

ST JOHNS PARK HIGH SCHOOL



Year 8 | 2024

ELECTIVE SUBJECT SELECTION HANDBOOK

Year 8 Curriculum 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Elective subject selection for the current Year 7 students who will be in Year 8 in 2024 will commence **Term 4, Week 1 - Monday 9 October** with a Year Group assembly presentation. Students will receive their Webcode (this will enable them to log on to the webpage and choose subjects) via student email. This will enable us to plan our curriculum and teaching requirements for next year.

Students will study one elective in Year 8, 2024 from a broad selection of subjects. Electives have been introduced to provide students with some choice in their curriculum for the first time in their education. The electives have been carefully chosen from a range of disciplines and are intended to provide for an interest at the same time give them a taste of some elective courses that may be taken in Year 9. It is important to note that Year 8 electives are not seen as a pre-requisite or necessary for further study in Senior School or Years 9 and 10.

Students will have access to the Subject Selection Booklet explaining the process of making the selection of electives. They will have until **Wednesday 18 October of Week 2, Term 4, 2023** to consider elective choices and discuss these with parents/carers and teachers. Students will complete the online selection process **before this time**. Students are required to return a printed copy of the subject selection form, signed by parents/carers, to the front office by **Friday 20 October 2023**.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of this process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Moisis
Relieving Principal

Elective Subject Selection Year 8, 2024

Congratulations! Entering High School is an exciting, yet challenging experience. You have jumped many hurdles. New subjects, new teachers and a school day that is organised very differently to your days at primary school. Well done!

For all students of Year 8, the following subjects will be mandatory;

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Visual Arts
- Music
- Technology (Mandatory)
- PDHPE and Sport

Most importantly, all students of Year 8 are able to **select one elective subject**. The following information is designed to assist students in making an informed decision.

A few tips for students

There are a few things to remember when selecting an elective subject for next year. Consider the following;

- Choose those subjects that you like and that you are good at. You have more chance of being successful when you are studying a subject that you find enjoyable.
- The subjects you select at this stage of your school life are not going to have any bearing on your career choices. You will have the opportunity to select a new range of subjects in Years 9 and 11.
- Do not choose a subject based on teachers. You may find that your favourite teacher is not teaching that subject next year. It is not until the end of Term 4 that your teachers know what classes they will be taking in the coming year.
- Be an individual and do not choose subjects based on what your friends are choosing. As individuals, we all have different strengths and interests. You will still have recess and lunch to see your friends.

Take the time to get to it right. Talk to your parents/carers, your Class Teachers and Head Teachers and get advice. By doing your homework, you will make the right choices for you.

Electives and associated costs

To access information on each elective, refer to the following pages:

Electives	Additional cost	Page
Cook like a Chef	\$50 per year	7
Italian Language for travel and tourism	No cost	8
Music – Pop / Rock Band	No cost	9
Sports Academy	No upfront cost (Futsal Training costs \$50.00 TBA by teacher)	10
STEAM	No cost	11
Working with Wood	\$25 per year	12

Associated costs for elective subjects being offered

- Costs shown reflect the cost of materials and other resources required for successful completion by each student and are compulsory.
- Classes will be formed on the basis of first come first serve.
- It is important to prioritise the subjects in order of preference, as if one course is full your next choice will be selected

Selecting Elective Subjects

To assist in the elective subject selection process, a practice page, listing the elective subjects available and their course code has been provided at the back of this booklet. This page does not need to be returned to the school. It can be completed by students and discussed with parents/carers and teachers prior to the final selection of **three** elective choices being made.

The subject selection process will be completed, during Week 1 of Term 4. During a Year meeting each student will be issued with a letter, containing a personalised log-in code and detailed instructions on how to complete the online elective subject selection process.

Each student will be required to return to school, to the front office, a printed copy of the subject selection screen, which has been signed by parents/carers.

This form must be returned to school by no later than Friday 20 October 2023.

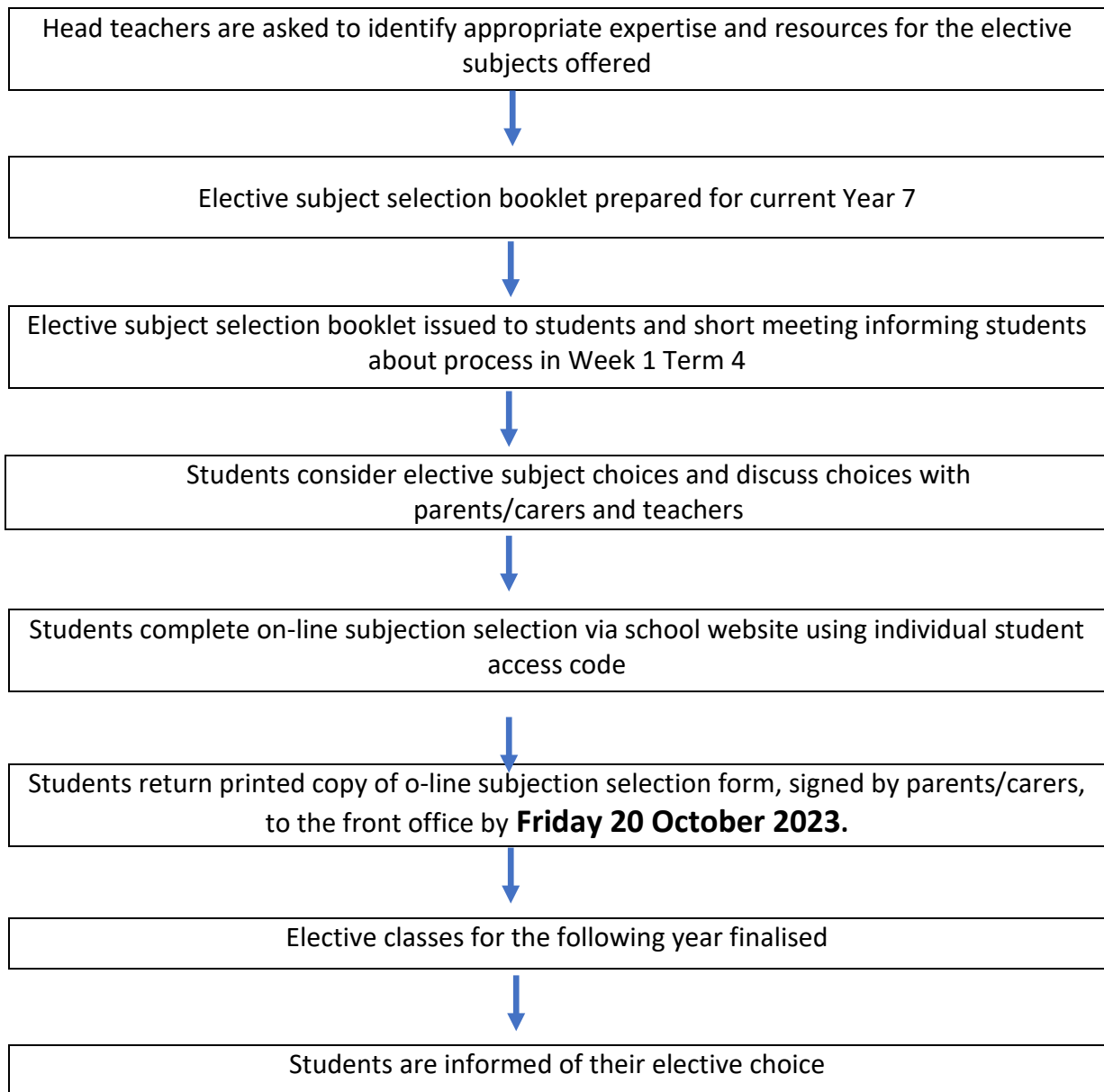
In signing this form, parents /carers are acknowledging and accepting responsibility for the payment of the course fees associated with the elective subjects chosen.

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Student Planning

One of the reasons for choosing subjects for next year, at such an early stage, is to allow both students and school to plan. For students it is important to take the time and research subjects before they make their final decisions. Completing the research and making the right choice, means that students have a smooth and uninterrupted start to Year 8. Experiences have shown that students changing subjects in Term 1 generally find it difficult to catch up and succeed in that subject. To avoid setting our students up for failure, we encourage students to get their choice right the first time and discourage subject changes in Year 8.

The process by which your electives will be decided




While every effort is made to ensure that students get their first choice, this may not always be possible due to limited class sizes and timetable constraints.

Elective Subject Selection Online Instructions

All students will receive a unique code to allow themselves to complete the online elective subject selection process, via email. When the code has been received, please **do not share this code with anyone else**, as they could log in and change your subject choices.

To select your subjects online:

- Go to the school webpage <https://stjohnspk-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>
- Click on the heading 'Student Learning'. This is shown at the top of the screen
- Click on the heading 'Courses we offer' then click on 'Subject Selection' (left hand side of the screen)
- Scroll down until you find Year 8 (here you can find the Elective Subject Selection Booklet)
- Then find the Edval logo  and click 'Online subject selection weblink'
- A screen will then come up with 'Edval'. There will be a space for you to sign into your account by entering your unique WebCode. (handed out at subject selection evening_
- You will then be taken to a screen in which you can select your subjects
 - Do not use the back button while selecting your subjects
 - You must choose your subjects in **order of preference 1 to 6**

The Edval website will be open from Monday 9 October 4.00pm to Wednesday 18 October 4.00pm

Important Information:

- You must print your subject selection form and have your parents/ caregiver sign the form
- Return for to the front office by **Friday 20 October 2023**.

Cook like a Chef

Faculty: TAS – Home Economics

Cost per student: \$50 per year

Course Description:

Learn to prepare and present food like a MasterChef! This course is a purely practical cooking course and includes dishes from the categories:

- Soups and starters
- Elements of main courses
- Desserts
- Café style food

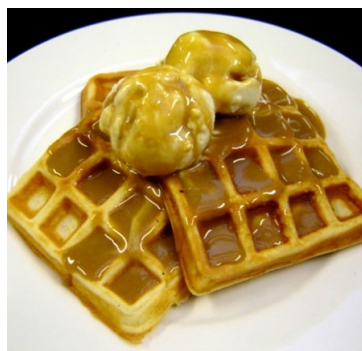
Some dishes include:

- Bruschetta
- Hamburger and Fries
- Brandy Snap Baskets with fresh berries and cream
- Chicken Vol au vent

By the end of this course students will be able to:

Know how to use a variety of kitchen equipment safely.

- Know how to use a variety of kitchen equipment safely
- Know how to present food like a Master Chef
- Prepare a wide variety of dishes from appetising entrees to delicious desserts



Italian Language for Travel and Tourism

Faculty: Languages

Cost per student: No Cost

Course Description:

Are you a potential traveler to Italy?

Do you want to develop skills in planning, travelling place to place and the ability to bargain, recognise interesting places and engage in conversation with the locals? Then Italian is the subject for you!

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Learn to communicate at a basic level using set expressions in shops, restaurants, sporting venues, discos, transport stations, round town, etc.
- Develop an understanding of the customs and culture of the country they are planning to visit
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Music – Pop/Rock Band

Faculty: Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

Cost per student: No Cost

Course Description:

Students will:

- Choose an instrument from: electric guitar, acoustic guitar, electric bass, keyboard, drum kit, percussion and vocals
- Learn to read print music appropriate to the instrument chosen
- Learn to play solo pieces, group (ensemble) pieces and Karaoke songs
- Perform on school assemblies, showcase concerts and talent quests
- Learn to improve as a soloist or member of a group
- Learn to use the latest technology for the chosen instrument, such as guitar pedals, amplifiers, PA and Hard Disk recording

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Learn how to play guitar, electric bass guitar, drum kit, keyboard, percussion, vocals and other instruments
- Have opportunities to compose/record their own compositions (This may involve computer editing, CD image creation and burning)
- Learn a variety of popular songs, original and remixed, from the beginnings of Rock 'n' Roll through songs from the 70s, 80s, 90s to the latest hits
- Develop the skills of musical appreciation



Sports Academy

Faculty: PDHPE

Cost per student: No upfront cost (Futsal Training \$50 TBA by teacher)

Course Description:

The subject 'Sports Academy' incorporates a wide range of physical activities, including adventure pursuits, competitive and non-competitive games, and individual and group physical fitness activities. The 'Sports Academy' is a practically based course, which enables students to develop and improve their skills related to movement and physical activity. There will also be a theory component of this course where students will learn about how to improve movement skills, as well as, learn about safety in sport, including rules and guidelines for the safe participation in a range of sports including soccer, athletics and swimming.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Develop the knowledge and understanding about sport and physical activity
- Examine basic anatomy and nutrition relevant to participation in sport
- Participate in various sports and events, such as Athletics, Swimming and Soccer
- Develop a foundation for efficient and enjoyable participation and performance in lifelong physical activity



STEAM

Faculty: Innovation

Cost per student: No Cost

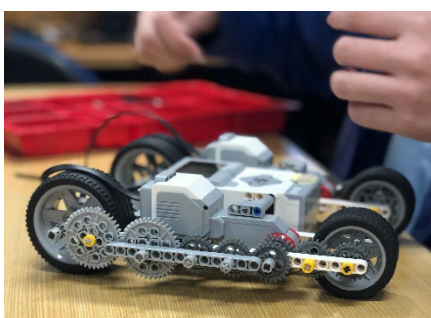
Course Description:

This course presents the study of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics to challenge students. Students will manage projects, work in teams, and engage in real-world situations which are the skills that are wanted by employers.

This highly interactive elective provides students with the curriculum to support the most up to date technologies including 3D printers, virtual reality, drones, robotics and a range of intelligent systems. It engages students in project-based learning and involves them in real-world issues including, climate change, future living, space exploration and designing spaces which incorporates student passions to create solutions.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Investigate, create and design solutions to real-world problems
- Develop their collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creative skills
- Develop their project management skills
- Learn to use design thinking methods
- Develop their use of technology



Working with Wood

Faculty: TAS – Industrial Arts

Cost per student: \$25 per year

Course Description:

Take your skills to the next level from what you learnt in Year 7. In Working with Wood, you will design and create various projects using a variety of techniques and tools that you have not used before. Projects such as lolly dispensers, games and many useful projects to use at home. With freedom to design and discuss your ideas with the teacher, see your ideas turn into reality and be proud of what you made yourself.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Develop basic skills using tools
- Follow routine instructions during assembly of timber items
- Be able to design specific projects for use at home
- Keep the work they have made



Year 8 2024 Elective Choice Practice Page

Course Code	Electives	Order of preference 1 to 6	Reasons why
8CLC	Cook like a Chef		
8ITA	Italian Language for travel and tourism		
8MRB	Music – Pop / Rock Band		
8SPA	Sports Academy		
8STE	STEAM		
8WWW	Working with Wood		