Year 9 Course Information & Subject Selections

Welcome to the Year 9 Subject Selection process. Year 9 marks an exciting stage in your learning journey, having completed a taster program in Years 7 and 8, you now have the opportunity to direct your learning towards the areas that truly interest and inspire you.

At Merredin College, we encourage you to choose subjects that challenge you, reflect your passions, and build on your strengths. Our dedicated staff are here to support you and your family in making informed, confident decisions about your Year 9 studies.

How to Choose Your Subjects:

1. Read each subject description carefully.
2. Discuss options with teachers, Year Coordinators, or the Careers Advisor.
3. Consult parents or guardians for guidance.
4. Complete the Subject Selection Form and return it by **Friday, 7 November 2025** to Student Services.

YEAR 9 CORE SUBJECTS

English

Students develop their ability to read, write, speak, and listen across a range of text types, including novels, poetry, plays, film, and media. They explore how language and structure create meaning and influence audiences. Through analytical, persuasive, and creative writing, students learn to express ideas clearly and effectively. The course strengthens vocabulary, grammar, and critical thinking skills.

Mathematics

Students extend their understanding of key mathematical concepts across Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. They apply reasoning and problem-solving skills to real-world situations while strengthening mathematical fluency. Topics include indices, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, and data interpretation. Emphasis is placed on logical thinking, clear mathematical communication, and using digital tools to explore and represent ideas.

Science

Students deepen their understanding of Biological, Chemical, Physical, and Earth and Space Sciences through hands-on experiments and investigations. They explore topics such as atomic structure, energy transfer, ecosystems, and plate tectonics while developing skills in observation, data analysis, and problem-solving. Emphasis is placed on applying scientific theory to real-world contexts and understanding how science impacts society and the environment. This course builds curiosity, critical thinking, and effective scientific communication.

Centre of Resources Excellence (CoRE) – This course has an application process.

Students explore the technologies and innovations that drive Australia's resource and energy industries. They investigate mining, engineering, renewable energy, and sustainability through hands-on projects and problem-solving tasks. Emphasis is placed on safety, teamwork, and critical thinking while developing practical and technical skills. This program connects learning to real-world industry contexts and prepares students for future STEM and resource-related pathways.

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

Students explore how people, places, and events have shaped societies and environments from past to present. The course covers History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, and Economics and Business. Students investigate major events such as the Industrial Revolution and World War I, global interconnections, and Australia's democratic and economic systems. Emphasis is placed on inquiry, critical thinking, and evaluating evidence to understand social, political, and environmental issues in a global context.

Health Education

Students learn to make informed decisions that promote their own and others' health, safety, and wellbeing. They explore mental health, resilience, respectful relationships, risk-taking behaviours, and maintaining a balanced lifestyle. Emphasis is placed on decision-making, communication, and empathy, helping students build confidence and responsibility. The course supports the development of lifelong skills for positive health and wellbeing.

Physical Education

Students develop physical skills, fitness, and teamwork through participation in a variety of sports and activities. They apply strategies and tactics to improve performance while learning about fair play, leadership, and cooperation. The course promotes perseverance, personal responsibility, and an understanding of the value of lifelong physical activity. Emphasis is placed on enjoyment, inclusion, and developing healthy habits through regular participation.

YEAR 9 ELECTIVES

Students will choose 3 electives per semester (6 in total over the course of the year)

Science

Criminal Psychology

Students dive into the intriguing world where psychology meets crime. They explore what drives criminal behaviour, how profiling works, and the role of mental health and motivation in offending. Using real and fictional case studies, students apply psychological principles to investigations and forensics. The course builds curiosity, critical thinking, and ethical awareness—perfect for those interested in psychology, law, or criminology.

Technologies

Design and Technology – Woodwork and Technical Engineering (SIDE)

Students bring ideas to life through creative design and practical construction. Combining traditional craftsmanship with modern engineering, they use hand tools, machines, and CAD technology to design and build high-quality timber projects. The course challenges students to think like engineers—planning, testing, and refining their designs while focusing on precision, safety, and sustainability. Each project builds technical skill, creativity, and problem-solving ability, inspiring students to explore future pathways in design, construction, and engineering.

Home Economics

Students step into the world of food, fashion, and design to build practical life skills and creative thinking. In the kitchen, they plan and prepare nutritious meals while exploring food safety, sustainability, and smart consumer choices. In textiles, they design and create personalised products using a range of fabrics and techniques. The course encourages independence, problem-solving, and financial awareness as students plan, produce, and evaluate their work. Through fun, hands-on projects, they develop confidence and skills that last well beyond the classroom.

Information Technology

This course challenges students to think like digital innovators. They explore coding, design, and data to create smart, creative solutions for real-world problems. From building websites and apps to designing animations and interactive media, students experiment with emerging technologies while learning about cybersecurity and ethical tech use. The focus is on curiosity, creativity, and innovation—skills essential for success in the fast-moving world of digital technology.

The Arts

Dance

Students express creativity through movement, exploring contemporary, jazz, and cultural dance styles. They choreograph and perform original works that tell stories and convey emotion while refining technique and performance quality. The course builds confidence, teamwork, and discipline through fun, high-energy workshops and performances, inspiring a love of dance and artistic expression.

Drama

Students step into the spotlight to explore acting, improvisation, and stagecraft. They perform and create original scenes, bringing characters and stories to life through voice, movement, and expression. The course develops creativity, confidence, and teamwork while exploring different styles of theatre. Through fun, practical performances, students build communication and problem-solving skills that shine both on and off the stage.

Visual Art

Students unleash their creativity through drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and digital art. They experiment with different materials and techniques to express ideas and emotions while learning how artists communicate meaning through design and style. The course encourages originality, exploration, and reflection as students create their own artworks. Through hands-on studio projects, they build confidence and artistic skill, preparing for future pathways in the creative arts.

Health & Physical Education

Advanced Sport

Designed for students passionate about sport, this course develops advanced skills, fitness, and game strategy across a range of sports. Students learn to analyse performance, refine technique, and apply movement principles to improve results. They also explore anatomy, training, nutrition, and sports psychology. With opportunities to lead, coach, and officiate, students build teamwork, confidence, and leadership both on and off the field.

Basketball Specialist

Students take their basketball skills to the next level through high-intensity training, tactical analysis, and game play. They refine techniques in shooting, passing, defence, and offensive strategy while improving fitness for peak performance. The course also explores biomechanics, nutrition, and the mental side of sport. With a focus on discipline, teamwork, and goal setting, students develop the mindset and skills of elite athletes.

Football Specialist

Students take their AFL skills to new heights through advanced training, strategy, and competition. They refine kicking, marking, tackling, and game awareness while building strength, endurance, and teamwork. The program combines high-level practical sessions with studies in anatomy, injury prevention, nutrition, and mental preparation. With a focus on leadership, discipline, and elite performance, students gain the tools to excel both on and off the field.

Health and Fitness

Students explore how exercise, nutrition, and lifestyle choices impact health and wellbeing. They design and follow personal fitness programs using resistance, cardio, and circuit training. The course includes topics such as body systems, training principles, and mental health awareness. With a focus on goal setting and motivation, students build strength, confidence, and lifelong healthy habits.

Outdoor Education

Students develop confidence, teamwork, and leadership through outdoor and adventure experiences. Activities such as camping, navigation, canoeing, and bushwalking build practical skills and resilience. The course promotes respect for the environment and teaches safety, sustainability, and risk management. Students strengthen decision-making and communication skills while learning to work effectively in dynamic outdoor settings.

Physical Recreation

Students take part in a range of fun, recreational activities that promote health, fitness, and enjoyment. They develop practical skills, teamwork, and leadership through games, fitness training, and social sports. The course highlights the benefits of being active for physical, mental, and social wellbeing. With a focus on participation and personal growth, students learn to maintain a balanced, active lifestyle for life.