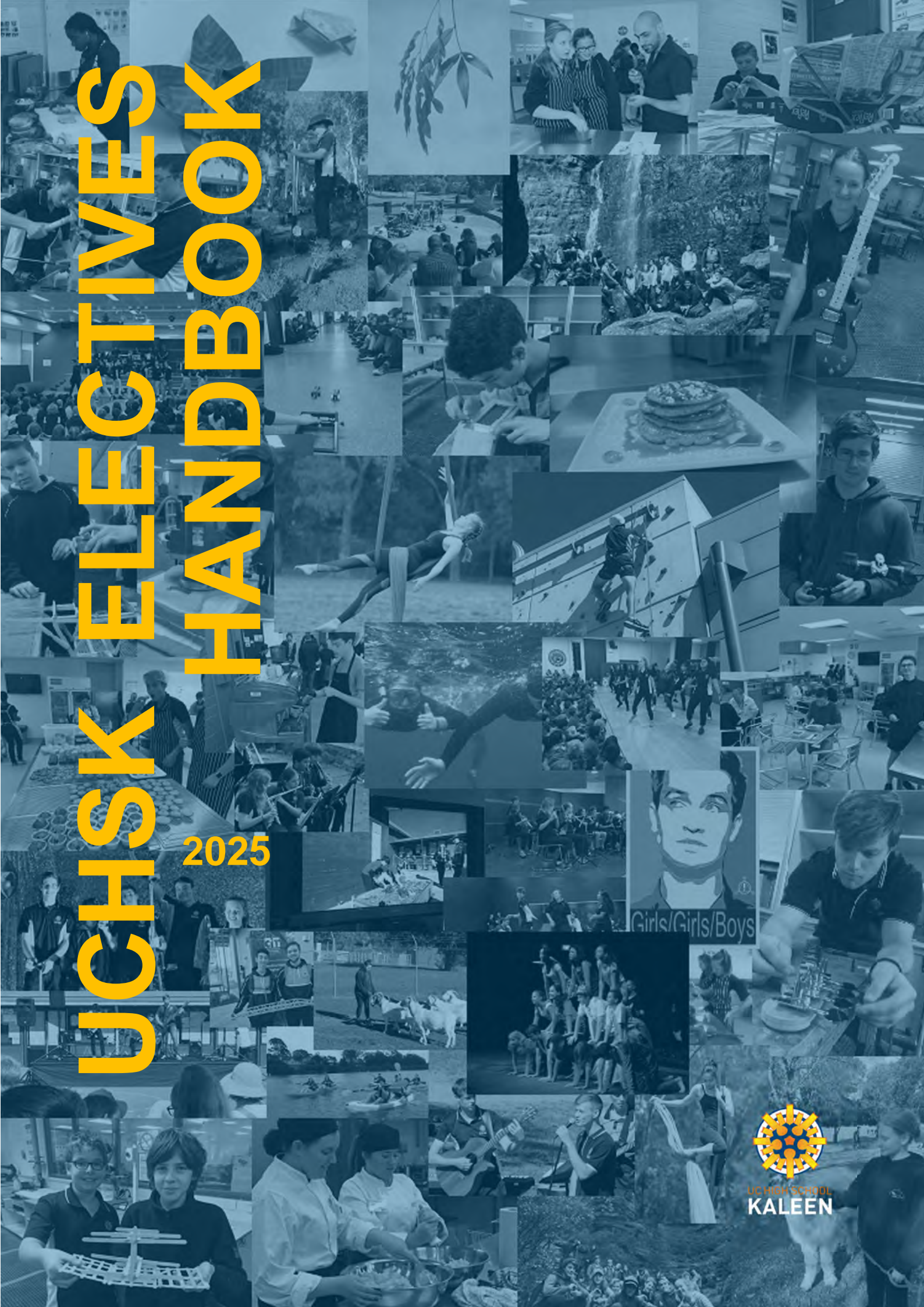


UCHSK ELECTIVES HANDBOOK

2025



CHOOSING ELECTIVES



At UCHSK, we are pleased to be able to offer a wide range of electives for selection in 2025. Electives are designed to engage, inspire and enrich all students, exciting the imagination and encouraging them to reach their creative and expressive potential, and that is underpinned by the values and mission of the school.

Year 8 students will be required to participate in a semester of Japanese and Cultural Integrity, adhering to teaching languages in high schools, as required by the ACT Education Directorate.

For students in year 8, 9 and 10, the electives are aimed at providing them with the opportunity to explore more deeply options that support their personal academic and career pathways. It is compulsory for students in year 8 to complete a semester of Japanese.



All students in years 8, 9 & 10 will be required to select Elective Preferences for each line for the semester.

All classes have a limit to the number of students that can enrol; however, every effort will be made for students to be placed in their first or second preference class.



Please also be aware that some electives do have a small fee to cover costs of materials for products that the students will either consume or take home and others will have additional excursion or camp costs.

Fit For Life

This elective will cover many aspects of maintaining a fit and healthy lifestyle through:

- Leadership and mini coaching, designing own games e.g. indigenous games
- Fitness based activities/testing with the possibility of excursions. Students will be asked "What areas of my fitness would I like to improve?"
- Mini-Olympics

Available Course:

- Year 8 Fit For Life



FIT FOR LIFE

JAPANESE



Japanese at UC High School Kaleen provides students with the opportunity to learn and understand the language as well as the traditional and popular modern culture. Japan is one of our major Asian trading partners and tourism in Australia creates the need for speakers of Japanese. One unit of Japanese is compulsory for each of Year 7s and 8s and is counted as one of their four electives. Students beginning their Japanese language studies, and continuing from primary school are catered for within the one class, taking into account their respective experience in the language. A year-long Extension Japanese course is also available for students who have studied Japanese in Primary School, or who have a background in Japanese. In this course, students have the opportunity to further develop the knowledge and skills necessary to use Japanese in everyday situations, and develop their understanding of intercultural communications and awareness. Students extend their Japanese capabilities towards fluency in reading, writing, listening and speaking, explore the cultural and historical aspects of Japan, including food, ceremonies and social expectations and discuss social conventions and how understanding these helps shape global citizens. From year 9, Japanese becomes an elective for all students, and students from the mainstream year 8 course, and the year-long extension course choosing Japanese are each catered for at their appropriate level. It is expected that students choosing Year 9 Japanese will continue for the year, and students choosing Japanese in Year 10 will be continuing from Year 9.

Available Courses:

- Year 8 Japanese
- Year 9/10 Japanese

BUSINESS STUDIES

What does it take to start your own business? Is profit the only thing that matters? Is drop shipping legal? Why did Toyota deliberately design their electric vehicle to be *ugly*? Why do more people buy Louis Vuitton products when they *raise* their prices? Does nap-time *really* make employees more productive? Can your parent's garage be turned into a tech startup? These are the types of questions we'll answer in Business Studies!

You'll learn the technical skills needed to manage a business such as accounting, marketing, management and ethics and you'll apply your knowledge to analyse real life examples of business success and failure.

Finally, you will put your business skills to the test by developing your very own business plan and testing it in the marketplace.

This course will build on the fundamentals of Commerce from Year 7 and 8. Therefore, students are expected to have demonstrated satisfactory effort in SOSE.

Available Courses:

- Year 9/10 Business Studies



PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Project Based Learning at UC High School Kaleen is a dynamic and student-centred course that empowers learners to explore real-world issues that genuinely matter to them. Through this hands-on, inquiry-driven approach, students tackle an essential question that they are emotionally connected to—something that sparks curiosity, passion, or a sense of injustice—and work towards developing meaningful, creative solutions.

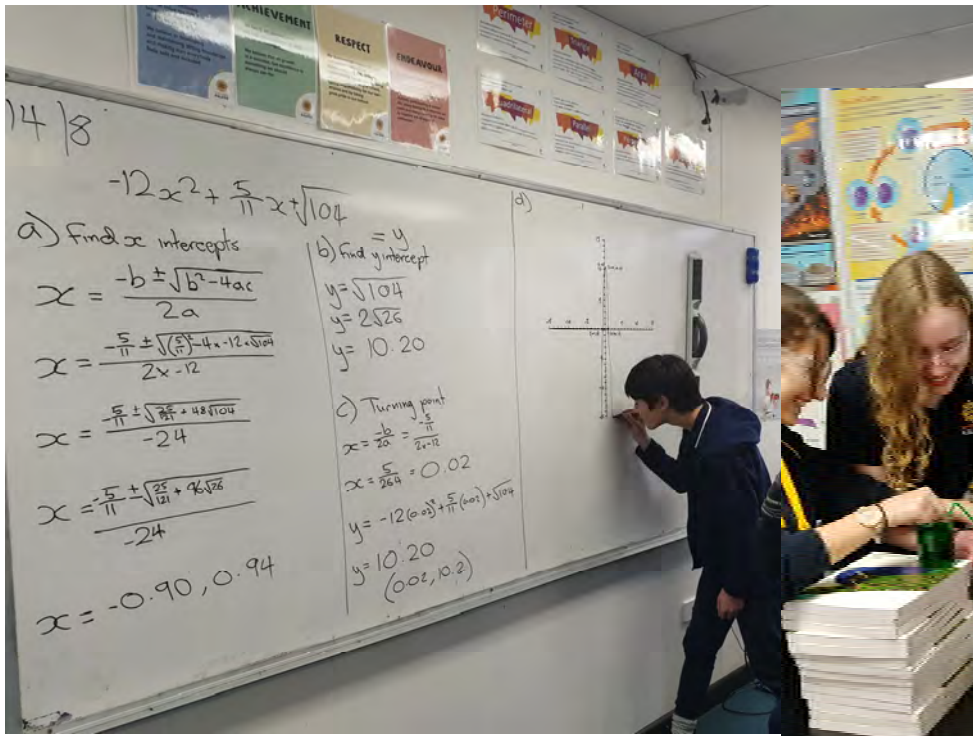
In PBL, students draw upon and apply knowledge from their core subjects—English, Mathematics, Science, and Humanities—to investigate, problem-solve, and present their findings in authentic and engaging ways. Whether it's addressing climate change, improving mental health support in schools, or designing sustainable communities, students take ownership of their learning journey while building critical skills in research, collaboration, communication, and self-management.

This course not only deepens understanding across the curriculum, but also fosters a sense of purpose and agency, helping students see the relevance of their education in the world around them. PBL at UCHSK is where curiosity meets action—and learning becomes truly meaningful.

Available Courses:

- Year 9/10 Project Based Learning



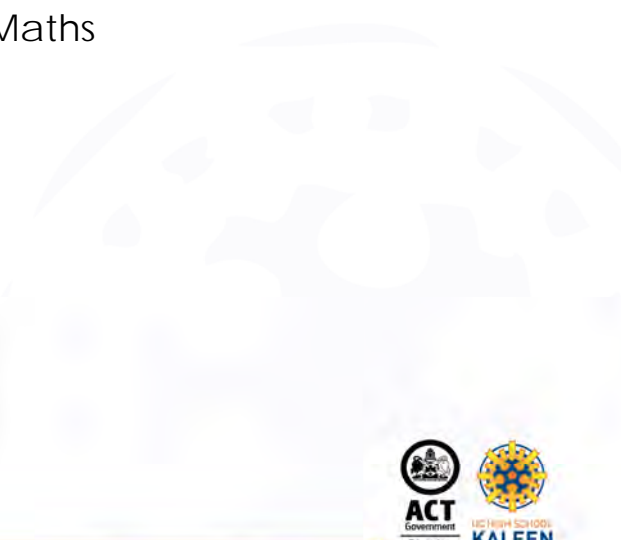


EXTENSION MATHS

This elective aims to consolidate and strengthen the skills taught in Mathematics classes to further enhance problem solving skills. Students will look at improving and developing the students ability in Algebra and Data Analysis. Students will also be introduced to concepts that will be covered in Maths courses at College.

Available Courses:

- Year 9/10 Extension Maths

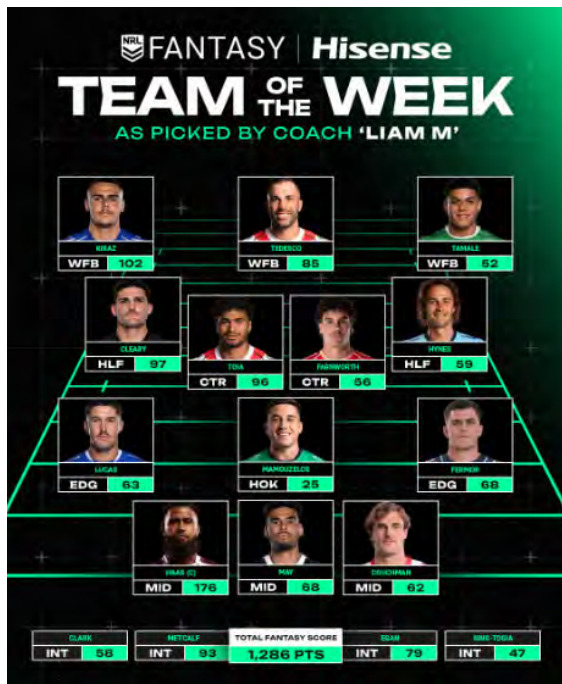


FANTASY SPORTS



Fantasy Sports (Mathematics) - Fantasy Sports elective offers students a dynamic opportunity to apply mathematical concepts in a real-world context. By managing virtual teams based on real athlete performances, students engage with key mathematical areas such as statistics and probability. Students analyse player data, calculate fantasy points, and develop strategies, thereby enhancing their numeracy skills in an interactive setting.

Available Courses:





VISUAL ART

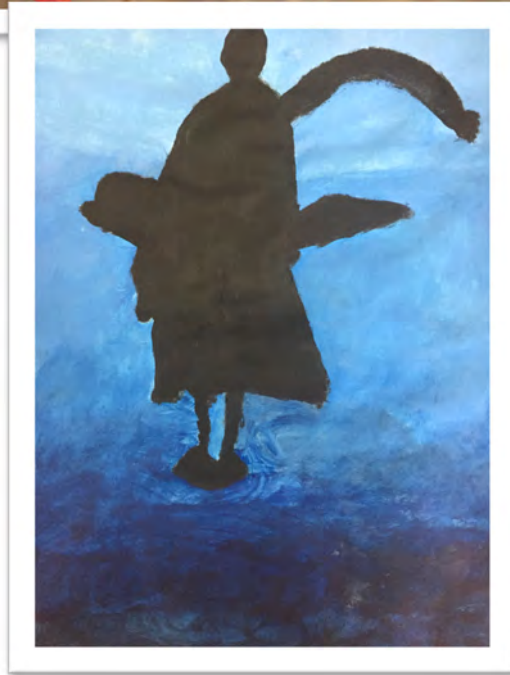
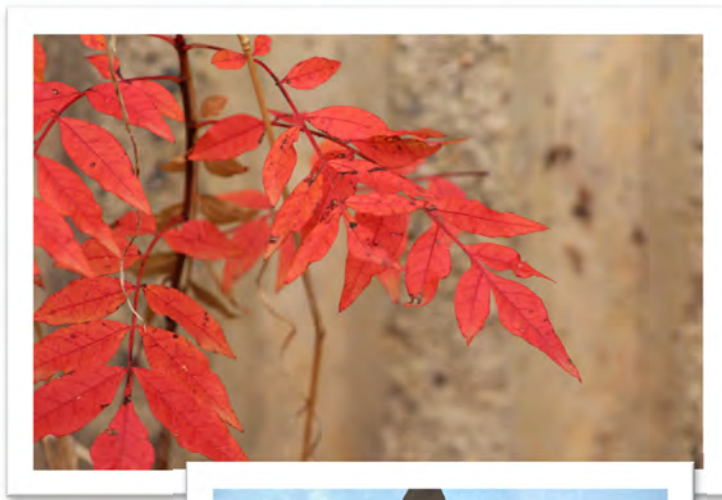
Visual Art engages, inspires and enriches all students. It excites the imagination and encourages creativity and expression. In Visual Arts, students experience and explore the concepts of artists, photographers, artworks, world and audience.

Students develop practical skills and critical thinking which inform their work as artists and audience. They learn how to use knowledge, techniques, processes and materials to explore arts practices and to explore artworks and make their own visual art products.

Available Courses:

- Year 7 Introduction to Art
- Year 8 & 9/10 Visual Art

MIXED MEDIA ART



Mixed Media Arts is an exciting and creative subject that explores the use of multiple art forms. Students will experiment with a variety of materials and techniques, including printmaking, collage, and found objects, to create unique and expressive artworks. This course encourages imaginative thinking and innovation by combining different media and exploring connections between ideas, materials, and themes. It's perfect for students who enjoy hands-on creativity and want to push the boundaries of traditional art-making.

Available Courses:

- Year 9/10 Mixed Media Art



Creating 3D Art introduces a variety of three-dimensional art media such as clay, cardboard, polystyrene, plaster, wood, wire and recycled materials.

Students will explore a range of techniques including modelling and carving, construction, assemblage and developing skills in 3D making. An experimentation of drawing techniques and media will be included to develop students' skills and ability to draw three dimensionally.

Students will create artworks derived from an exploration of their own ideas and themes. Students are encouraged to experiment and explore a variety of art media developing their own ideas into completed artworks.

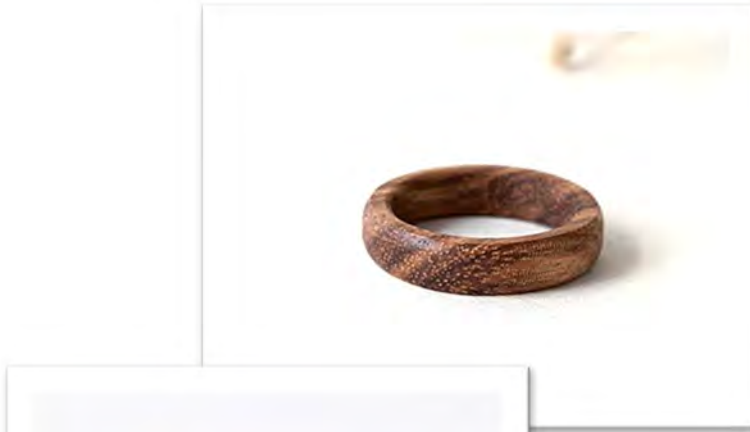
An investigation and research in Art movements and topics such as Pop Art, Sculpture, Abstract and Surrealism, Architectural forms will be investigated.

Students will be building on previous art and design skills, completing class tasks, developing their art language in reference to Visual Art & Design Concepts and researching topics of interest.

Available Course:

- Year 9/10 Sculpture & 3D Artwork

SCULPTURE



DESIGN & CRAFT

Welcome to the Design and Craft elective, where creativity meets functionality. In this course, you'll explore applied art techniques and practices to create practical, functional pieces by hand. From designing handcrafted items to implementing practical skills in everyday objects, you'll learn how to merge artistic expression with utility. Discover how to turn your creative ideas into functional art that serves a purpose and enhances daily life.

Design and Craft is a multimedia arts elective that uses skills from textiles, jewellery, sculpture and 3d arts, visual arts, wood technologies, and more to create functional projects and develop real-world skills. This unit focuses on fine motor skills, development of arts and multimedia skills and critical thinking to find real-world solutions with artistic leaning, form functional pieces relevant to their interests, and form their own personal approach.

Available Course:

- Year 7 Jewellery
- Year 9/10 Design & Craft

Drama

Activities in Drama encourage students to develop positive attitudes and collaborative teamwork. Students learn to apply the Elements of Drama in dramatic performances. Drama is a practical subject with assessment conducted in class. This includes development of skills, rehearsals, performances, and theory components.

In Year 7, Drama is part of the elective's rotation, with students undertaking the course for one term. This introductory course explores the Elements of Drama and basic skills used in Drama. These skills are developed through warm-up activities, improvisation, role play and theatre games. Students then use their skills and knowledge in performance and written reflections.

In Year 8, students build on the foundation work from Year 7. Continuing their exploration of the Elements of Drama, improvisation, and theatre games. Over the semester students participate in performance activities that include duologues, monologues, short scenes, and play building. Written reflections and evaluation also form an important part of the course.

Year 9/10 Stage Acting

Learning stage acting offers students more than just a chance to perform—it builds confidence, creativity, and communication skills that last a lifetime. Through acting, students learn how to express themselves clearly, work as part of a team, and think on their feet. It encourages empathy by helping them step into different characters' lives, and it provides a fun, safe space to explore emotions and ideas. With a strong focus on acting skills, including character creation, use of voice, text analyses and theatre conventions, this course takes an in depth look at the world of theatre and acting. Whether or not they pursue it as a career, stage acting empowers young people to become more self-assured, expressive, and connected to others.



Available Courses:

- Year 7 Drama
- Year 8 Drama
- Year 9/10 Stage Acting



CIRCUS

Circus is explored as an art form and a physical training pursuit. The value of persistence in developing complex skills and prioritising the safety of the individual through skill development is explicitly taught. Through group tasks students will learn skills that will enable them to become healthy, creative and contributing members of a compassionate society.

Students work on a diverse range of movement and performance skills and choose specialty training areas as their fundamental skills increase. Areas of training include skills such as aerials (trapeze, tissue, aerial web, doubles trapeze and lyra), acrobatics (floor tumbling, mini-tramp, trampoline, german wheel, handstand chairs), manipulations (juggling, diabolo, hoop and group passing), equilibristics (unicycling, stilts, globe and rola bola).

9/10 students also explore a specific area of circus each semester as an industry, Circus History, Style & Substance, Circus Bodies and Social Circus, an effector of social change.

As part of the elective it is strongly recommended that students also enrol in the *Warehouse Circus Core Program* after school.

Available Courses:

- Year 7 Circus
- Year 8 Circus
- Year 9/10 Circus

INSTRUMENT STUDIES

Year 7 & 8 Instrument Studies

Instrument Studies is a fun and engaging music elective where students have the opportunity to learn and play a variety of instruments, including guitar, keyboard, drums, and voice. Through individual and group workshops, students develop fundamental music skills while exploring different styles of contemporary music. All students will join a band and experience the excitement of making music together, building confidence, creativity, and teamwork along the way.

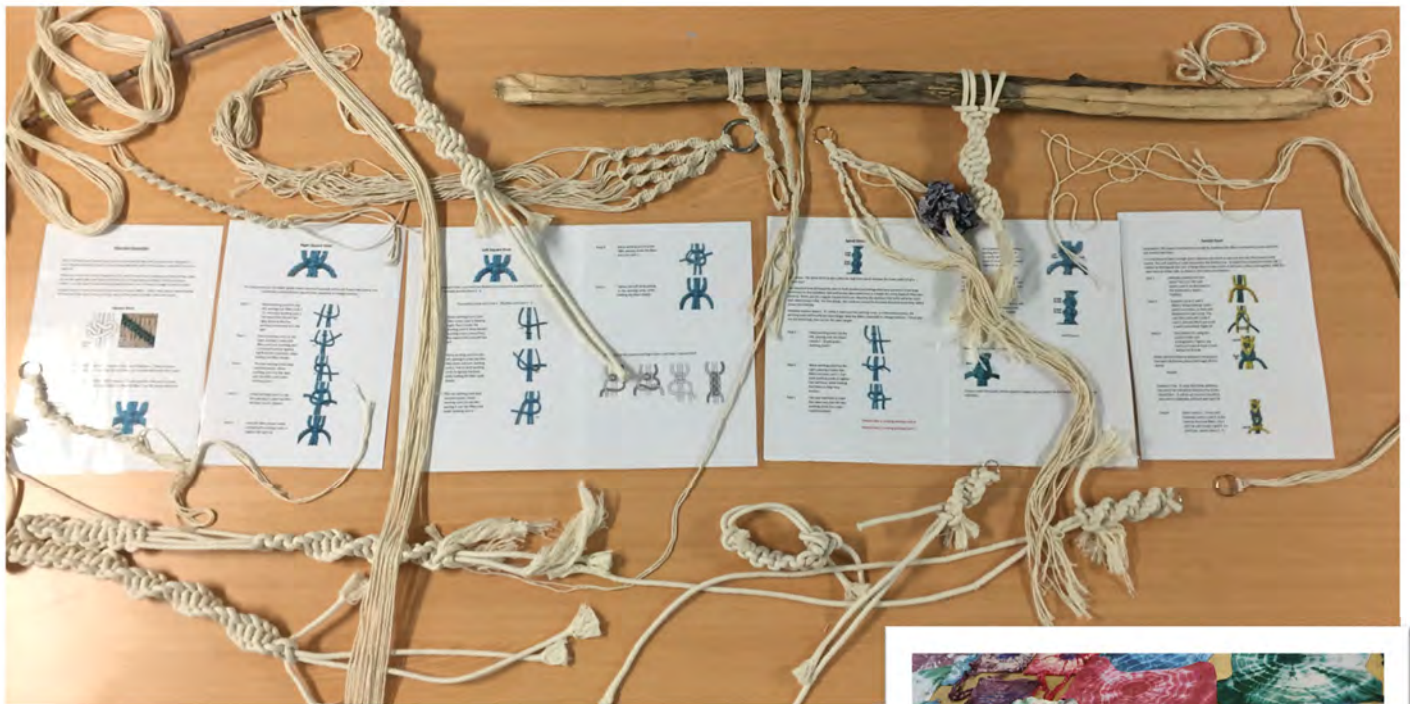
Year 9/10 Rock Band

Previously known as the UCAN Rock Band Program, Rock Band is now offered as a regular elective subject. This dynamic course provides students with both individual and group workshops in voice, drumming, guitar, keyboard, and other essential contemporary music skills. Every student becomes part of a band, working together to rehearse, perform, and grow as musicians. Rock Band is ideal for students who are passionate about music and want to develop their performance skills, creativity, and teamwork in a supportive and energetic environment.

Available Courses:

Year 7	Instrument Studies
Year 8	Basics To Band
Year 9/10	Rock Band





Year 7 & 8 Textiles

The 7 & 8 Textiles courses provide students with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills in the design and creation of textiles projects. Importance is placed on the development of basic practical skills which can be used at home. It also focuses on the design process, allowing students to take on 'design problems', using creative thinking and design process skills to produce designed solutions and make informed choices.

Year 9/10 Textiles Design

Through a study of Textiles and Design, students explore a range of decorative textile techniques including dyeing, printing, silk painting, machine and hand embroidery. Cultural aspects of design imagery will also be considered. This knowledge will then be employed in a design project to showcase their understanding of, and ability to use these skills and techniques. The focus is on the use of textiles as a media to produce objects, products and artworks.

Available Course:

- Year 7 Textiles
- Year 8 Textiles
- Year 9/10 Textiles

Year 8 Young Chefs

Young Chefs is a hands-on subject that introduces students to the fundamentals of cooking and healthy eating. Combining classroom learning with practical kitchen experience, students will explore essential cooking techniques, food preparation skills, and safe, hygienic food practices. They will learn to use a variety of kitchen tools and equipment while creating delicious and nutritious dishes that meet a range of dietary needs. The course also covers basic nutrition principles, helping students understand the role of nutrients and how to make healthy food and lifestyle choices. Through design tasks, students will plan and manage their cooking projects, learning how the characteristics of food influence preparation and presentation.

Year 9/10 Master Chefs (Food Technology)

Students actively engage in learning about food in a variety of settings, enabling them to evaluate the relationships between food, technology, food science, nutritional status, and the quality of life. The course provides students with an opportunity to develop proficiency in food preparation and service through design, project management and evaluations. Students are offered a range of units across four semesters, allowing them to diversify their interests. These units consist of: Introduction to Hospitality, Food Science, Food and Nutrition and International Cookery.

Available Course:

- Year 7 Junior Chefs
- Year 8 Young Chefs
- Year 9/10 Master Chef



Year 10 VET Hospitality / Year 9 Hospitality: year long

Certificate I in VET Hospitality SIT10222

Year 10 VET Hospitality: Year-long Course Duration

Nationally recognised Vocational Training is conducted at UCHS Kaleen auspiced by Lake Ginninderra College RTO. RTO code 88005. This competency-based course provides students with the opportunity to develop vocational skills and knowledge within the Hospitality industry.



Students work towards a Certificate I in Hospitality SIT10222. There are six nationally recognised units delivered to students to gain their full certification I in Hospitality.

- SITXWHS005 Participate in safe work practices.
- SITHIND005 Use hygienic practices for food safety.
- BSBTWK201 Work effectively with others.
- SITHCCC025 Prepare and present sandwiches.
- SITHCCC023 Use food preparation equipment.
- SITXCCS009 Provide customer information and assistance.

A Statement of Attainment is awarded for competencies achieved where the full requirements for the qualification are not met. Competencies achieved are eligible for credit transfer if the full, or a related qualification is undertaken in later studies.

Students learn about health, safety and hygiene procedures in the workplace, food and beverage preparation, and service through catering and espresso coffee service. This course has several theory components that are delivered in conjunction with the practical components, including written tasks, quizzes, multiple choice questions, scenarios, and oral questions. Students gain industry experience by taking part in a twice weekly simulated cafe, termly catering opportunities, and simulated service experiences. Other simulated industry experiences can include catering for various school and community events in school and out-of-hours, mentoring catering sessions with network schools and opportunities to work alongside industry professionals for identified functions throughout the year including structured workplace learning SWL.

* *there is a course cost of \$90 (TBC) for the year.*



VET HOSPITALITY



STEM Racing (Formerly F1 in Schools).

The STEM Racing STEM Challenge offers students an exhilarating and captivating experience, drawing them in with the allure of Formula 1 racing. In this challenge, student teams employ Computer Aided Design (CAD) to design, analyse, create, test, and race miniature F1 cars crafted from Balsa wood or 3D printing. These cars, powered by CO2 canisters, compete on a 20-metre track and can reach speeds of up to 80 km/h.

The program enriches students' understanding of physics, aerodynamics, design processes, manufacturing, and marketing, along with graphics, sponsorship, teamwork, communication, media, careers, and finance. It integrates these disciplines in a creative and practical way, allowing students to compete with their peers both locally and globally.

With STEM Racing established in 17,000 schools across 58 countries, students begin their journey by competing locally, with the potential to expand their horizons Internationally. No matter how it is implemented, the program fosters the development of diverse STEM skills, applying them to a broad, hands-on project.



Available Course
Year 9/10 Stem Racing



Year 8 Wood Design & Technology

The Wood Design & Technology courses have a focus on the acquisition of practical skills. Students are introduced to the design cycle and experience the use of a variety of tools, machinery, production and joinery techniques. Students will spend time in the wood workshop developing practical skills and knowledge about the safe use of a range of hand tools and machinery. Students will be engaged in producing a range of woodwork projects that will incorporate different wood types, properties and forms. Students will revisit, strengthen and extend these acquired skills as they progress through the semester. These skills will be directly transferable and provide a pathway to study 9/10 Wood.

Year 9/10 Wood Technology

Year 9 & 10 students will build on their existing Design and Technology practical skill sets and will engage with their school community to explore an opportunity for design. They will further develop their problem solving skills using the human-centred Design process to create their design solution within a sustainable context. The practical nature of the Design and Technology learning area aims to engage students in critical and creative thinking, including understanding interrelationships in systems when solving complex problems. Students will use a systematic approach to experimentation, problem-solving, prototyping and evaluation to realise ideas.. Students will be required to use design thinking to design and create a designed solution using sustainable resources during the semester.

Available Course:

- Year 7 Wood
- Year 8 Wood
- Year 9/10 Wood

WOOD TECHNOLOGY

Farm activities are integrated into the program for all year groups. Students plan, develop and cultivate vegetable gardens as part of their assessment. Grazing animals are also kept on the school farm and these include a small herd of Boer goats and alpacas. The goats give birth in the spring which creates great interest with students in the school and provides outstanding learning opportunities. Chickens and ducks are hatched from incubated eggs and students monitor the growth and development of the chicks as a major educational project in the junior. Animal care is also integrated into practical assessment. There is a shade house for plant propagation and these plants have been used in gardens around the school. Farm construction and maintenance projects have recently been integrated into the Year 9/10 course to broaden the appeal to a wider range of students.

The theory component of the course partly focusses on caring for the breeds of animals on the school farm. We also include modules on sustainable agriculture, innovation and biotechnology, and modern agriculture.

Available Courses:

- Year 7 & 8 Agriculture
- Year 9/10 Agriculture



The current Sports Coaching course is a two-year cyclic program that consists of four, semester-long units.

Semester 1 – Unit 1:

The role of the coach, planning and reviewing coaching sessions, managing risk, the importance of inclusivity, effective communication

Semester 2 – Unit 2:

Anatomy and physiology, types of training, energy systems, sports injuries, sports injury management

Semester 3 – Unit 3:

Sport psychology, drugs in sport, sports nutrition

Semester 4 – Unit 4:

Olympic Games, Winter Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Paralympic Games



Participation in each unit requires no prerequisite knowledge. Students may choose to study all four units or select the unit/s that is/are of interest to them.

Available Course:

- Year 9/10 Sports Coaching



SPORTS COACHING

Outdoor Education is a rewarding subject where students get the opportunity to experience outdoor activities. Each student is expected to participate in all activities to the best of their ability. Although most of the course is practical based, students also learn theoretical and environmental aspects of each pursuit. The course will involve excursions and multi day camps which will incur a cost.



Students may get the opportunity to participate in a range of experiences including orienteering, caving, surfing, stand up paddle boarding (SUP), snorkelling, canoeing/kayaking, archery, golf, bushwalking, mountain biking, rock climbing, abseiling, first aid and a variety of team building activities. These pursuits help to build resilience, leadership and create lifelong skills, and memories for participants.

Available Course:

- Year 9/10 Outdoor Education



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Resilience, Empathy and Leadership (REAL):

This elective will cover what it is to be a leader as a young person, and investigate the role models that students look up to. We investigate different leadership styles, and what it is to be a resilient and empathetic young person in today's society. The leadership opportunities that this elective presents may include excursions to sporting events to examine leadership being displayed, as well as how we can make a difference in our own communities (including for example, local primary schools or nursing homes).

Available Course:

- Year 9/10 REAL



Know Your World

Students explore interconnections between people, places and environments – regionally and globally. They investigate environmental change and management, analysing human impact and approaches to sustainability. Students develop critical geographical skills to evaluate environmental management strategies and propose complex solutions to contemporary challenges. They become informed global citizens who understand diverse perspectives and can contribute to creating a more sustainable future.

Available Course:

- Year 9/10



KNOW YOUR WORLD

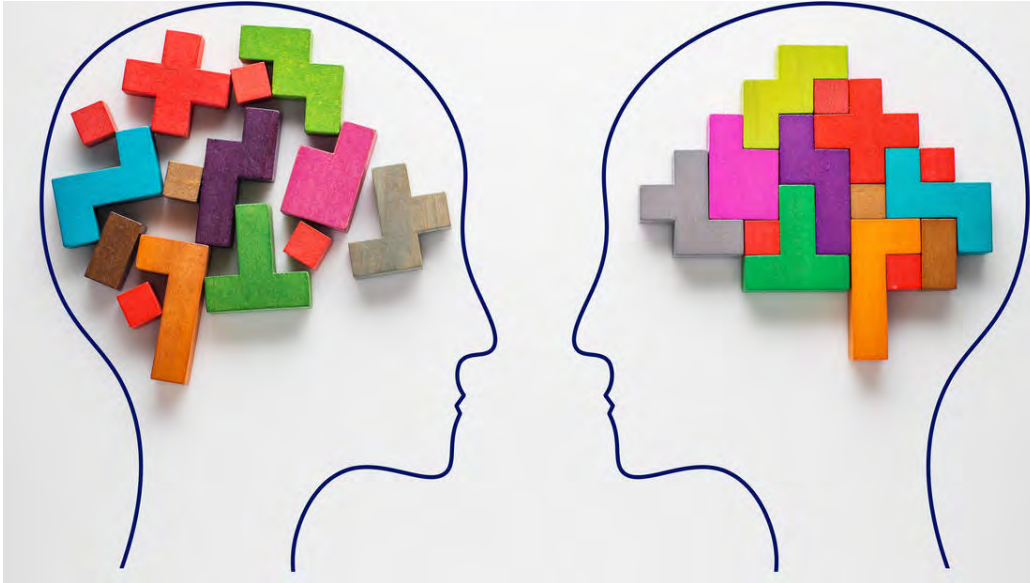
Power and Influence

Students examine the complex relationship between current events, media representation and political processes in Australia and globally. Students analyse how media shapes public perception of political issues, investigate diverse news sources, and evaluate media bias in contemporary reporting. They develop critical media literacy skills to distinguish fact from opinion, identify perspectives, and understand how digital technologies transform information dissemination and civic engagement. Students are empowered to become discerning consumers of news, responsible digital citizens, and active participants in democratic processes.

Available Course:

- Year 9/10





Psychology

Do you have an interest in psychology but aren't really sure what it's all about? It is not just about mental health, but the brain and behaviour.

How does memory work? Are emotions universal? How can we communicate more effectively? How can I persuade someone to do what I want? What is the secret to happiness? Is it ethical to run experiments on humans and animals? These are the types of questions which we will look to answer in UCHSKs psychology elective.

Psychology is the study of the brain, mind and behaviour. In this course we will explore theories and research to understand the thoughts, feelings and actions of those around us. We will use the scientific method to ethically explore psychological concepts and ideas. By studying the brain, it is hoped that students will gain a greater awareness and tolerance for the diversity of those in our communities.

Available Course:

- Year 9/10

PSYCHOLOGY