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"Education is the most important weapon which you can use to change the world"

~ Nelson Mandela
Notre Dame College aims to instil a love of lifelong learning in each of our students and also equip them to be good citizens in a rapidly changing world. Year 9 is a time of challenge, friendship and fun and the unique Emmaus program recognises that students learn best when they are given varied and engaging experiences. It is also a critical time of increasing independence for young adolescents as they strive to develop an identity for themselves.

At Notre Dame, we aim to build their engagement with learning and enable students to broaden their outlook, make responsible choices and develop life skills. The program also aims to extend students academically through a challenging and rigorous curriculum that promotes both independent and collaborative learning. Alongside this we work towards developing resilience and a sense of identity, self-worth, excitement and direction in all of our students.

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to select elective subjects that interest them and lead them into senior pathways at Notre Dame College. This handbook provides a guide to the Year 9 Programme at Notre Dame College, including descriptions of the exciting and challenging elective subjects offered to our students.

This process requires much consideration and investigation by students and parents. Parents are encouraged to discuss options and future aspirations with students. We also have information sessions and careers advice available through the College which families can take advantage of.

If you have any difficulty using this guide, or have any questions, please contact the staff listed throughout the subject handbook.

Best wishes for your research and a successful year at Notre Dame College.

John Cortese  Principal

Kristine Walker  Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Sean O’Brien  Director of Year 9 Programme

Susan Nabbs  Director of Learning and Teaching
Contacts

Learning Area Contacts

**English**
Han Slosarski  
han.slosarski@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Health and Physical Education**
Joel Bunce  
joel.bunce@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Languages**
Alexandra Cormican  
alexandra.cormican@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Mathematics**
Lena Cross  
lena.cross@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Project Based Learning**
Myra Hardy  
myra.hardy@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Religious Education**
Nathan Carroll  
nathan.carroll@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Science**
Sarah McKinnon  
sarah.mckinnon@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Technology**
Terry Cormican  
terry.cormican@notredame.vic.edu.au

**The Arts**
Casey Fogarty  
casey.fogarty@notredame.vic.edu.au

**The Humanities**
Chris Segrave  
chris.segrave@notredame.vic.edu.au

Other Contacts

**Careers**
Meredith Lia  
careersstaff@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching**
Kristine Walker  
kristine.walker@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Director of Learning and Teaching**
Susan Nabbs  
susan.nabbs@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Learning Enrichment**
Kathryn Sait (Year’s 7 to 9)  
kathryn.sait@notredame.vic.edu.au

**VCAL Leader**
Sharon Woodberry  
sharon.woodberry@notredame.vic.edu.au

**VET Leader**
Marnie Mercuri  
marnie.mercuri@notredame.vic.edu.au

**Workplace Learning Administration Officer**
Belinda Picone  
belinda.picone@notredame.vic.edu.au

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Subject Selections Online
Subject selections are to be made online by students using Web Preference Manager: https://notredame.selectmysubjects.com.au
Students should ensure they complete their subject selections by the due date to have the best chance of being allocated to subjects of their choice. However, students’ subject selections will not be valid until all the required re-enrolment documentation and Web Preference Receipt has been submitted to Student Reception.

Course Restrictions
The availability of any subject is dependent upon sufficient numbers of students wishing to undertake that subject. Some subjects also have limits on class size.

Re-enrolment
If students are unsure about returning to Notre Dame College, we would ask them to please complete the subject selection process online just in case they do return.

Additional Costs
In some subjects there are additional costs which are over and above the normal school fees. These are listed in the subject descriptions and are correct at the time of publication but are subject to change. The College makes every effort to keep any additional costs to a minimum.

VET at Year 9
Vocational Education and Training (VET) is industry specific training and students at Year 9 can commence nationally recognised qualifications. VET offers students an opportunity to explore career options and pathways. All Year 9 students complete their Food Handlers certificate and they may select VET Hairdressing and VET Agriculture at Emmaus.

How Year 9 Results Influence Year 10 Subject Selections
The College will use student achievement data to make recommendations to students regarding senior pathways. Students will receive recommendations for their English, Maths and Science selections in Year 10. The subjects that are recommended will be the highest level that the evidence indicate your child is capable of experiencing success with, given their performance and results in Year 9.

For Year 10, students will have the opportunity to apply to accelerate a Year 11 subject. Accelerated Study allows students who have demonstrated a high level of achievement to complete VCE studies intended for a higher year level, alternatively students who have a clear vocational pathway.

To successfully accelerate a subject the student must have:

• Demonstrated excellent results and work habits in the subject area where acceleration is being sought.
• Received positive comments in online progressive feedback.
• Be able to explain the reason for undertaking the acceleration.
Daborra

‘Daborra’ is the Yorta Yorta word meaning footpath. The name ‘Daborra’ has been chosen to reflect the connection to land and country that the Year 9 outdoor learning experience provides. Daborra is a life-changing experience held in various Victorian locations, which include the Grampians National Park, Hattah-Kulkyne National Park, Murray River and the Victorian High Plains during term 2. It is a highlight of College life, with the memories treasured well beyond graduation day. During the course, students will develop their leadership, teamwork and social skills.

Student’s choice of location aims to align to their physical and psychological skill set. Outdoor Education Group (OEG) runs the program in conjunction with Notre Dame College. OEG have a history of providing excellent service and are Australia’s most established outdoor education provider.

Students will undertake a challenging and rewarding six-day journey in the bush, away from the distractions of the modern world, eating well prepared healthy food, and tackling various adventure activities. Students will gain new insight into their abilities, discover more about their potential, and learn to improve their perseverance in the face of challenge. The ‘Daborra’ experience provides a great opportunity to learn about indigenous culture and will be revisited throughout the year through various learning activities across the curriculum.
Year 9 Structure
All Year 9 students undertake the following core subjects:
• Religious Education
• English
• Mathematics
• Science
• Cafe Emmaus
• Health and Physical Education
• Humanities (Select two)
• Project Based Learning (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics - STEM / Humanities & Social Science - HASS)

Year 9 students complete three electives each semester. Each elective runs for five periods per fortnight cycle and for six months in duration. The only exceptions to this are Japanese, Italian and VET Agriculture which run for the full year and must be selected in both semesters.

In addition Year 9 students are offered ‘Extension’ electives in English and Maths/Science. Students are not permitted to select or study the same elective twice.

Selecting Your Subjects
Choose 3 Electives For Each Semester. Students at Year 9 are encouraged to treat these electives as a way of trying out learning in different areas with the aim of:
• Expanding knowledge
• Moving out of their comfort zone
• Exploring areas that may lead to future interests and pathways

There are many advantages to trying out subjects from a range of different Learning Areas. Some of these benefits include:
• Developing a capacity for different types of thinking and learning
• A chance to develop a broader range of skills and experience
• An opportunity to discover hidden talents
• Developing an appreciation for a wide variety of subject areas and what is required
• Expanding academic horizons
• Enhancing flexibility to take on the many challenges of the 21st Century global environment

When making subject selections it is important that students:
• Discuss their choices with their parents or guardians.
• Direct questions about the content of subjects to the relevant subject Learning Area Coach listed on the contact list in this handbook.
• Direct questions about future aspirations or about subjects required for particular careers to the Careers Counsellors.
• Direct questions about subject selection procedures to the Learning and Teaching Leader.

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### Religious Education
**SUBJECT CODE 09RED**
Religious Education at Year 9 focuses on the living and breathing elements of what God has given us. We do this through looking at sacramentality and explore how we express our thanks for being given what we have. The course uses the Daborra experience to build on our understanding of ourselves and the challenge of living as a Christian. We also investigate the impact of how our decisions affect each other. Religious Education at Year 9 aims to develop a deeper understanding of why we need to be reconciled with God and each other and why we need to constantly confirm our faith. Students will examine our kinship with the Earth, how we steward what has been given to us, and join with God in God's desire for the world.

### English
**SUBJECT CODE 09ENG**
Students will continue to build on the foundations established in junior English, extending the maturity of their understanding. They will explore a variety of texts such as the Australian film Mabo, modern dystopian novel The Hunger Games, a range of intense songs from the protest music tradition and William Shakespeare's classic tale of love and tragedy, Romeo and Juliet. Through this study, they will engage in various points of view to develop their comprehension of the world. They will be expected to read extensively, responding to set texts through formal written and oral tasks. Students will polish their ability to write and speak analytically, persuasively and creatively. Additionally, in preparation for the rigour of senior study, conferencing and proofreading skills will be a major development focus.

### Health and Physical Education
**SUBJECT CODE 09HPE**
Students will cover both practical (Physical Education) and theoretical (Health) components across the entire year. Students will develop complex and manipulative motor skills through a variety of practical activities including netball, basketball, speedball, football codes and table tennis. Practical assessment is ongoing and takes into account teamwork, a willingness to participate, persistence and the development of both strategy and skills. In regards to health, a variety of topics will be covered including: Daborra preparation, party safe and respectful relationships.

### Mathematics
**SUBJECT CODE 09MAT**
Students study units involving Pythagoras' Theorem, Indices and Similarity, Trigonometry, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Linear Equations, Linear Graphs and Probability. Students are required to learn and practice mathematical algorithms, routines and techniques and use them to find solutions to standard problems. They are also required to apply mathematical knowledge and skills to solve problems in unfamiliar situations, including real-life situations.

### Science
**SUBJECT CODE 09SCI**
During Year 9 Science students will continue to develop their understanding and application of Science Inquiry Skills. Core Science at Year 9 incorporates the studies of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Earth Science. Through laboratory experiments students will gain an understanding of Magnetism, Energy and Heat Transfer, Atomic Structure and Chemical Reactions. Students will also explore the evidence and theory behind Plate Tectonics, and will investigate how organisms respond to changes in the environment with an emphasis on the Central Nervous System and Photosynthesis.
Students must select two of the four Humanities subjects outlined below

**What’s Your Opinion?**
**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELEHUM

*This subject has a Geography theme.*

This subject has a Geography theme. The concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability and change continue to be developed as a way of thinking, which provides students with an opportunity to inquire into the production of food, the role of the biotic environment and to explore how people, through their choices and actions, are connected to places in a variety of ways. Students apply this understanding to a wide range of places and environments at the full range of scales, from local to global, and in a range of locations.

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**Money Counts**
**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELEHEB

*This subject has a Business and Economics theme.*

Students are introduced to the concepts of employment and earning money. They explore the rights of employees and develop resumes and cover letters. The students participate in mock interviews and explore job opportunities to prepare them for their first job. They develop an understanding of income tax, GST and superannuation and how this will impact them in the future. Students create a budget and look at effective strategies for saving. They learn about credit and interest and the positive and negative impacts of both terms.

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**Empowered Youth**
**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELEHCC

*This subject has a Civics and Citizenship theme.*

Students continue to build on their understanding of the concepts of the Westminster system, democracy, democratic values, justice and participation. They examine the role of key players in the political system, the way citizens’ decisions are shaped during an election campaign and how a government is formed. Students investigate how Australia’s court system works in support of a democratic and just society, and the principles the law is based on.

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**Australians at War**
**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELEHHI

*This subject has a History theme.*

Students develop their historical understanding through applying key concepts, including evidence, continuity and change, cause and effect, perspectives, empathy, significance and contestability. These concepts are investigated within the historical context of the making of the modern world from 1750 to 1918, with a particular focus on World War 1. They consider the significance of World War 1 and how these events contributed to change in this period, through an in-depth investigation of a World War 1 soldier’s journey.
Café Emmaus (VET)

Café Emmaus, is studied for one semester and allows the students to have both a hands on and practical approach whilst completing the required components of the Food Handler’s Certificate. Students will show their understanding of the written work through their application of skills and knowledge as they prepare food for Café Emmaus and operate the Café. Students will be able to achieve some compulsory units in the Certificate II in VET Hospitality - Kitchen Operations should they select to proceed with this pathway in Year 10.

Project Based Learning

Project Based Learning (PBL) aims to ensure that Notre Dame College students are offered an excellent contemporary curriculum, which allows them to achieve their personal best and access appropriate pathways beyond school. While completing their PBL subject students will focus on refining essential skills for the workplace: of working collaboratively, effective communication, thinking creatively and critically, considering ethical implications and developing an intercultural understanding. They will do this by completing the $20 Boss program. This program requires students to solve a real problem while also helping them better understand their relationship with money. The PBL focus at Year 9 will be a combination of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) and Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS).

“The future of The World is in my classroom today”

~ Ivan Welton Fitzwater
Agriculture (VET)

**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELEVAG

**LEARNING AREA** Science

**ADDITIONAL COSTS**
This subject involves an additional cost of $50.00 per student.

Agriculture is a year long subject. Students who select this elective will study it in Semester 1 and Semester 2. Agriculture is a year long elective. Students must select this elective in both Semester 1 and Semester 2. Students will undertake at least 8 units from Certificate II in Agriculture. Students will complete units that cover topics including care and well being of Pigs, Livestock and Poultry. To achieve success in this engaging course a full commitment to both practical and theory work is required. This subject is an ideal pathway into a vast array of agriculture based careers. It is also a good introduction to the VCE Agriculture and Horticulture course offered at Notre Dame College.

Bright Sparks

**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELEBSP

**LEARNING AREA** Technology

Bright Sparks provides students with an introductory level into electro-technology (electronics). The students will learn how electro-technology has benefitted society through the development of electronic products. The course participants will research and identify a range of electronic components used in the development of a working circuit/product. In the development of the circuits, the students will follow a schematic diagram for the purpose of construction and testing of circuits. Students will be introduced to Arduino. Arduino is an open-source electronics platform based on easy-to-use hardware and software. The course participants will learn to develop code inputs for the purpose of providing a desired output. The Bright Sparks course provides students with an in-part, self-directed learning opportunity.

Cafe Culture

**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELECCU

**LEARNING AREA** Technology

This hands on subject provides an insight to working in Hospitality with a focus on cafes. Students apply a range of practical skills and processes in the kitchen to produce high quality food items that would be suitable to serve to clients in a cafe. This course also introduces students to the Espresso Coffee menu and skills required to use the coffee machine to prepare these popular beverages.

Design and Technology Metal and Wood

**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELEDMW

**LEARNING AREA** Technology

In this elective, students will study basic design elements and apply the learning to the development of a useable product. Course participants will develop Design Briefs in response to a client need or problem. Through-out the construction of a wood and metal, or combination of both product, the students will encounter a range of familiar, and new tools and equipment in the manipulation of their selected material. At the completion of the designing and producing stages the students evaluate the entire process. Students will continue to build upon their knowledge and practical application of safety in a workplace environment.

Design and Technology Textiles

**SUBJECT CODE** 09ELETEX

**LEARNING AREA** Technology

Students extend their textiles skills gained in junior years with hands-on, practical tasks and activities as well as a written investigation. Students look at aspects of the textile industry including the impacts of the industry on our world. They design, create and evaluate a sewing project which involves repurposing used clothes, sheets or other material to create something new with an emphasis on reducing waste. Their sewing project could include an item of clothing, pencil case or pillow case for example.
Ever wanted the opportunity to build your confidence as a performer? Or to work creatively to design sets, props and/or costumes? In this subject students will explore different ways to express themselves by experimenting with different methods and theories on movement, voice and expression. They will participate as a member of a group to plan and present both devised and scripted works. During this course there will be ongoing self-reflection and evaluation. Students will also view a live performance and analyse how the elements of drama were used in the performance.

Students complete a series of measurable fitness tests, which they can break down to assess individual fitness levels. Students will learn fitness components, measures of fitness, training principals and training methods. Through practical sessions, students develop and maintain fitness levels to allow for sustained participation in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Students will explore various aspects of Forensic Science and the application of Science to the Law. Topics studied include Fingerprinting, Chromatography, Entomology and Odontontology. Accurate record keeping is an important component of the course.

This unit will provide students with the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for creating digital games and apps. Students will develop coding and programming skills resulting in the production of their own computer games.

Students complete four engaging and practical units from the Certificate II Salon Assistant. The units include: Apply Salon Safety Procedures, Perform Shampoo and Basin Services, Dry hair to Shape and Apply Hair Braiding Techniques. These units offer students the opportunity to explore hairdressing as a future training option, career pathway, or for increasing skills and knowledge for their personal development and general interest.

This hands on subject provides students with skills to prepare a range of healthy foods. Students will investigate the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and explore the Australian Dietary Guidelines. Students will also look at appropriate recipes for adolescents and learn to prepare healthy food items as opposed to buying take-away foods.
Year 9 Elective Subjects

Italian

Italian is a year long subject. Students who select this elective will study it in Semester 1 and Semester 2. Year 9 Italian is a prerequisite for studying Year 10 Italian. Students can only select this elective if they have studied Italian in Year 8.

Japanese

Japanese is a year long subject. Students who select this elective will study it in Semester 1 and Semester 2. Year 9 Japanese is a prerequisite for studying Year 10 Japanese. Students can only select this elective if they have studied Japanese in Year 8.

Media - NEW -

In Year 9 Media students will build on their knowledge of cinematography and genre acquired in Year 7 and 8 Media. They will explore and use vocabulary relevant to the study of media and cinematography and develop confidence using Adobe Premiere Elements to edit media projects. Students will learn about how film-makers use conventions to adhere to certain genre and through an enhanced understanding of cinematic techniques, they will plan and produce a recreated movie trailer (preview), changing its genre by using differing conventions. Students will reflect on their production and editing processes and how well they have achieved their objective. This subject would suit students who have completed Year 7 and 8 Media and are interested in a career in the media or film production industry.

Year 9 Italian is a prerequisite for studying Year 10 Italian. Students can only select this elective if they have studied Italian in Year 8. Italian is a rewarding language to learn as it opens up the riches of Italy's cultural past and its dynamic present. Using the communicative approach, this elective focuses on the development of pronunciation, grammar and practical vocabulary. Students will learn useful phrases and will be able to understand, speak, read and write simple Italian. Students will practice speaking - through holding simple conversations - and writing through compositions and dialogues. Students studying Italian at Notre Dame College have the opportunity to participate in a Study Tour to Italy. These tours take place every second year and are a fantastic opportunity for students to practice their language skills and immerse themselves completely in the Italian culture. The tours include visits to schools and opportunities to take part in everyday conversations with locals, as well as extensive sightseeing itineraries. The Study Tour is not compulsory and is not included in school fees. Further information and costings are given to students in the year prior to the Study Tour going ahead.

Students will improve their Japanese speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. They will learn about Japanese culture and traditions, people, society and history. As well as improving their knowledge of Hiragana and Katakana, students will develop their knowledge of a third script, Kanji. Students studying Japanese at Notre Dame College have the opportunity to participate in a Study Tour to Japan. Depending on numbers, participation in the Study Tour is sometimes offered to Year 9 students. These tours take place every second year and are a fantastic opportunity for students to practice their language skills and immerse themselves completely in the Japanese culture. The tours include visits to schools and opportunities to take part in everyday conversations with locals, as well as extensive sightseeing itineraries. The Study Tour is not compulsory and is not included in school fees. Further information and costings are given to students in the year prior to the Study Tour going ahead.
### Music

**SUBJECT CODE**
09ELEAMU

**LEARNING AREA**
The Arts

Year 9 Music introduces students to music of various styles. Students will work with others to select, rehearse and perform pieces of music as part of a 'band'. There is opportunity to try a range of musical instruments or to be the singer of the group. Students can choose songs from a diverse range of contemporary or classical styles. No previous musical experience is required although students who take on this subject are encouraged to begin with a chosen instrument/voice. The only requirement is an interest in music. Other areas of study include developing listening skills and learning to read and write musical notation. This is achieved through engaging classroom activities that build musicianship and teamwork.

### Outdoor and Environmental Studies

**SUBJECT CODE**
09ELEOES

**LEARNING AREA**
Languages

**ADDITIONAL COSTS**
An additional cost of $250 is associated with this subject. This cost will cover the compulsory overnight camp and various activities.

*This subject will only run in Semester 2 and will have limited numbers.*

Students will complete both theoretical and practical components over the semester that will introduce them to the wonders of the outdoors. Theoretical components may include a focus on navigation and map reading, teamwork and leadership and minimal impact. Practical components may include initiative activities, canoeing, orienteering and indoor rock climbing, and a compulsory overnight expedition/hike. This subject is highly recommended for those who are interested in pursuing VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies in the senior years.

### Psychology Introduction

**SUBJECT CODE**
09ELEPSY

**LEARNING AREA**
Science

Students learn about the nature of mental illness and psychological disorders and their effect on people’s lives. They will study the role of psychologists and psychiatrists in treating mental health issues, and will look at how psychology can improve a person’s overall well-being and performance.

### Robotics

**SUBJECT CODE**
09ELEROB

**LEARNING AREA**
Technology

Work in pairs to build a robot out of Lego that uses sensors to find its way around. Learn to program your robot to perform various tasks using Lego Mindstorms EV3 software. Investigate how robots are currently used in local industry, and around the world.

### Sports Coaching

**SUBJECT CODE**
09ELESCO

**LEARNING AREA**
Health and Physical Education

Students will spend the semester learning the basic skills (including both practical and theoretical) needed to be an effective coach. They will have the opportunity to put into practice the skills they have learnt by running various sessions with local primary schools. This subject is highly recommended for those who are interested in pursuing VET Sport and Recreation in the senior years.
**Street Art**  
SUBJECT CODE 09ELEASA  
LEARNING AREA  
The Arts

Students learn about the cultural significance of Street Art, its importance as a current art practice and its growing popularity. Students will plan, create and reflect on artworks. They will also develop skills in this style with techniques such as stencil and spray paint.

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**Visual Art**  
SUBJECT CODE 09ELEAVA  
LEARNING AREA  
The Arts

Students will develop their observational drawing skills by completing work on Still Life. Explore a range of different 2D media. Produce a range of finished works and display these. Students will also create a 3D dimensional sculpture by using recyclable materials while delivering a message of the impact of human waste on the environment. There will be ongoing evaluation and annotation of their design process.
Big Bang Theory
SUBJECT CODE
09ELEBBT
EXTENSION
Mathematics & Science

Big Bang Theory is for those students with a love for Mathematics and an interest in its application to Space and Space Travel. This subject caters for students who are high achievers in Maths, deepening their understanding of Mathematical concepts through exploring their use in the Space Travel industry.

The Write Stuff
SUBJECT CODE
09ELETWS
EXTENSION
English

This subject is for capable English students; avid readers who enjoy writing. Students will study different text types and in doing so will develop deep understanding of the creative decisions made by writers. They will research an author of their choice, closely exploring a particular genre of writing. Ultimately, students will develop the necessary skills to draft, edit and publish their own work.

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today”

~ Malcolm X