



Gawler & District College B-12

Year 8 | 2026 Elective Options

From Our Principal

We believe that:

- Learning is a partnership to be shared by the student, the school and their parents/caregivers.
- Our objective is to provide a supportive School environment in which students can achieve their greatest potential.
- This will be achieved if students, supported by their families, always strive for excellence and give of their best and view learning as a lifelong process.
- Every endeavour should be made to make learning engaging for students.

Craig Brown, Principal

Course Selection

Making choices of subjects is very important. Every student should make a serious effort to plan their curriculum pathway to enable them to follow their chosen career path and interests.

In selecting a course students should consider:

- The curriculum pattern
- Student interests
- Career choices and/or post school options
- Current subjects and progress
- Subject teacher recommendations

Students can get help to choose the most appropriate course by talking to:

- Parents/Caregivers and/or their friends
- Home Care Teacher
- Subject Teachers
- Year Level Manager
- School Counsellors
- The SACE Coordinator

Information to help choose wisely is available from:

- This Curriculum Guide
- The Job Guide
- SATAC Guides
- Internet
- Tertiary Institution information
- Pamphlets and booklets in the Year 11 & 12 Study Areas

Parents/Cargivers can help by:

- Being positive, supportive and encouraging
- Assisting in finding information
- Attending course counselling days

Remember:

- Subject choices must be based on as much information as possible.
- YOU are responsible for YOUR subject choices.
- Subjects must be selected for the whole year.
- Choose carefully. Selections are considered to be FINAL and it may not be possible to make changes.
- The school will make every effort to offer the subjects that you select. However, this may not be possible.

You will be consulted if changes need to be made.



Introduction & Content

Choosing Subjects

Carefully read the subject descriptors before selecting your units.

We suggest you keep this Curriculum Guide for all of next year so that you may refer back to this information in discussing study plans for next year and beyond.

Progression to the next level of study is dependent upon students meeting the work and assessment requirements to a satisfactory (C grade) standard. Progress and course selection may have to be negotiated individually if student achievement is not satisfactory.

Additional information is available to students through sessions with Home Care teachers, year level assemblies, special assemblies for particular topics and discussions with subject teachers. Students are also encouraged to access other sources of information.

Additional information is available to parents and students through an information evening. Parents can contact appropriate school personnel if they require any further information.

Whilst there is a set curriculum pattern of required subjects at Years 7-10, some flexibility is possible to meet individual student needs.

Students, with assistance from parents/caregivers and counselling from Home Care teachers and/or counselling personnel, nominate their subject preferences. Students are issued with a computer printout of their choices.

The school timetable is constructed on the basis of student choices within the constraints of staffing and school resources.

Although every effort is made to accommodate all student preferences this is not always possible. Where students are unable to study their selected subjects they are re-counselled to enable them to select appropriate replacement subjects.

Students, with support from parents, will have limited opportunities to make changes to the chosen course.



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In 2026 Year 8 students have the compulsory subjects of: Maths, English, History, Science, The Arts, Design & Technology, Japanese and Physical Education. Additionally, students will have a number of elective options to select from.

Students must select two elective subjects from the below list plus an additional two reserve subjects (In the event first preferences are unavailable). Once you have decided, please record your choices on the Subject Selection Form.

Agriculture

Agriculture is a practical subject so students will need to be prepared to work within the full scope of animal husbandry and horticulture. The topics in year 8 Agriculture will include an introduction to agriculture and safe work practices, horticulture, animal husbandry and agribusiness.

Eco Studies

Our wetlands need saving. We can teach you the skills to rehabilitate the wetlands. Ignite your passion for the environment, learning about animals, and get your hands dirty biodiversity and conservation; and ecosystems while working in both an inside and an outside classroom. Research using citizen science, participate in tree planting, bee hive/hotel creation and water resources management. Be the change you wish to see in the world, learn the skills to assist in decreasing climate change that you can teach others and take into your future. Come and get your hands dirty!

Math Investigators

Ever want to investigate how to get a hole in one at a mini putt putt and win every time. Is solving puzzles and problem solving your thing? Well then, WE NEED YOU! OUR SOCIETY NEEDS THINKERS AND INNOVATORS LIKE YOU! Let your creativity fly with maths. Work in teams and development new ideas from old concepts. Make the change you want to see for your future and become an entrepreneur. This elective is project-based learning where we will support you as you work through your ideas. This elective allows you to use all of your maths skills and more in one double just once a week.

Sports

Year 8 Sports builds on the foundations from Year 7, with a continued focus on practical skill development and gameplay. This subject offers more advanced opportunities to develop strategies, refine techniques, and build confidence in a range of sports chosen by the class—such as soccer, basketball, netball, baseball, or football. With a higher intensity of practical lessons compared to Core HPE, students will further improve their performance and deepen their understanding of teamwork and game play.



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Music

In the Year 8 Music elective, students will explore a variety of instruments and music technologies while learning about different genres, styles, eras, and music theory. They will perform in the class band, play music from layered arrangements and charts, and develop their understanding of music through both theory and practical application. Students will also have the opportunity to learn a chosen instrument with guidance from a specialist instrumental teacher. The course encourages students to express their creativity through performance and build confidence in a supportive and inclusive environment. This subject can lead to future pathways such as performer, music technician, recording artist, composer, conductor, teacher, musicologist, sound engineer, producer, and more.

Performance & Theatre Design

In the Year 8 Performance and Theatre Design elective, students will have the opportunity to explore all aspects of theatre, both on and off the stage. They will develop skills in areas such as lighting, music, set design, makeup, and costume design, while also building confidence and creativity through performance. Students will work collaboratively in groups and may take part in theatre excursions and workshops throughout the semester. No prior experience is required, only an interest in drama and a willingness to participate. This subject can lead to future pathways including scriptwriting, directing, theatrical makeup artistry, performing, acting, stage technology, filmmaking, and more.

Art

In Year 8 Art, students can choose to study the subject for one or two semesters. This elective is ideal for those with an interest in art, and no prior experience is required. Students will further develop their creativity by exploring techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. They will work with materials including charcoal, pastels, watercolour, ink, acrylic paint, cardboard, clay, paper, and recycled objects. Over the course, students will create both 2D and 3D artworks and compile a folio showcasing their skills. They will also think, talk, and write about artworks by various artists. Students will have the opportunity to exhibit their creations in the Gawler and District College SALA Art Exhibition in August. This subject supports future pathways such as artist, designer, illustrator, animator, photographer, art gallery curator, art teacher, architect, and more.



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Media Arts

In the Year 8 Media Arts elective, students will deepen their understanding of media technologies while developing creative skills in digital photography, media design, and filmmaking. They will learn how to communicate ideas and tell stories using digital tools and techniques. The course includes creative photography with a focus on composition and lighting, as well as the exploration of media art elements and principles using Photoshop. Students will also be introduced to filmmaking and editing, gaining hands-on experience in creating their own short films. This subject can lead to future pathways such as photographer, graphic designer, filmmaker, digital illustrator, teacher, social media manager, and more.

Material Studies

In Year 8, students dive into an engaging Introduction to Material Studies, where they build upon their prior knowledge of workshop safety to tackle new challenges. This course encourages them to push the boundaries of their skill sets as they explore various materials and techniques. Through hands-on projects and creative problem-solving, students learn to experiment, innovate, and refine their craftsmanship. By the end of the term, they not only enhance their technical abilities but also develop a deeper understanding of the properties and potential of different materials, preparing them for future design endeavours!

Computer Aided Design (CAD)

In Year 8 CAD, students will extend their digital tool bag by drawing, creating and innovating! This subject opens a career pathway to the world of Computer-Aided Design (CAD), where they can bring ideas to life digitally. This dynamic blend of practical and digital skills sets the foundation for future design challenges and ignites a passion for engineering and technology! Students will have opportunities to use 3D printers and a laser cutter to bring their ideas to life.

Elective Digital Technology (Coding and Game Development)

If you love games and want to learn how to make them, then this course will start you down that path. Making games is a creative and technical art form. In this course students will familiarize themselves with the fundamentals of game development. Using programs like Scratch, students will be building their own computer games. You They'll also be learning the basics of Python coding, one of the fastest growing and currently in demand coding languages. This course is for individuals interested in digital technology, and can lead to careers like: game designer or programmer, animator, app developer, cyber security professional, website designer or cloud engineer.



Food - Desserts

In this hands-on elective, students will explore the world of desserts through a variety of baking and pastry techniques. From classic cakes and biscuits to sweet tarts, pastries and creative plated treats, students will develop their confidence in the kitchen while learning essential skills like measuring, mixing, decorating, and presentation.

This course is perfect for anyone with a sweet tooth or an interest in food and creativity. Each week, students will take on a new challenge, with recipes gradually increasing in complexity as their skills grow. Along the way, they'll learn about food safety, kitchen hygiene, basic nutrition, and the cultural influences behind popular desserts.

Textiles

In the Year 8 textiles course, students will build on their sewing skills by learning more advanced techniques. They will develop proficiency in tasks such as precise stitching, pattern cutting, and using various sewing tools. Students will undertake projects that include creating basic clothing items and undertake crafting, allowing them to apply their skills to more complex and functional pieces. This course is designed for students who are ready to deepen their sewing expertise and tackle more challenging textile projects.