



Pinjarra Senior High School

Lower School Prospectus

Lower School Course Guide 2026

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 2026. 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 and 8's undertake 'taster' courses throughout the year (eg: Home Economics, Digital Technologies etc.). This enables students to select their preferred Elective pathways in Year 9 and 10.

Students in Year 9 and 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 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 2026)

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 2026.

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. Additionally, Year 8 and 9 students may participate in the PFNA Draft Day if not already part of the program. 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

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 9 and 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.

Technologies

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 and 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 2026.*

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

In Year 8, students will participate in a range of Electives which are mandated by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA). Students will have the opportunity to develop skills in a variety of areas, preparing them for making informed selections as they progress to Year 9 and 10.

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 2026*. 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.

Technologies (Extra Cost and Entry Requirements)

Materials Design and Technology

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.

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

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

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**

STEM Innovation (Extra Cost & Requirements)

In Year 9, students begin their STEM Innovation journey by engaging in hands-on, project-based learning that encourages curiosity, resilience, and creative problem-solving. With a strong focus on environmental awareness, students explore design thinking, basic robotics, and coding, developing solutions to real-world challenges with sustainability in mind. The course fosters a growth mindset by encouraging students to embrace challenges, learn from setbacks, and persist in the face of difficulty. These experiences help students build confidence in their abilities and begin to discover future career pathways in areas such as environmental science, digital technologies, and engineering.

Performing Arts

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).

Sport, Fitness and Recreation (Extra Cost & Requirements)

Sport, Fitness and Recreation incorporates unique sports, fitness, recreational and outdoor activities as an alternative approach to Physical Education. This course is engaging, active, and interactional where skills are learnt by doing. This subject offers opportunities for students to increase and demonstrate attitudes that promote an active lifestyle, improve self-management skills like teamwork, and facilitate problem solving.

In addition to participation in practical sessions, students will also undertake tasks for equipment management and be involved in Sport Education in Physical Education Practice (SEPEP) - an interactive form of learning and teaching. This program includes but is not limited to: Resistance, Strength and Circuit Fitness Training, Golf, Flag NFL Football, Table Tennis, Lacrosse, Floorball, Orienteering and Outdoor Fitness. These unique sports are not included in general Physical Education classes so this course gives students a chance to explore a variety of different sporting and recreational pursuits.

Requirements:

- **C grade minimum in Year 8 Physical Education and/or recommendation by current HPE teacher regarding school attributes and PBS values.**

Year 10 Elective Courses

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 and 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.

STEM Innovation (Extra Cost)

This course builds on the foundational skills developed in Year 9, offering students more complex and environmentally focused projects that promote innovation and critical thinking. Students explore topics such as electronics, 3D modelling, and renewable energy systems, applying their learning to global sustainability challenges.

With a growth mindset approach, students are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, reflect on their learning, and continuously improve. This course connects STEM learning to real-world applications and career opportunities in fields such as sustainable design, environmental engineering, and emerging technologies, while preparing students for senior school and vocational pathways.

Performing Arts

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 school productions.

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.

Media Production and Analysis (Extra Cost)

Year 10 Media encourages students to explore how media works to influence, entertain, and inform audiences. Students analyse media conventions and representations and apply this knowledge to create their own media productions. They build practical skills in scripting, filming, and editing using industry-standard tools. The course promotes a growth mindset, where students are encouraged to take creative risks, learn from feedback, and continually improve their work. Assessment tasks focus on both practical production and analytical skills, with an emphasis on effort, reflection, and progress. This course is ideal for students interested in creative and digital industries. It supports pathways into careers such as film and television production, content creation, journalism, advertising, digital marketing, graphic design, and communications.



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