



**Year 8**

**Curriculum  
Handbook**

**2009**

TRINITY AVENUE, EAST PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
[www.trinity.wa.edu.au](http://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, The Arts 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.

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## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

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At Trinity College Year 8 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	3 periods
Mathematics	3 periods
Science	4 periods
Society & Environment	4 periods
Physical Education	2 periods

***Elective Subjects:***

Each elective is studied for two periods each week.

***The full year electives are***

Italian  
Music

***The one semester electives are:***

Aquatics  
Art  
3D Art (Sculpture)  
Fine Art (Drawing and Painting)  
Astronomy  
Creative Expression  
Design and Communication  
Engineering Systems  
Fitness and Health  
Graphics Communication  
Investigative Journalism  
Materials Technology  
Mathematics: Problem Solving  
Outdoor Education

If students select a full year elective they will study two other semester electives. Alternatively, students will study four electives, each of one semester duration.

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## INFORMATION LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES

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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.

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## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

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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.

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## CORE SUBJECTS

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### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education in Year 8 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: Belonging and Acceptance in Catholic Communities;

Unit 2: The Universal Need for God;

Unit 3: Creation: God's Original Plan; and

Unit 4: Growing in the Image of God.

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 8.

#### English 1

The English 1 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 picture books. They will write stories, poetry, essays and other comprehension responses. They will also complete a number of oral tutorials and tasks. In Term Two, special attention is given to the Fantasy Genre. 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. Entrance to this subject will be through an invitation by the Head of English Learning Area. 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 course 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 Year 8 Mathematics course is designed to diagnose and extend student development and understanding of the outcomes relating to Mathematics specified in the Curriculum Framework, namely: Number, Measurement, Algebra, Space and Chance and Data.

Students will also develop skills in problem solving, calculator usage, mathematical projects, competitions and computer aided instruction.

The Year 8 course begins with a consolidation of basic mathematical skills. The Mathematics Learning Area does stream students with the aim to have students in classes to match their ability and performance. Class sizes for the less able students are kept smaller to allow for more individualised and small group instruction.

## **SCIENCE**

Students continue the process of scientific inquiry and investigation. Emphasis is on the scientific method which engages students through problem solving and teamwork. This experience builds in later years but underpins an important facet of science. In addition, students will learn elementary concepts of chemistry (Natural and Processed Materials), physics (Energy and Change), biology (Life and Living) and earth science (Earth and Beyond) through familiar and relevant real world contexts.

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

## **SOCIETY & ENVIRONMENT**

Society and Environment is a dynamic course which uses the context of humans and their environment to explore various topics and issues. In Semester One, the course focuses on the natural environment, introducing students to Geography. In Semester Two, the focus shifts to Economics and History, with students investigating the basic ideas of resources and scarcity, before turning to an analysis of Medieval Times and the Industrial Revolution. Throughout Year 8, emphasis is placed on the development of problem solving skills. Students experience a variety of learning opportunities including mapping, graphing, data interpretation, use of primary and secondary sources and document analysis. Information Technology is an integral part of Society and Environment. Students develop the Information Technology skills associated with accessing and presenting information.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

As a result of their learning in Physical Education, Year 8 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 hockey (Sport Education in Physical Education).

# ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

## FULL YEAR ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

### ITALIAN

Students will learn to use Italian to meet the following general objectives:

1. Talk/Write about topics of interest such as self and others, school life, family, home and leisure time.
2. Write a short, informal letter for different occasions.
3. Listen to, read and act upon a range of short, simple texts with understanding (eg. descriptions, instructions etc).
4. Write and illustrate a simple text (picture book, poster etc.).
5. Give a simple short talk.

Cultural Aspect: Students will learn about the different annual festivals in the Italian calendar.

### MUSIC

The Year 8 Music elective is primarily intended for students learning an instrument. All students beginning an instrument or already playing are strongly encouraged to take this elective, whether their tuition is outside or within the school. Other students will be permitted to take this elective if numbers permit.

This course puts an emphasis on practical music making including: reading and writing music, keyboard skills, compositional studies, developing the musical ear and performing in small groups. Theory and general musical appreciation are approached through these practical activities. As a major learning aid, students have access to computer and MIDI keyboard facilities utilising Sibelius, Cubase and other music related software.

Students learning an instrument in the College have an instrumental lesson separate to this elective.

Music has an exciting history at Trinity and getting involved from the outset is the best way of becoming a part of the musical culture of the school.

## **SEMESTER ELECTIVE SUBJECTS**

### **AQUATICS**

The Year 8 Aquatics programme is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop correct stroke mechanics in the four major swimming strokes as well as introducing them to water polo. The programme has the long term goal in mind of providing our students with the opportunity to develop a set of skills that will help them overcome injuries sustained in other sports as well as better equipping them to enjoy the environment which makes up a good part of our culture.

### **ART**

This is a hands-on, 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 & 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**

Study in this elective centres on the exploration of other worlds. Students will undertake investigations with their images/data collected through the College's robotic telescope and digitally enhance these images using computer software. In particular, students will replicate solar system bodies such as meteorites, comets, craters and in so doing, understand the important underlying planetary processes in our solar system and beyond. In short, this is a hands-on, activity-based elective that serves as an introduction to astronomy studies for Years 9 and 10.

## **CREATIVE EXPRESSION**

The creative expression course will provide an exciting range of opportunities for students to express and develop their creative expression. They will be offered the chance to write stories and poetry, as well as construct drama scripts and texts with visual components. Students will also watch and view a range of interesting texts designed to extend their horizons with regards to what is possible when creating a text. The course is designed to appeal to students at all levels of ability, as it is capable of extending more capable students and giving less able students a chance to consolidate their skills through the completion of enjoyable creative tasks.

## **DESIGN AND COMMUNICATION**

In this computer-based design 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 using computer graphics programmes. Students will have the opportunity to be creative and express their ideas through a variety of design projects. These projects will also involve students working practically with materials such as card, foam board, plastic and balsa wood. From this, students will experience the Design Process through prototyping and developing 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 robotics** with real-life situations being emphasised throughout.

The content is taught through a variety of practical projects.

## **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**

We are constantly bombarded by the communications industry through television, newspapers, magazines, posters, the Internet and shop displays. During this course students acquire an understanding of how graphics and drawing techniques are used to portray a product or service, provide entertainment and communicate information.

Students develop a wide range of drawing skills that will include the application of computer assisted design software.

### **INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM (Extension)**

This is a new and exciting course offered for the first time in 2009. It is offered as an extension course and is primarily designed to cater for the needs of the most gifted and talented students of the humanities.

The course will give boys considerable scope to undertake and research major projects of a challenging nature; where important current or historical issues are studied and examined in a manner requiring a range of skills, including: research skills, writing skills, verbal/presentation skills and IT skills.

The course is designed to give those boys with naturally curious and inquiring minds the opportunity to develop and pursue their own ideas in a stimulating and rewarding environment.

It is designed to appeal to boys with the ambition to study Literature and/or 3A/3B English in their Senior years.

### **MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY**

This 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 allowing them the flexibility to create personally designed projects.

### **MATHEMATICS: PROBLEM SOLVING AND COMPETITION**

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

Problem Solving and Competition Mathematics is separate from the Year 8 mainstream Mathematics course and has very little common content. Students will be exposed to interesting and enjoyable activities and applications that will draw upon a wide range of familiar and unfamiliar contexts to develop Mathematical ideas. In doing so, we will attempt to build upon student experiences and interests and at the same time extend both.

Students may expect a range of opportunities to enter National and State-wide competitions, use computers, play Mathematical games and learn problem solving strategies.

### **OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

The purpose of the Year 8 Outdoor Education programme is to develop the students' appreciation for the outdoors and natural environments. The course encourages students to work as a group as well as challenging each student individually. Activities include camp cooking, fishing and cycling. Students should be capable swimmers and be prepared to participate in group activities in the outdoors.

A one day cycling excursion will be offered to students who achieve to a satisfactory level.