



# LOWER SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

YEARS 7-10

LOWER SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE 2025

Electives | Specialist Programs | Courses

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# Introduction

This prospectus describes the curriculum for Years 7 to 10 at Pinjarra Senior High School in 2025. Students study compulsory courses (English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Physical Education) and undertake a range of Elective courses to complement their learning program. Many of these are mandatory for Year 7 and 8.

Year 7's undertake 'taster' courses throughout the year (eg: Home Economics, Digital Technologies etc.). This enables students to select their preferred Elective pathways in Year 8.

Students in Year 8 to 10 have the opportunity to choose Elective courses. This creates a more individualised program in addition to their MESH subjects, where students can build on and develop skills in the areas of their preferred courses.

The following table shows the core areas covered in Years 7-10:

Learning Area	Yr 7	Yr 8	Yr 9	Yr 10
English	●	●	●	●
Mathematics	●	●	●	●
Science	●	●	●	●
Humanities and Social Sciences	●	●	●	●
Health and Physical Education	●	●	●	●
Technologies	●	●		
Performing and Visual Arts	●	●		
Languages	●	●		

# Mandatory Courses

## English

The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and with the world around them. The study of English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society.

English aims to ensure that students: learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated texts across a growing range of contexts; appreciate, enjoy and use the English language in all its variations; understand how Standard Australian English works in its spoken and written forms; and develop an informed appreciation of literature.

*Any enquiries regarding English courses or classes should be directed to the class teacher or to the Head of Learning Area – English.*

## Mathematics

In Mathematics, students are: confident, creative users and communicators of Mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret situations in their personal and work lives and as active citizens. They are able to develop an increasingly sophisticated understanding of mathematical concepts and fluency with processes and are able to pose and solve problems and reason in *Number and Algebra*, *Measurement and Geometry*, and *Statistics and Probability*. Students aim to recognise connections between the areas of Mathematics and other disciplines and appreciate Mathematics as an accessible and enjoyable discipline to study.

*Any queries regarding Mathematics courses or classes should initially be directed to the classroom teacher or to the Head of Learning Area – Mathematics.*

## Science

In the Science Learning Area students learn to investigate, understand, and communicate about the chemical, physical, biological, and technological world and value the processes that support life on our planet. Science helps students to become critical thinkers by encouraging them to use evidence to evaluate the use of Science in society and the application of Science in daily life.

*Any enquiries regarding Science courses or classes should be directed to the class teacher or to the Head of Learning Area – Science.*

## Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

The Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Area develops students' understanding of how and why individuals and groups live together; interact with and within their environment; manage resources; and create institutions and systems. Critical thinking, leading to questioning and research, analysis and evaluation skills as well as an understanding of the different ways of communicating knowledge, underpin this course.

*Any enquiries regarding Humanities and Social Sciences courses or classes should be directed to the class teacher or to the Head of Learning Area – Humanities and Social Science.*

## Health and Physical Education

All students participate each year in the courses of Health and Physical Education learning which are interrelated and contribute to the development of healthy, active lifestyles for students. Programs allow students to develop essential knowledge, attitudes and values, and skills required for life. Students are engaged in both physical and classroom activities that allow students to enhance their wellbeing, now and in the future. Ability to communicate and cooperate with other students in practical situations will also be monitored and improved.

*Any enquiries regarding Health and Physical Education courses or classes should be directed to the class teacher or to the Head of Learning Area - HPE.*

## Languages - AUSLAN (Mandatory in Year 7 & 8 in 2025)

The Languages curriculum for Western Australia has been written on the basis that schools provide a Languages program in at least one language course, from Pre-primary to Year 10. As a minimum, all students will study a Language course from Year 3 to Year 8. In Year 9 and Year 10 the study of Languages is optional.

*In the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline, the languages courses will be compulsory for Year 7 and 8 students in 2025.*

The language course option AUSLAN enables all students to communicate proficiently by providing students with essential communication skills in AUSLAN, an intercultural capability, and an understanding of the role of language and culture in communication.



# Specialist Programs

## Pinjarra Football & Netball Academy (Extra Cost)

The Pinjarra Football and Netball Academy (PFNA) is delivered over the course of 3 years (from Year 8 to Year 10). The goal of the program is to develop students, during their middle school years, into self-motivated, disciplined individuals who develop into leaders within the school, and in the football and netball clubs in the community.

Students participating in the PFNA represent the school in interschool football and netball competitions as well as participating in a Triathlon Day, sporting tours of Melbourne and the Southwest and various other activities. The program is supported by significant community partnerships with Pinjarra Football and Netball Club and Peel Thunder.

Students will undertake core classes (English, Mathematics, Science, HASS and Health and Physical Education) within the normal school timetable. At the end of Year 7, students will be given the option to participate in the PFNA Draft Day and try out for the following year. PFNA students in Year 8 will have 2 periods of specialist elective time dedicated to the PFNA program. In Year 9 and 10, this will increase to 4 periods – the equivalent of one elective selection.

*Any enquiries regarding the Pinjarra Football and Netball Academy should be directed to the class teacher or to the Head of Learning Area - HPE.*

***This is an additional cost elective.***





## Academic Extension Program (Extra Cost)

The Academic Extension Program (AEP) is designed for academically able, motivated students who have a demonstrated commitment to high achievement.

The context of the program is Environmental Science and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Within this context, the curriculum will be delivered through an integrated model which enables both theoretical and practical exploration of the key principles of the program, these being:

- Environmental Characteristics
- Impacts of human activity - Conservation and sustainability
- Innovation and problem solving in real world contexts
- Enterprise skills - collaboration and teamwork, communication, problem solving, entrepreneurship
- Partnerships - community, industry, educational
- Values - personal and civic responsibility

Using these principles as a 'lens for learning', students will engage in all of the required curriculum areas, but will have a strong emphasis on applied learning and authentic, project based tasks.

Within the AEP program, students will be challenged to develop strong relationships and team work, self-management and academic skills within a highly supportive program structure. Students will work in outstanding educational facilities both on and off the school site and will access expert teaching within and across the curriculum disciplines.

***This is an additional cost elective.***

### Selection Process

The AEP program is available to selected students based on academic performance, interest and appropriately developed self-management skills. A selection process may be used in determining student suitability for the program.

Students will demonstrate the required standards through:

- Achievement of B grades for Mathematics and Science in Year 7, with at least a C grade achievement in English, HASS and Physical Education (Confirmed by final report).
- NAPLAN results reflecting achievement at proficiency Band 8 or higher.
- Strong records of positive and appropriate behaviour.
- Regular attendance.



# Year 7 Elective Courses

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In Year 7 students will have compulsory “taster” courses each semester. These courses will provide opportunities for students to experience the breadth of the curriculum at Pinjarra Senior High School to guide future selections for Years 8 to 10.

## Digital Technologies

This course focuses on developing understanding and skills in computational thinking. The main emphasis of this course is on developing a good base of knowledge and skills that progress into a competent operator of a computer. The course covers a range of topics such as design of the user experience, hardware, software and computer networking.

## Home Economics

In this course students will establish basic skills in both food preparation and textiles. They will be introduced to food hygiene and working with others in a safe environment to prepare foods to share and enjoy. Students will also learn basic sewing and construction skills to make craft products.

## Materials Design Technology

In this unit students will be introduced to a variety of material mediums including wood and metal. They will be introduced to the design process and how it can be applied successfully in the production of small projects. Students will learn to safely use a limited range of tools, machines and finishes.

## Languages - AUSLAN

The Languages curriculum for Western Australia has been written on the basis that schools provide a Language program in at least one language course, from Pre-primary to Year 10. As a minimum, all students will study a Language course from Year 3 to Year 8. In Year 9 and Year 10 the study of Languages is optional.

In the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline, *the languages courses will be compulsory for Year 7 and 8 students in 2025.*

The language course option AUSLAN enables all students to communicate proficiently by providing students with essential communication skills in AUSLAN and an understanding of the role of language in communication.

## Future Innovators

In this elective, students will be introduced to the design process. They will devise innovative solutions to problems, using enterprise skills such as teamwork, communication, modelling and exhibition to develop their projects. This course fosters creativity, critical thinking and entrepreneurship. Skills that are important to develop student leadership.



## Performing Arts

In this course students are encouraged to be creative and have fun with their ideas. Theatre skills such as voice, movement and staging skills are taught to assist students to communicate effectively with others and to build confidence in each individual.

## Visual Arts

Students will be able to develop their creative side or continue to build onto the foundation they may have from Primary school or the drawings and artwork they have been exploring in their own time.

Students will explore 2D and 3D artwork through a range of experiences such as drawing, painting, multi-media, printmaking and ceramic (clay) techniques. There are plenty of opportunities to display and exhibit student work such as parent nights and the annual Rotary Art Show and of course around Pinjarra High School.

## Music

Music promotes thoughtfulness and enjoyment. During Year 7, students will study the elements and devices of music through a range of performing, composing analysing and listening activities. Students explore a variety of instruments and use software and notation to create and perform music in both a solo and ensemble context. Technology will be incorporated to assist with compositional activities.

Critical listening skills and specific vocabulary will be introduced and students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding, skill and application of different topics covered. Students also have the opportunity to apply for separate lessons on a chosen instrument and become involved in the activities that happen throughout the school week to further enrich their musical experience.

## Year 8 Elective Courses

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In Year 8, students will select from a range of Electives which allow for a more individualised program to be created. Students will have the opportunity to develop skills in areas of their choice. The Digital Technologies and Language electives is compulsory for all Year 8 students plus study of at least one other Technologies course and one course each of Visual Arts and Performing Arts.

## Design and Innovation

Come and enjoy participating in a range of design-based projects that align to Humanities and Social Sciences Contexts. HISTORY! Build and test historically accurate, medieval trebuchets.

ECONOMICS and BUSINESS! Create an event or make a product, budget and market this idea and consider making it happen.

GEOGRAPHY! Understand alternative power sources and design a simple machine that harnesses the power of the sun or the wind.

You will get to engage in practical, hands on, innovative activities that challenge you to problem solve and collaborate with your peers. The key entrepreneurial skills of this course will be to design, improvise, devise testing criteria, collaborate, communicate, and adapt to changing situations. Get on board for a semester of fun!

## Languages - AUSLAN

The Languages curriculum for Western Australia has been written on the basis that schools provide a Language program in at least one language course, from Pre-primary to Year 10. As a minimum, all students will study a Language course from Year 3 to Year 8. In Year 9 and Year 10 the study of Languages is optional.

In the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline, *the languages courses will be compulsory for Year 7 and 8 students in 2025*. The language course option AUSLAN enables all students to communicate proficiently by providing students with essential communication skills in AUSLAN and an understanding of the role of language in communication.

## Digital Technologies

This course focuses on further developing knowledge and skills in digital technologies. Students are equipped with the skills to competently operate a computer in a home and work environment. Students use office and specialist application software to learn about and develop solutions for prescribed tasks. Tasks are designed to include the fields of web technologies, graphics, networking, coding and data manipulation.

## Home Economics - Food (Extra Cost)

In this course students will develop skills in food preparation. They will learn to apply appropriate food hygiene and working with others in a safe environment to prepare foods to share and enjoy.

## Materials Design Technology (Requirements)

In this course, students will work with wood or metal as the core materials in their project work. The design development process will be further integrated to assist each student to achieve individual solutions to each of the project challenges. A variety of different materials will also be explored and students will learn to safely use a wide range of tools, machines, fixtures and finishes.

### **Requirements:**

- **Demonstrated self-management skills**
- **Capacity to work independently and responsibly in a team.**

## Media

In this course students will learn how to communicate through many forms of the media. You will explore and experiment with multimedia through current and emerging trends in creating photographic works, making music videos and short films, TV broadcasts, radio, sound, graphics, basic animation and social media platforms through individual and group based tasks. You will be introduced to the Adobe editing software to create artworks to be viewed by your peers and outside audiences. This course allows you to gain new skills and techniques in media while feeding into other Creative Arts courses on offer at Pinjarra Senior High School.

## Performing Arts

Students explore improvisational skills to build on their movement, vocabulary and repertoire. They will discuss how the performing arts can communicate meaning and they will work in groups to create their own works which aim to tell stories and engage students in current issues and events. Students are encouraged to take up opportunities to perform for their peers, (at Year 6 Orientation, school assemblies, festivals and special events) which the school runs across its busy arts calendar. The Performing Arts unit of work will have Drama as its focus and is designed to lift a student's confidence in communication and group performance.

## Visual Arts

Would you like to be a little creative and try something different? Students develop a portfolio and have the opportunity to use and apply a variety of Visual Arts techniques to unleash their creative potential. Students will be able to create 2D and or 3D artwork developing individual ideas through viewing and exploring a range of media, materials and techniques. Students apply knowledge of techniques used by other artists and consider the development of their own artwork for school and the wider community; this may also include working outdoors, excursions, artist visits and incursions. Materials and techniques may include digital media, ceramics (clay), drawing, printmaking and mixed media.



# Year 9 Elective Courses

Students will be able to individualise their program by choosing courses within their areas of interest that will provide greater depth of study in each unit.

## Digital Technologies/STEM

This course focuses on extending a student's computing skills while exploring in greater depth the digital fields of web technologies, graphics, networking, coding and data manipulation. New fields of robotics autonomous engineering and database design are also included within the course content. Students use their learnt knowledge to problem solve and produce digital solutions to real life situations. A continual focus of the course is on engaging students with specialised learning in preparation for vocational training or learning in the Senior Secondary years.

## Home Economics - Food (Extra Cost)

Students will develop food preparation skills that will enable them to showcase their skills within the school and for special events. Students will learn the basics of food preparation, making healthy food choices, demonstrate basic knife skills, apply appropriate food hygiene, work with others in a safe environment and present food creatively. Students will be able to follow a pathway towards Hospitality and Nutrition.

## Materials Design Technology (Requirements)

In this course, students will work with wood or metal as the core materials in their project work. The design development process will be further integrated to assist each student to achieve individual solutions to each of the project challenges. A variety of different materials will also be explored and the students will learn to safely use a wider range of tools, machines, fixtures and finishes.

### **Requirements:**

- **Demonstrated self-management skills**
- **Capacity to work independently and responsibly in a team**

## Introduction to Automotive Technology (Requirements)

The Year 9 Automotive Technology course will be broken into 3 themes.

The first theme is automotive mechanical. Students will learn about common hand tools used in automotive workshops and how to undertake procedures such as raising and securing a car before working on it.

The next theme is automotive electrical. Students will learn basic electrical theory relating to low voltage DC circuits as commonly used in cars. They will learn how electrical circuits are constructed and will make their own low voltage circuit.

The final theme is a group project. This project will bring together the technical knowledge and will also focus heavily on innovative teamwork in a real life scenario.

This course will provide important fundamental skills for students who intend to study an Automotive course in future years.

### **Requirements:**

- **Demonstrated self-management skills**
- **Capacity to work independently and responsibly in a team**



## Drama

This course will focus on how to develop a role, creating fun and believable characters and act in small group scenarios. Students will use the elements of drama in reflections and performance. During the course students will have opportunities to perform to their peers in genres focusing on character, stereotypes and comedy skills.

## Visual Arts (Extra Cost)

Year 9 students will develop their creative and artistic side by being introduced to a range of techniques and skills. No previous experience is required and you will explore interesting ideas and use other means to help express yourself through to a final artwork such as applying digital media. Students will view works of art from a range of sources such as visiting artists, gallery visits, incursions and display completed works of art in local exhibitions as well as around our school. Students will continue to develop a portfolio of work and develop an awareness of the range of art styles and forms. We will be exploring 2D and 3D art forms and a range of materials and techniques which may include painting, printmaking, drawing, graphics, sculpture and ceramics (clay)

## Outdoor Education (Extra Cost & Requirements)

Students participate in a range of outdoor and physical activities which may include bush and camping survival skills, cooking, canoeing, bike riding, orienteering and snorkelling. Students selecting this course must be able to swim 200m and must be willing to participate in physical activity during lessons.

### **Requirements:**

- ***Demonstrated self-management skills***
- ***Capacity to work independently and responsibly in a team.***
- ***Students must have the ability to swim 200 metres without assistance.***

## Year 10 Elective Courses

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Students select Electives to individualise their program. Students choose courses within their areas of interest, with greater depth of study in each unit, to help develop skills and knowledge in preparation for Senior School.

## Outdoor Education (Extra Cost & Requirements)

Students participate in a range of outdoor and physical activities which may include bush and camping survival skills, cooking, canoeing, bike riding, orienteering and snorkelling. Students selecting this course must be able to swim 200m and must be willing to participate in physical activity during lessons.

### **Requirements:**

- ***Demonstrated self-management skills***
- ***Capacity to work independently and responsibly in a team.***
- ***Students must have the ability to swim 200 metres without assistance.***

## Automotive Technologies (Requirements)

In Automotive Technologies, students obtain skills and understandings relating to the component parts, accessories, systems and technologies of the automotive vehicle. Students develop principles underpinning the operation of aspects of vehicle systems. They also work towards the development of the introduction of knowledge and skills needed to service, maintain and repair these systems.

### Requirements:

- ***Demonstrated self-management skills***
- ***Capacity to work independently and responsibly in a team***

## Materials Design Technology (Requirements)

In this course, students will work with wood or metal as the core materials in their project work. The design development process will be further integrated to assist each student to achieve individual solutions to each of the project challenges. A variety of different materials will also be explored and the students will learn to safely use a wider range of tools, machines, fixtures and finishes.

### Requirements:

- ***Demonstrated self-management skills***
- ***Capacity to work independently and responsibly in a team***

## Home Economics - Food (Extra Cost)

Students are introduced to the cuisines and cultures of the world through investigations into each country as we cook traditional foods each week. A different cuisine/style of food is prepared each week as students learn the basic cooking methods to create fabulous dishes suited to the menu. Student must be willing to engage in both theory and practical components of the course.

## Drama

Whether a beginner or a strong performer, this course will lead to studying Drama at the General level in both performance and backstage roles. Students will develop confidence and explore improvisation, physical theatre, work with different costumes and stages through research and attend excursions to view live productions. They will learn to use stage makeup and special effects, such as horror makeup. Greater opportunities for students to perform for a formal audience may include the MADD Concert, Youth on Health Festival and Country week.

## Photography (Extra Cost)

Photography is continuously being defined by new techniques and trends, among the most important being colour and digital photography and printing techniques. Modern photographers often use these developments to present new viewpoints on traditional subjects and compositions. Whether you're beginning in the world of photography or building on the knowledge you already have, this course will be able to tap into your creative side with a contemporary photographic focus.

No previous photography experience is required. Students will develop and refine ideas through various photographic styles, skills and techniques as well as having opportunities to exhibit artwork to their peers and outside audiences. Adobe editing suite is introduced such as Photoshop, Lightroom and Nik Collection. Adobe InDesign, a graphics program, is introduced to develop a portfolio of work in preparation for senior school Photography.

## Visual Arts (Extra Cost)

Visual expression is part of everyday communication. Our ever-expanding digital platforms will also need more and more creative content. Whether you are beginning your Visual Arts journey now or have been building your skills over the past few years this course will continue to introduce you to a range of skills and techniques or help you to get in touch with your creative side. No previous art experience is required, and students will develop and refine ideas and ability to explore design ideas, produce art works and reflect and evaluate the process. Students will have the opportunity to work with visiting artists and participate in art exhibitions such as the local Rotary Art Show and display work locally and around the school. You will also can develop a portfolio in preparation for senior school Visual Arts study. Students will work in a range of materials, technology forms and styles and will become familiar with art terminology. These skills link to other creative areas and an understanding is important if undertaking further study in the future.





# Pinjarra

Senior High School



(08) 9531 7000



pinjarra.shs@education.wa.edu.au



[www.pinjarrashs.wa.edu.au](http://www.pinjarrashs.wa.edu.au)



16 McLarty Road, Pinjarra WA 6208



@pinjarrashs