



2026

Junior School

7 to 9 Course Information

www.rochsec.vic.edu.au . rochester.sc@education.vic.gov.au . (03) 5484 1844

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Welcome

Rochester Secondary College empowers all students to grow academically, socially and emotionally. We provide a respectful and nurturing environment with strong community links to produce collaborative learners who think deeply. We believe that from the moment students enrol at Rochester Secondary College they are challenged to grow. Our values of Growth, Respect, Optimism and Wellbeing underpin all that we do at the College.

To successfully engage students in authentic learning experiences that are meaningful for their current and future world and to ensure each student has the opportunity to attain personal academic excellence, our curriculum programs must respond to student developmental needs, interests and aspirations.

We understand that young people require a curriculum that is future-focused to prepare them for what lies ahead, yet at the same time serves their current academic and wellbeing needs in a way that nurtures and cares for them. Years 7, 8 & 9 are exciting years of discovery and exploration, in which our students build on the experiences and learning of their primary years.

We encourage our students to develop responsibility for their own learning, foster a life-long love of learning, and discover how to make a difference in the world. We recognise that our students learn in diverse ways and at different rates. Our students develop greater independence and reflect on who they are and where they belong. We recognise the importance of, and strive to foster, a strong sense of self-worth and belonging. The overall wellbeing of our students is of vital importance to our staff and they work together to create a safe environment where each student is valued and respected.

Students develop best when families, schools and communities work together to nurture a student's development and provide opportunities for growth. At Rochester Secondary College we are proud of the strong relationships and partnerships we have developed with our families and the wider community.

With around 330 students and a staff of around 45 we are small enough to know and care for all our students and large enough to offer breadth and opportunity. We trust that this Handbook provides you with a valuable resource of information that, when combined with conversations with parents/carers, classroom teachers and school leaders, will enable you to choose a learning pathway that is right for you.

Matthew Koutroubas
Principal

Junior School

Reporting and Assessment

Reports to parents are completed each term and can be accessed via Compass. These will be a condensed report at the end of term 1 and term 3, and a full report at the end of term 2 and term 4. Parent-teacher interviews occur at the end of term 1 and 3.

Curriculum

The Year 7 curriculum consists of core subjects: English, Maths, Science, Humanities, PE/Health, Art, Tech, Foods and ICT, with no electives offered.

The Year 8 curriculum consists of the following core subjects: English, Maths, Science, Humanities, PE/Health, the Arts and Technology/Foods.

The Year 9 curriculum consists of the following core subjects: English, Maths, Science, Humanities and PE/Health. Students are also offered a range of electives which can be taken from across most domain areas.

Year 7

Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- PE/Health
- Visual Arts
- Language
- Technology
- Food Studies
- ICT

English

Year 7 English is a foundation year at Rochester Secondary College, where students are taught the essential skills that will enhance their learning in future years. The essential elements of English, Language, Literature and Literacy, and the modes through which we communicate, Reading, Writing and Speaking– form the structure of the course.

Mathematics

Students will learn content from the six strands of Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. The proficiencies of Understanding, Fluency, Reasoning and Problem-solving are embedded in all 6 strands and further the development of increasingly sophisticated knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts, fluency in representations and procedures, and sound mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Proficiency in mathematics enables students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations by employing mathematical processes to solve problems efficiently and to make informed decisions. Proficiency in mathematics also enables students to reflect on and evaluate approaches and verify that answers and results are reasonable in the context.

Science

Students will investigate, research and learn about science concepts from the four main areas of Science. Physics, Earth and Space Science, Chemistry and Biology, including classification of living and non-living things, using and developing models for food chains and food webs and investigating the relationships between the Earth-Sun-Moon system. Students will investigate balanced and unbalanced forces looking at simple machines. Students will also develop science inquiry skills; questioning and predicting, planning and conducting, processing and analysing data and information, evaluating and communicating.

Humanities

In Year 7 Humanities, students study all four key areas; History, Geography, Business & Economics and Civics & Citizenship. The focus in History is on Ancient cultures including Australian Aboriginal peoples. In Geography, students study water, landforms and landscapes. In the Business & Economics unit students begin to gain an insight into marketing and finance, whilst in Civics and Citizenship and focus is on Australian government and democracy.

Health & Physical Education

In Health and Physical Education, students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage satisfying relationships. Students will also participate in a range of activities with the aim of promoting enjoyment of activities, developing a sense of fair play and teamwork, improving/ maintaining personal health and fitness and developing skills which will encourage participation in regular physical activity.

Visual Arts

Through a variety of art experiences, students will study the art elements by creating two dimensional and three-dimensional art works. With a focus on Indigenous and Indonesian art, students will investigate the art of other cultures through research and practical tasks. They will also look at the ways in which artworks communicate ideas and feelings.

Language - Indonesian

In Indonesian, students are encouraged to listen, speak, read and write in a range of interactions with fellow students and their teacher. They use Indonesian language to suit different purposes, contexts and situations, they notice how culture shapes language. Learners work collaboratively and independently. They pool language knowledge and resources, plan, problem-solve, monitor and reflect. They make cross-curricular connections and explore intercultural perspectives. They focus on the different systems (grammar, vocabulary, sounds) that structure language use, and reflect on their experience as Indonesian language learners and users. They gradually build a vocabulary and grammatical base that allows them to compose and present different kinds of simple texts.

Technology

Technology in Year 7 is an integrated course that will cover three areas within the materials strand – wood, metal and plastics. Students will be introduced to a variety of materials and equipment and will develop a safe understanding and skill level associated with these materials.

Food Studies

Year 7 Food Studies is designed to develop and improve students' skills and knowledge in the areas of food preparation, safety, hygiene, nutrition and decision making. Students will cook a range of foods and explore healthy eating.

ICT

Year 7 ICT is designed to build students' skills and confidence in using digital technologies effectively and responsibly. Students will develop knowledge in areas such as online safety, digital communication, file management, and problem solving. They will explore applications across the Google Suite, learn about safe internet use, and begin developing coding and digital literacy skills.

Year 8

Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- PE/Health
- Visual Arts
- Technology

English

In Year 8 English students will continue to develop skills established in Year 7 English. Through the study of increasingly complex texts, students will explore the ways that writers convey ideas and opinions, and they will have the opportunity to respond creatively, analytically and reflectively to these texts. Students will also explore persuasive texts and how writers use language to engage and persuade readers, along with developing their own persuasive texts in both written and spoken forms.

Mathematics

Students will learn content from the six strands of Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. The proficiencies of Understanding, Fluency, Reasoning and Problem-solving are embedded in all 6 strands and further the development of increasingly sophisticated knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts, fluency in representations and procedures, and sound mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Proficiency in mathematics enables students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations by employing mathematical processes to solve problems efficiently and to make informed decisions. Proficiency in mathematics also enables students to reflect on and evaluate approaches and verify that answers and results are reasonable in the context.

Science

Students will investigate, research and learn about science concepts from the four main areas of Science: Physics, Earth and Space Science, Chemistry and Biology. They will be introduced to the different forms of energy, including renewable and non renewable resources and how energy transfers and transformations cause change in simple physical systems. The particle model will be used to predict, compare and explain the physical and chemical properties and behaviours of substances. Students will analyse the relationship between the structure and function of a cell, organ and body system. Finally students will develop their science inquiry skills through: questioning and predicting, planning and conducting, processing and analysing data and information, evaluating and communicating their findings.

Humanities

In Year 8 Humanities, students will continue their study of all four key areas of the subject; History, Geography, Business & Economics, and Civics & Citizenship. In the History unit, the focus is on the Middle Ages and early exploration. In the Geography unit, students study Place and Livability, and Changing Nations. The focus of the Business & Economics unit is the continued exploration of the business environment, enterprising behaviours and capabilities, and economic and business reasoning. Whilst the Civics and Citizenship unit has a focus on laws and justice as well as Citizenship, Diversity and Identity.

Health & Physical Education

In Health and Physical Education, students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage satisfying relationships. Students will also participate in a range of activities with the aim of promoting enjoyment of activities, developing a sense of fair play and teamwork, improving/ maintaining personal health and fitness and developing skills which will encourage participation in regular physical activity.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, students will learn about and explore artists and artworks associated with the key Modern Art Movements of the 20th Century. Inspired by these investigations, students will use a variety of techniques and media to create a range of 2 and 3-dimensional artworks. Students will expand their knowledge of art elements and principles, apply the VTS process, and further refine their observational drawing skills.

Technology

Technology students will have the opportunity to continue to develop their knowledge and skills across all three materials strands- wood, metal and plastics, and in the food technology area. Students will also continue to develop their understanding of the safe and appropriate use of a range of tools and equipment used in each environment.

Year 9

Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- PE/Health

English

In English, students focus on the development of writing skills in response to a range of mentor texts on a theme. Students have the opportunity to explore texts in a range of forms, written for various audiences and purposes. They will then develop their own pieces showing an awareness of purpose, audience, and form. Students will also continue to enhance their skills in responding to texts through the exploration of novels and film texts. They will also build upon analytical skills through the study of texts designed to persuade an audience, and have the opportunity to present an opinion of their own on an issue currently debated in the news.

Mathematics

Students will learn content from the six strands of Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. The proficiencies of Understanding, Fluency, Reasoning and Problem-solving are embedded in all 6 strands and further the development of increasingly sophisticated knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts, fluency in representations and procedures, and sound mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Proficiency in mathematics enables students to respond to familiar and unfamiliar situations by employing mathematical processes to solve problems efficiently and to make informed decisions. Proficiency in mathematics also enables students to reflect on and evaluate approaches and verify that answers and results are reasonable in the context.

Science

Students will investigate, research and learn about science concepts from the four main areas of Science: Physics, Earth and Space Science, Chemistry and Biology. They will be introduced to electricity and investigate the laws of energy. Students will develop their understanding of atomic structure and the Periodic table as well as acid base chemistry. The structure and function of a range of body systems will be investigated, including infectious and non-infectious diseases. Finally students will further develop their science inquiry skills through: questioning and predicting, planning and conducting, processing and analysing data and information, evaluating and communicating their findings.

Humanities

This Humanities subject focuses on the two key areas of History and Geography. In History, students study a unit on Australians at War, which enables students to gain an understanding of the events of World Wars One and Two, and Australia's role in these conflicts. Students also examine the nature of warfare, including the Holocaust and its ramifications. A visit to the Holocaust museum in Melbourne is a vital component of this course. In Geography, students focus on Biomes and food security as well as environmental change and management.

Health & Physical Education

Health Education focuses on the development of confidence of students and the promotion of a positive self-image. Improved decision-making skills are essential in today's society and through Health Education we encourage our students to make informed choices, recognise pressures which affect decisions, and to identify risk-taking behaviour. Students participate in an interactive and discussion-based program which explores four key aspects of health relevant to youth – alcohol and other drugs, positive behaviours, Respectful Relationships, and positive consent education. The Physical Education program provides students with a wide range of experiences in recreational and outdoor activities. Students will develop an understanding of the value of these activities, improve their skills and experiences, and recognise the benefits of active participation in leisure and outdoor activities. Students will also improve their knowledge of recreational, competitive team, and individual sporting programs.

Year 9 Electives

*In Year 9, students will undertake three (3) elective blocks;
six semester length elective subjects over the year.*

Requirements for undertaking electives at Year 9

Students will complete six elective units across the course of the year. Each student will undertake three electives per semester, other than for a language elective or the Duke of Ed which are year long subject. Students will be given the opportunity to make subject preferences choices which will be accommodated where possible and so long as the following requirements are met:

- A minimum of one unit from the Arts for the year.
- A minimum of one unit from Technology for the year.
- If choosing Duke of Ed or Indonesian, students will undertake this subject for the full year and it will count as two electives (Semester 1 and Semester 2).
- Only one PE/food elective can be chosen.
- Places in Duke of Ed are limited, and an application process will apply.
- Final subject placements are dependent on student numbers
- Where a first choice subject is not available, students will be counselled into an appropriate alternative subject.

ART

- Drama, Theatre, Film
- Experimental World Art
- In the Round
- Lens on the World
- Music
- Outside the Box

FOOD STUDIES

- Bakehouse Foods

LANGUAGES

- Indonesian (Distance Only)

HUMANITIES

- Step Back in Time (History)
- Young Entrepreneurs (Business)

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Fitness
- Active Outdoors

SCIENCE

- Agricultural Science
- Engineers Solve Problems

TECHNOLOGY

- Timber, Joinery & Construction
- Welding & Machining
- Small Motors & Systems Investigations
- Furniture Making

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

- Duke of Edinburgh (Full year)

Art

Performing Arts Elective - Drama, Theatre, Film

This unit incorporates elements of Drama, Theatre and Film. It aims to develop students' self-confidence by incorporating a variety of drama activities, beginning with the exploration of movement and sound through to the development of short plays which could be performed in front of a variety of audiences. Students will look at a range of theatre styles that examine the dramatic elements and how they impact different audiences. They will explore the adaptation of script to television and examine film techniques and film metalanguage.

Performing Arts - Elective Music

Throughout the Music unit students will get a taste of a variety of different musical instruments and styles. The subject aims to investigate the elements of music by exploring them through both theory and practice. Students will experience small group workshops which aim to give them a taste of various instruments and insight into playing those instruments. During the unit, students will have the opportunity to rehearse as part of a band or individually and perform for a variety of audiences.

Design Elective - Outside the Box

Do you like designing? Are you good at thinking outside the box? Do you like the challenge of parameters that you can stretch and push against? Outside the Box might be for you! Students will be supported to explore a range of manual and digital methods to create new designs in response to a range of briefs. Designs might include objects, pattern repeats, illustrations, posters, textile pieces and more. Students will explore and be inspired by the work of designers - including Indigenous designers - working in the Messages, Objects, Environments and/or Interactive Experiences fields of design. Students will also develop observational drawing skills.

Visual Arts Elective Experimental - World Art

From our base in multicultural Australia, students will be supported to engage in art and art practices from at home around the world. Students will draw on artists' perspectives and styles to inspire new work that is created with traditional and experimental methods, media and materials. All visual arts subjects support the development of observational drawing, use of creative practice, and VTS process.

Visual Arts Elective - In the Round

Sink your teeth into three-dimensional art making using clay, wire, Modroc and more! Students will explore contemporary and historical sculptures and create with a focus on form, balance and proportion. All visual arts subjects support the development of observational drawing, and use of the studio process and VTS process.

Visual Arts Elective - Lens on the World

An image is worth a thousand words! Explore the world of photography and visual storytelling. Students will be supported to explore composition techniques using analogue and digital processes to reflect the stories of their unique world. All visual arts subjects support the development of observational drawing, use of creative practice, and VTS process.

Food Studies

Bakehouse Foods

In this unit, students will discover the art of producing creative cakes, pies, pastries, and other sweet desserts from around the world. They will investigate recipes from various culinary traditions and have the opportunity to develop and refine their baking and dessert making skills.

Languages (Distance Only).

Through Distance Education, students can access a wide range of language subjects not offered at our school. Specialist language teachers deliver lessons online, giving students the chance to develop communication skills, cultural understanding, and global perspectives while working independently and responsibly in their chosen language.

Humanities

History Elective – Step Back in Time

In this History Elective students take a look back in the past to discover how the world became what it is today. With a focus on the Industrial Revolution and the movement of people around the world during this time. They identify population movements and settlement patterns during this period and the significant changes to the way of life of groups of people, as well as the different experiences and impacts on individuals and groups during significant events of the Industrial Revolution, the European settlement of Australia and Beyond. Students identify and research significant events that have shaped our nation from 1750 to 2000.

Business Elective – Young Entrepreneurs

In this Business Elective students look at how businesses are developed, decisions are made about products and services and how marketing is used to promote and sell products, and services. They will look at the relationships between producers and consumers and explore how businesses respond to consumer demand. Students will develop their own business plan, design their own products, and develop their own marketing campaign to sell their product.

Health & Physical Education

Physical Education

Students will develop and participate in an individualised fitness training program in a safe and supervised environment. Their fitness program will include weight and aerobic training. Their individualised weight training program will be tailored to improve strength, endurance, power, and tone. Aerobic training activities will include continuous running, interval training, kettlebell training and circuit training. Students will be expected to participate consistently to gain the full benefit of the program.

Active Outdoors

Through participating in a range of outdoor pursuits in the local area, students will develop skills and knowledge to undertake safe and sustainable experiences in natural environments and begin to develop skills of interdependence within a group setting. Students will also gain a greater awareness, respect and knowledge for the environment.

Duke of Edinburgh

Students are required to complete an application before being accepted into the Duke of Ed program.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program offers the opportunity for students to extend their skills in their own chosen field as well as community service, physical recreation and several adventure journeys. Students work toward achieving the bronze award across the year.

To achieve the bronze award, each student must complete the following areas:

Voluntary Service: The Voluntary Service Section of the Award encourages young people to volunteer their time to and understand the benefits of this Voluntary Service to their community. To connect with your community and give service to others and their communities

Physical Recreation: The Physical Recreation Section of the Award encourages young people to participate in sport and other physical recreation for the improvement of health, wellbeing and fitness.

Skills: The Skills Section of the Award encourages the development of personal interests and practical and social skills.

Adventurous Journey: The Adventurous Journey Section encourages a sense of adventure whilst undertaking a team journey or expedition. As part of a small team, participants will plan, train for and undertake a journey with a defined purpose in an unfamiliar environment.

Science

Agricultural Science

Students will apply the knowledge they have gained from previous core science subjects to agricultural problems and apply their science inquiry skills to identify and solve problems in the agricultural industry. Students will also identify questions, propose hypotheses and suggest possible outcomes and further research and investigations into current and emerging technologies in the agricultural space. Students may also look at how landowners and industry can work together to improve environmental outcomes related to agriculture.

Engineers Solve Problems

Students will engage in a range of hands-on activities and projects, working collaboratively to apply the engineering design process and create solutions for real-world applications of problems connected to key science concepts. Student teams and teachers negotiate a series of problem-solving projects including, but not limited to; bridge building, hydraulic engineering and simple machines. Science concepts explored include machine engineering, forces, levers, hydraulics, kinematics, energy transfer and experimental design.

Technology

Timber, Joinery & Construction

This unit focuses on the students being able to write a design brief, gain knowledge about timber and joint selection and create a model that is sustainable and fashionable. It is intended that the students will explore the design processes through investigation, production, model evaluation and modern joining techniques. It is intended that the main choice of material comes from a sustainable source such as re-growth forest or reclaimed material.

Welding & Machining

In this unit, students are introduced to welding, the metal lathe and the metal milling machine. Students will have a wide choice of work depending on their individual interest and expertise. They are able to construct projects using the metal lathe, metal mill, Arc and MIG welding machine. A major requirement is the development of a design brief which will be used as the basis to construct a model. Models can include but not limited to: small BBQ plate, BBQ utensils and engineers hammer.

Small Motors & Systems Investigations

Students will use school engines to investigate how combustion engines operate using a combination of theory and practical tasks. This includes stripping down and rebuilding a motor and then bringing in your own motor for investigation, tune up or repairs. This course will cover both 2 and 4 cycle / stroke engines and how they operate.

Furniture Making

In this unit, students will design and produce a piece of modern furniture. They will develop practical skills in woodworking using traditional processes and will have the opportunity to work with a range of timbers and other materials. Students will have the opportunity to use a range of tools and machinery in the construction of their furniture.

Contact Us

Phone:

(03) 5484 1844

Website:

www.rochsec.vic.edu.au

Email:

rochester.sc@education.vic.gov.au

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RochesterSC

Instagram:

[@rochestersecondarycollege](https://www.instagram.com/rochestersecondarycollege)

