential tools to thrive and make a positive impact.

PE

Body in Motion: Exploring Human Systems and Injury Management

Delve into the intricacies of the skeletal, articular, muscular, cardiovascular, and respiratory systems, along with injury management techniques. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the skeletal structure, the joints that enable movement, and the incredible muscular system that powers our every action. Dive into the complexities of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, exploring how they work together to fuel physical activity and support overall health. Explore injury prevention and management strategies, first aid techniques and rehabilitation approaches to handle common sports-related injuries. Develop the skills to assess, treat, and support the recovery process, empowering you to promote a safe and active lifestyle. This subject offers students a chance to understand and appreciate the incredible mechanisms that enable our bodies to move and thrive.

Curriculum

Korowa students aspire to pursue lives of purpose, as good people who can embrace problems with creative solutions, positively participate, connect with, and care about others. While discovering their passions, any knowledge and skills acquired at Korowa will continue to enhance their future academic, professional and personal lives. Year 9 offers students a array of experiences in their learning as they sample a variety of electives to discover their passions and determine their future pathway. Our robust delivery of innovative teaching practices and curriculum development are founded upon up-to-date and renowned research and ensure our Year 9 students have a strong foundation of learning.

An innovative and challenging Year 9 curriculum develops a suite of skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, service and character that will assist our students to thrive and embrace the challenges and benefits of a globalised world. The rich array of co-curricular experiences offered both in and beyond the School, facilitate access to external expertise, skill acquisition and opportunities to make connections of their knowledge in real world contexts. They are also able to develop their leadership of self and others while continuing to actively apply service and the important demonstration of kindness and gratitude in their community – attributes that will last a lifetime.

CORE SUBJECT LIST:

YEAR 9 CORE SUBJECTS (ALL STUDENTS COMPLETE)

English

Mathematics (Students are allocated to a class based on performance in Year 8 Mathematics. This information is communicated in Term 4 of Year 8)

History: The Making of the Modern World

Geography

Language: at least one language from the two studied in Year 8, unless a student is enrolled in Learning Support

Physical Education

Science

Health



ELECTIVES

All electives will run for the entire year. Moreover, in addition to their core language, students must choose an additional 3 electives to study. One of these electives can be a second language. Electives may not run if insufficient students elect to undertake the elective on offer.

Step 1: Students choose one language as their first year long elective from the following subjects.

Chinese

French

German

Japanese

Step 2: Students choose a further three year long electives, from the following subjects (Students may also choose another language as one of their three remaining electives).

Commerce	21st Century Global Markets / Money, Markets and Me
History	The Feminine Touch - Women Through the Ages
Language	A Second Language Elective (must have been studied in Year 7 and 8)
Learning Support	Learning Support / LEAP
Food Studies	Cafe' for a Day
Performing Arts	Dance:5,6,7,8
	Drama: Act & React
Physical Education	Body in Motion
Music	Music Makers / Kool Skools
Science, Maths, Technology	Applied Design and Technology
	Gamified Coding
Visual Arts	Art Express
	Creative Textiles
	Explore Design
	Foundations of Design