

FREDERICK IRWIN ANGLICAN SCHOOL



COURSE INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS AND STUDENTS

YEAR 8

The Year 8 curriculum contains a well-balanced introduction to a wide range of subjects. The curriculum provides an effective foundation for all subjects offered in later years. All subjects offered in Year 8 are set out on page 5.

Frederick Irwin has a curriculum, which is consistent with the Western Australian Curriculum Framework.

TIMETABLE

The school year consists of four terms, with Terms 1 and 2 in Semester 1, and Terms 3 and 4 in Semester 2. The School operates on a five-day timetable cycle with eight periods a day. A period is 40 minutes.

Students will be given an individual timetable at the start of the school year and a new timetable at the start of Semester 2.

USE OF SCHOOL DIARY

The School Diary is a vital link in the communication between school and home. It provides space for students to enter homework and other commitments and activities every day. It will be checked and signed each week by the House Group teacher, and must also be signed by parents.

Each student is responsible for entering their homework and/or work requirements and other daily activities in the School Diary. If this is done carefully and accurately, it will instil sound working habits, which will last through school and beyond. House Group teachers will help all Year 8 students develop effective skills in using the Diary productively.

HOMEWORK

The School supports the view that homework is an integral part of a student's education. Through regular homework, a student is able to develop the kind of study habits and skills that are essential for intellectual growth and academic achievement. Homework should be regarded as:

- 1 on-going study and review of each day's lessons
- 2 work set by teachers to be done overnight or by a set date, and
- 3 reading

To be successful, assignments need careful planning and regular work. Students will receive advice at school about how to plan and organise their studies.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

All subjects use a variety of assessment types - such as examinations and tests, folios of work, individual projects and group activities, oral presentations - with the emphasis varying from subject to subject. For most subjects, there will be major tests at the end of Terms 2 and 4.

The information gathered by assessment will be formally communicated to parents on three occasions during the year: an interim report at the end of Term 1, and more detailed reports at the end of Terms 2 and 4. There will be a Parent Afternoon/Evening early in Term 2, at which time parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with subject teachers.

LIBRARY ACCESS

Open 8.00 am - 4.15 pm each day

Students have access throughout the day including recess and lunch and are able to research and borrow resources at any time.

Study booklets, outline assignment sheets and planners are also kept on the OPAC desks for students to use.

PASTORAL CARE

YEAR CO-ORDINATOR

A staff member is appointed as a Co-ordinator for the Year Group. Whilst their role is primarily one of pastoral care, they aim to build up an overall view of their students. The Year Co-ordinator is given early warning of any problems or difficulties a student is having and will, if necessary, inform parents promptly. The Year Co-ordinator works closely with House Group teachers and subject teachers and consequently may be involved in discussing aspects of discipline and academic progress, as well as social and behavioural concerns with students in the Year Group.

To promote pastoral care of students the Year Co-ordinator will progress forward with the Year Group

HOUSE GROUP TEACHER

Each Year 8 House Group Teacher has responsibility for about 14 students.

The House Group Teacher will have daily contact with the students and will work closely with the Year Co-ordinator to guide and oversee the academic, personal and social development of each student in his or her care.

YEAR 8 ORIENTATION CAMP

Early in Term 1, as part of the orientation process for Year 8 students, a sleepover will be held at the School. The camp will be organised by the Year Co-ordinator and will include a number of activities to help engender teamwork and co-operation. This camp is intended to provide opportunities for students in each House Group to form friendships with each other, to get to know their House Group teacher and other members of staff. Parents will be provided with more detailed information early in Term 1.

SUMMARY OF SUBJECTS STUDIED

All Year 8 students study a common course, which is made up of two major components:

1) Subjects studied for the whole year:

English	6 periods of 40 minutes per week
Mathematics	6 periods of 40 minutes per week
Science	6 periods of 40 minutes per week
Social Studies	6 periods of 40 minutes per week
Japanese	3 periods of 40 minutes per week
Physical Education	2 periods of 40 minutes per week
Health Education	1 period of 40 minutes per week
Christian Studies	1 period of 40 minutes per week

2) Subjects studied for one semester:

Students will have the opportunity to study each of the subjects below for three periods of 40 minutes per week for one semester.

In the first half of the year students will study one subject from each of the groups. In the second half of the year students will study the other subject in the group.

This gives all Year 8 students the opportunity to 'have a go' at a range of subjects. Before going into Year 9 students have the opportunity to request four subjects to continue studying over the next year.

<u>Group a</u>	Art	or	Design & Technology
<u>Group b</u>	Food & Nutrition	or	Creating with Textiles
<u>Group c</u>	Music General	or	Information Technology

All classes in Year 8 are heterogeneous and all subjects are suitable for both boys and girls.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

1) Subjects studied for the whole year:

ENGLISH (6 periods per week)

In English students learn about the English language and how to use it effectively. In Year 8 English all students study a common outcomes based programme, which incorporates the four main areas of Speaking and Listening, Reading, Viewing and Writing.

A compulsory part of the Year 8 oral communications skills programme is the Oracy Assessment. All Year 8 students will be involved in preparing a ten-minute oral presentation consisting of:

- a prepared talk of three to four minutes on a topic of personal interest
- a memorized poem or piece of drama of two to three minutes
- an oral reading from a novel or short story for two to three minutes
- audience interaction section

Assessors from the Oracy Australia Association Inc. will assess the students. Each student will receive a report on their performance as well as a certificate indicating a pass at distinction, credit, highly satisfactory or satisfactory level. The preparation for the English Speaking assessments will be incorporated into the Year 8 programme's course work and assessment structure.

Student Journals:

Students will use an A4 exercise book as a general workbook for coursework, creative writing, reviews, journal writing and reflective writing.

Homework:

Students should do approximately 1½ hours English homework per week. Homework may include formal assessments or non-formal assessment work to be completed in the Journal.

Assessments:

All common assessment tasks are kept in a student display file. Both student journals and common assessment tasks contribute towards the semester grade of A, B, C or D.

Semester Examinations:

These will be held at the end of each semester and will assess skills outcomes that have been covered over that semester. Students will be made aware early in the semester of which outcomes will be assessed in the examination.

MATHEMATICS (6 periods per week)

The programme of work in Year 8 is designed to enable students to demonstrate achievement of Curriculum Framework outcomes of working mathematically in Number, Measurement, Space, Algebra and Chance & Data. Levels of achievement of the outcomes will vary considerable from student to student within an essentially unstreamed environment.

Students will be required to complete formal assessments which will include tests, extended responses and examinations and which address content areas listed below. Grades will be awarded for each Semester based on these tasks.

The text being used in 2007 is Heinemann 'Mathszone for Western Australia'.

Chapter 1	Whole Numbers
Chapter 2	Directed Numbers
Chapter 3	Fractions, Decimals and Percentages
Chapter 4	Patterns and Algebra
Chapter 5	Ratio
Chapter 6	Equations
Chapter 7	Cartesian Graphs
Chapter 8	Measurement
Chapter 9	Space
Chapter 10	Chance and Data

Homework will be set regularly and should be commenced on the night it is given. The teachers will check it on a regular basis and students should have this work ready when required. No excuse without a written signed note from a parent or guardian will be accepted.

At the end of Year 8 students will be streamed for classes in Year 9.

SCIENCE (6 periods per week)

Science and the application of Science through technology is part of our daily human experience and has relevance for everyone. A knowledge of Science enables people to value the system and processes that sustain life on our planet, and to take a responsible role in using Science, Technology and their applications in our daily lives.

The study of Science empowers students and encourages them to have as their focus the need to be inquisitive, to be questioning, reflective and most of all to be critical thinkers. The study of Science equips students with the skills and processes of Science emphasising the importance of evidence in forming valid conclusions.

The Year 8 Science course has been specifically designed to train the student as a scientific thinker and not as a person who is able to recite facts on demand. Consequently the emphasis is towards gathering information by various scientific processes such as experimentation, investigation, research, analysing and explaining observations.

Course Outline:

The course will follow the textbook, "SCI 2", fairly closely. Students will cover five main strands of learning. These are:

Semester 1

Working Scientifically
Natural and Processed Materials
Life and Living

Semester 2

Life and Living (continued)
Energy and Change
Earth and Beyond

The Topic Approach:

Various concepts from different Science areas are integrated to present discrete units of work organized about a 'thing' (topic). The content of a topic can vary from being as specific as Atoms to the much broader topic of Systems.

A programme based on a topic approach provides a degree of flexibility in sequence ordering and also provides an opportunity to focus on a special area of Science by integrating a wide variety of concepts to develop the main idea.

The text covers these five main strands of learning in various chapters. Within each chapter the content of the course will be studied in class but it will be necessary for the student to complete various activities at home whether they be questions from the text or long-term projects chosen by the teacher. In order to encourage organization and time management skills, the progress of student's work in long-term projects will be monitored and parents should assist in this process.

Assessment:

A student's semester grade is determined from chapter tests and examinations (50%) and from assignments and homework that are issued by individual class teachers (50%). The total mark for each semester is then converted to a percentage and used to assign final grades.

SOCIAL STUDIES (6 periods per week)

Themes:

Each year group works on information relating to a particular theme. For Year 8's this will be "Local and Western Australia". Although students will learn a lot about their local area, state and country, often they will compare these to other parts of the world to help them improve their awareness of other countries and their people and cultures.

Understandings:

These will give students some indication of the types of information they will be encountering and learning during the year. Year 8 understandings are:

1. The landscape of Western Australia is a combination of natural and cultural features.
2. Natural and cultural features have significantly shaped the landscape of Western Australia.
3. The impact of people on the Western Australian landscape has been both beneficial and harmful.
4. Local and external forces have shaped Western Australian society.
5. Western Australian society is comprised of groups with similarities and differences, which may co-operate or conflict over time.
6. Western Australia has a variety of resources, which are utilized in different ways.
7. Western Australian communities have similarities and differences with other communities past and present.

Outcomes and Assessment:

An outcome is a skill or achievement that a student is asked to demonstrate through the completion of different types of assessment tasks. At the beginning of the Year 8 course each student will be given a list of the outcomes, some of which will be formally assessed. Assessment tasks will occur throughout the year and will be in the form of tests, group work, presentations to the class, essays, class activities, worksheets, examinations etc.

Semester Examinations:

These will be held at the end of each semester and will assess knowledge and skill outcomes that have been covered over that semester. Students will be made aware early in the semester of which outcomes will be assessed in the examination.

Semester Results:

At the end of each semester students will be awarded a grade based upon their results for outcomes and assessment tasks completed over that semester.

JAPANESE (3 periods per week)

Year 8 Japanese is a theme-based, learner-centred course.

Themes:

Students use the “Mirai Stage 1” course book and activity book to cover the following themes:

- Introductions, greetings and personal information
- Numbers and counting
- Nationality
- School grades, timetables, subjects, describing subjects and teachers, classroom objects
- Requests

Students will learn to read and write in Japanese.

Assessments:

At regular intervals students will have quizzes and topic tests based on the four skill areas of

- Reading and Responding
- Writing
- Oral
- Aural

Written examinations will be held at the end of each semester.

Homework:

Students are expected to do 10 minutes homework four times a week to review grammar, vocabulary and to practice writing Japanese.

Japanese Week:

One week of a term is devoted to cultural activities and learning with a focus on Year 8 involvement. Students are involved in activities such as sushi making and origami.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES (1 period per week)

Content:

In Year 8 Christian Studies students learn about the basic beliefs of Christianity. Students will be able to say who Jesus is, why he died and what that means to people of the Christian faith.

Class Lead Services:

Each class will prepare and lead a service for other students at least once in the year.

Excursions:

In Year 8 we have a one afternoon excursion to a local Anglican Church for a service and exploration of the building.

First Communion:

Students will learn about the Communion Service, or the Eucharist as it is often called, and what it means. As a worshipping community the School offers each baptised child the opportunity to take communion.

Assessment / Homework:

The subject is assessed by assignment work, participation in class activities, discussions and a short test each semester. Students are given time to complete most work in class but may need to finish assignments at home for homework. A grade will be awarded each semester based on these assessments.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(2 periods Physical Education, 1 period Health per week)

The Health and Physical Education Learning Area consists of four strands of study:

1. Skills for Physical Activity
2. Concepts for a Healthy Lifestyle
3. Interpersonal Skills
4. Attitudes and Values

1. Skills for Physical Activity

Students in Year 8 will complete five practical units of work during the year. Students have an opportunity to choose from a range of sports that develop specific physical skills. The practical units and associated sports are:

- Aquatics, swimming and survival skills
- Throwing and Catching skills (Netball/Basketball/Volleyball)
- Athletics skills
- Kicking skills (Soccer/Australian Rules/Speedball)
- Striking skills (Cricket/Baseball/Softball/Tennis/Hockey)

2. Concepts for a Healthy Lifestyle

Students will be involved in units of work throughout the year that contribute to the development of knowledge and understandings related to the development and maintenance of a healthy, active lifestyle. The units of work are:

- Secondary Transition
- Interpersonal skills
- Puberty and Adolescence
- Physical Fitness
- Drug use in Australia (Smoking)
- Skin Cancer

3. Interpersonal Skills

The Interpersonal Skills strand relates to the progressive development of interpersonal skills such as communication, co-operation, collaboration and leadership necessary for effective relationships and healthy, active lifestyles.

4. Attitudes and Values

Through Attitudes and Values students indicate how they value participation in physical activity and healthy, active lifestyles.

Assessment:

Assessment in Health and Physical Education is based on the demonstration of specific outcomes related to a continuum of achievement for each of the four strands of study.

2) Subjects studied for 3 periods per week for one semester:

Group a

ART

Materials and equipment to be provided by the student:

A3 sketchbook

2B pencil

Artline 70 black pen

Art shirt – any old long sleeved shirt to protect school uniform

Projects:

1. Pastel painting - developing and understanding of the elements of design
2. Pottery – design and create a clay bust
3. Drawing / Lino print – an unusual portrait study is drawn and then developed into a hand coloured lino print

Assessment of projects:

Each project will be graded according to the Arts Learning Area outcomes:

- Arts ideas
- Arts skills and processes
- Arts responses
- Arts in society

At the end of the semester an average grade for each of these learning area outcomes will be determined and from these a final grade will then be determined.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Materials and equipment to be provided by the student:

A4 folder and paper

Pen, pencil and ruler

Materials and equipment to be provided by the School:

Aprons will be provided and must be worn at all times whilst in the workshop.

Eye and Hearing protection will also be provided. Students will be instructed in the use of the protective equipment and when it is necessary to wear it.

Tasks:

1. The designing and making of a decorative key tag from metal, timber or plastic.
2. The designing and making of a simple wooden toy.
3. The solving of practical design problems in the construction of objects suitable for the home.
4. Lathe machining.

Assessment of tasks:

A grade of A, B, C, D or E will be given at the completion of each task. Assessment is based on student self-appraisal and teacher evaluation. An effort rating will also be given for each assessment task.

Assignments:

These will be based on the hand and electrical tools used by the students during the semester and will be given at appropriate times during the semester, integrated with the design process.

Group b

FOOD & NUTRITION

Material and equipment to be provided by the student:

Exercise book
Container for food
Plastic sleeve for recipe sheets

Topics:

- Practical procedures – measuring, oven management, safety and hygiene
- Healthy Food Guide
- Healthy snacks
- Fruit, milk, eggs, meat, meatless meals
- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Desserts
- Organizing a function
- Being a good host / hostess
- Morning tea preparation

Assignments / Assessment:

Task 1 The Healthy Food Guide
Task 2 Variety of Practical Lessons
Task 3 Breakfast
Task 4 Bookwork

CREATING WITH TEXTILES

Materials and equipment to be provided by the student:

Exercise book
Pins
Hand sewing needles

Topics:

- Operating a sewing machine
- Different types of fibres
- Designing and making, a drawstring bag, a fantasy creature, a pencil case and a fabulous footy cushion
- Decorative stitches and appliqué

Assignments / Assessments:

Task 1 Machining operator's license
Task 2 Research assignment
Task 3 Sewing bag
Task 4 Fantasy creature
Task 5 Pencil case

Group c

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Materials required:

All consumables are supplied from the Information Technology department and a small levy is included in the fees to cover these materials.

Course content:

During the semester the students are given the opportunity to try numerous computer applications on multi-platform computers (both RISC and Windows). The duration of each task is approximately three weeks and includes tests that form part of a cumulative mark for the end of the semester.

Many Applications are covered and include:

- Desktop publishing – page composition and creation.
- Spreadsheets – basic introduction and use of formula.
- Authoring packages – creation of an electronic book using hyperlinks
- 2D and 3D Graphics work – pixel and vector based graphic work.
- Animation creation – creation of an animation sequence.

Applications are kept as generic as possible so the skills learned can be used across all computer systems. Homework is kept to a minimum, and when it is required, does not need the use of a computer. All tasks covered in Year 8 are developmental tasks for work set in Year 9.

MUSIC GENERAL

All Year 8 students study a general music course for one semester.

Topics covered:

- Sound, noise and music (definitions)
- Listening and simple analysis
- Musical instruments
- Rock music history
- Radio production

Project:

All students will complete a research project, choosing a group or a musician from the 1950s, 60s or 70s which is to include details and pictures of the artist(s), the fashions and lifestyle of the period and a timeline of the group's or musician's development.

Guitar Playing:

Students are given the opportunity to learn the guitar in a class setting. The techniques covered include simple chords, with appropriate sequences, strumming styles, and the first steps to advanced techniques such as barre and power chords. Guitars are provided.

Assessment:

There is no examination for this subject, although the guitar work is assessed by individual demonstration of skill attained. A grade is given by combining the assessment for:

- In-class assignments (bookwork)
- Project
- Practical guitar skills

In addition, those students who learn at least one instrument can apply to be part of the following programme:

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

The Instrumental Music programme at Frederick Irwin Anglican School currently has approximately 250 students learning on a variety of instruments including:

- Voice
- Flute
- Clarinet
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Violin
- Saxophone
- Piano
- Classical Guitar
- Jazz Bass Guitar
- Drums/Percussion

Students do individual 30-minute lessons each week with a specialist tutor.

For students who apply to enter the programme a small number of instruments are available for hire to beginning students for one year. Priority will be given to those who have their own instrument or who are continuing students from primary school.

When students are capable, they are expected to perform at our many performance occasions and to join particular musical ensembles that include:

- Two Concert bands
- Two Jazz ensembles
- Secondary Vocal ensemble
- 12 other instrumental ensembles.

Certain ensemble students attend a Music camp each year as well as various concerts within and out of School.

'Expression of interest' forms with detailed information about the programme are sent to all incoming students once accepted into the School.