



GORDONVALE STATE HIGH SCHOOL

JUNIOR SECONDARY SUBJECT INFORMATION BOOKLET YEAR 8 ~ 2026



ADMINISTRATION

PRINCIPAL

Geoff Moore

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Dauida Laney - Years 7 & 8

Ellie Taylor - Years 9 & 10

Jacinta Evans - Years 11 & 12

HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

English

Humanities

Mathematics

Health and Physical Education

Sciences

Student Services 7 & 8

Student Services 9 & 10

Student Services 11 & 12

Diverse Learning Centre (Special Education)

The Arts & Technologies

Christopher Bowers

Kristal Kinnane

Louise Barbour

Matt Sperring

Kylie Sheehan

Joel Jerome

Todd Chatterton

Jean Richter

Caroline Elliott

Tennille Farnsworth

BUSINESS MANAGER

Sharlene Brosseuk

SUPPORT STAFF

Guidance Officer

Community Education Councillor

Youth Support Coordinator

School Based Youth Health Nurse

Clontarf

Industry Liason Officer/Executive Assistant

Kate Veronese

Thecla Mathew & Allan Yeatman

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OFFICE HOURS

The school office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00am until 4:00pm.

Payments for school fees, excursions or camps may be made by cash, cheque or EFTPOS during office hours.

SUMMIT

JUNIOR SECONDARY ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

The Gordonvale State High School SUMMIT Academic Excellence Program is a selective program designed for high-performing students who demonstrate exceptional ability, motivation, and a strong commitment to learning. The program provides a rigorous and enriching pathway that challenges students to achieve academic excellence while developing the skills and dispositions required for future success.

The four-year program (Years 7–10) supports students during the critical junior secondary phase, fostering advanced cognitive development alongside social and emotional growth. SUMMIT students are encouraged to set ambitious goals, demonstrate resilience, and persist through challenge as they work towards their academic potential.

The program focuses on extension and enrichment within the learning areas of English/Humanities and Mathematics/Science. Students may apply to participate in one or both academic pathways, depending on their strengths, interests, and aspirations. SUMMIT students combine with the remainder of their cohort for all other subject areas.

A defining feature of the SUMMIT Program is its emphasis on 21st Century Thinking Skills, including critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and independent learning. Students engage in a range of extension opportunities such as academic competitions, inquiry-based projects, and enrichment experiences. In the early years of the program, particular emphasis is placed on individual learning projects, allowing students to explore areas of interest in depth while developing strong research, organisation, and self-management skills.

ENROLMENT INTO SUMMIT

Students enrolling in SUMMIT can apply to be part of the Mathematics/Science strand or English/Humanities strand. Eligible students may enrol in both.

The school has high expectations of students offered places in the SUMMIT program and therefore their progress and behaviour is closely monitored. Students falling below the expected standards undergo a review and consultation process which may result in them being removed from the program. If places become available during the year, they may be offered to other students in the year level.

Access to the program is through a separate application process which is outlined on our school website.

STUDENT RESOURCE SCHEME

The school operates a Student Resource Scheme (SRS) under Education Queensland guidelines. The scheme aims to provide all students with the necessary textbooks and associated learning materials at considerable savings to parents. Parents have a choice of either joining the scheme or privately purchasing all the various textbooks, novels and other materials as well as paying for all other items included in the scheme. Stationery items are provided to Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 students as part of the scheme. Year 11 & 12 students are required to purchase what is listed on the booklist on the Gordonvale State High School Website. For further information regarding the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) please see the school website. During mid 2026 the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) charges will be reviewed by the school and endorsed by our Parents & Citizens' Association. Excursions and Camp fees are not included in the Student Resource Scheme.

What are the costs involved? These are yearly fees and are correct as at 1st March 2026.

YEAR 8

A single annual fee applies for all subjects studied - \$338 less \$164 (TRA) = \$174

Plus Elective Subjects per Semester (invoiced February & July)

Design and Technology (DAT) -	\$12.00
Food and Fibre Production (TFF) -	\$12.00
Food Specialisation (TFD) -	\$47.00
Visual Art (ART) -	\$40.00

A full breakdown of individual subject costings can be found on our Gordonvale State High School Website at <https://gordonvalehigh.eq.edu.au/enrolments/resource-scheme>

TRA = Government Textbook & Resource Allowance

DIVERSE LEARNING CENTRE

The Diverse Learning Centre (DLC) combines the traditional roles of Special Education and Learning Support units.

The DLC team supports students with verified disabilities, including Intellectual Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Speech–Language Impairment, Physical Impairment, Hearing Impairment, and Vision Impairment, as well as students who require additional support to access the mainstream, age-appropriate curriculum.

The DLC can access support and training for students from a range of specialists and services, including Department of Education personnel such as Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists, Regional School Nurses, and Advisory Teachers (Hearing Impairment, Vision Impairment, Physical Impairment, and Alternative/Augmented Communication).

Most students supported by the DLC participate in mainstream classes for some or all of their lessons. Some students may access curriculum at a different year level, depending on their individual needs.

Other programs offered through the DLC include:

- ASDAN – A program designed to develop life skills and work-readiness.
- Cooking Program – Supports students to develop independent living skills by learning to prepare simple meals.
- Social Skills for Living – Focuses on communication, emotional regulation, and interpersonal skills.
- Work Experience – Opportunities for students to engage in workplace learning (availability dependent on workplace access and transport).

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES			English Maths Science Humanities Electives		Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement in most applied/essential subjects
Core Subjects		Elective	Applied/Essential Subject		VET Certificate Course

ENGLISH

Through the study of English, individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and the world around them. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative and critical thinkers, and informed citizens.

The English curriculum is presented in year levels from Foundation to Year 10. Content is organised under 3 interrelated strands:

- Language
- Literature
- Literacy

Literary texts that support and extend students in Year 7 as independent readers may be drawn from a range of realistic, fantasy, speculative fiction and historical genres. These texts may explore themes of interpersonal relationships and ethical dilemmas in real-world and fictional settings, and represent a variety of perspectives. Informative texts may present technical information and content from credible sources about specialised topics

Year 7 students create a range of texts whose purposes may be aesthetic, imaginative, reflective, informative, persuasive and/or analytical; for example, narratives, performances, reports, reviews and arguments for different audiences. They learn the mechanics of writing through a Functional Grammar approach.

Assessment: Short response, Extended response, Examination, Multimodal presentation

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
ENGLISH	English			English Extension English	English Literature
					<i>Essential English</i>
Core Subjects	Elective		General Subject		<i>Applied/Essential Subject</i>

MATHEMATICS

In Year 8 Mathematics, students extend their understanding of number and algebra by working with linear relationships, equations and patterns. They investigate rates, percentages and proportional reasoning in practical contexts. Learning also includes measurement and geometry, such as transformations, angles and properties of shapes. Students analyse and represent data using a variety of statistical displays and consider probability. Students continue to strengthen their reasoning skills by exploring different solution strategies and applying mathematics to interpret and solve problems drawn from real-life contexts.

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Number, Probability and Statistics	Linear Relations and Modelling	Algebra, Exponents, Time and Geometry	Measurement and Geometry

Assessment: Students in Maths are assessed by written exams and an assignment each semester.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
MATHEMATICS	Mathematics			Mathematics	General Maths Maths Methods Specialist Mathematics
				Extension Maths Short Course in Mathematics	Essential Maths
Core Subjects	Elective	General Subject	Applied/Essential Subject	eLearning	

HUMANITIES

In Year 8, students will spend the year studying History, Geography and Economics & Business.

HISTORY

The Year 8 curriculum provides a study of history from the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern period, c.650-1750 AD (CE). This was when major civilisations around the world came into contact with each other. Social, economic, religious and political beliefs were often challenged and significantly changed. It was the period when the modern world began to take shape. The units studied are Medieval Europe (c.590 - c.1500) and The Vikings (c.790 - c.1066).

GEOGRAPHY

The majority of Australians live close to the coastline due to the economic, social and environmental opportunities that are not always available in remote parts of Australia. Due to human development, there are a range of issues that have arisen. The geography unit studied is landforms and landscapes with a focus on coastal management strategies. Students will devise strategies that address damage to coastal systems and evaluate these strategies against the economic, environmental and social criteria to determine which one will be the most effective.

ECONOMICS & BUSINESS

Every day students interact with the economy and business by consuming products. Students will study how the government influences the market and how individuals can create business opportunities. Other concepts studied include market operation, consumerism, what skills are required for future work, consumer rights and evaluation of market opportunities.

CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP

The focus of this unit is to explain how Australians are informed about and participate in their democracy. To do this, students will examine the role of political parties and elected representatives. They will examine and explain the role of rules and laws, and how they operate within society. Finally, they will examine how identity can be expressed and how this helps to define Australia's national identity.

Assessment: skills based collection of work, assignment with choice of mode and feasibility report

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
HUMANITIES	History	History	History	History	Ancient History Modern History Legal Studies Business Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies
	Geography	Geography	Geography	Civics & Citizenship	<i>Social & Community Studies</i> <i>Business Studies</i>
	Civics & Citizenship	Civics & Citizenship	Civics & Citizenship	Geography	
	Economics & Business	Economics & Business	Economics & Business	Economics & Business	Certificate II in Workplace Skills Certificate II in Tourism Certificate III in Conservation & Ecosystem Management
Core Subjects	Elective	General Subject	Applied/Essential Subject	VET Certificate Course	



SCIENCE

Science is a dynamic, collaborative and creative human endeavor arising from our desire to make sense of our world.

Students are encouraged to engage and raise questions to inquire, explore through hands on activities, explain skills and concepts, elaborate by applying their knowledge to a new situation and evaluate by reviewing and reflecting on their learning. Many of the fastest growing occupations and emerging industries require Science expertise.

In Year 8 Science, students will cover:

- Biological Sciences (study of living things)
- Chemical Sciences (study of matter, its properties and reactions)
- Physical Sciences (study of the nature and properties of matter and energy)
- Earth & Space Sciences (study of the Earth's dynamic structure and its place in the cosmos).

Semester 1		Semester 2	
Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Biological Sciences: Studying Living Things from Cells to Body Systems	Physical Scienc- es: Modelling en- ergy transfers and transformations in Minecraft	Earth and Space Sciences: The Dynamic Earth – The forces that shape the Earth and form rocks	Chemical Sciences: Classifying types of matter and distinguishing between Chemical and Physical Changes

Assessment: Students in Science are assessed by examinations, investigations and experimental investigations.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
SCIENCE	Science			Science Science Extension	Biology Chemistry Physics
				Aquatics	<i>Agricultural Practices</i> <i>Science in Practice</i> <i>Aquatic Practices</i>
Core Subjects	Elective	General Subject		Applied/Essential Subject	

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Years 7–8 curriculum builds on each student’s prior learning. During this time, a major influence on students is the world around them, and their peers become a key source of motivation and support when managing their health and wellbeing.

Students reflect on factors that influence their perception of themselves and their capacity to be resilient. Students explore behavioural expectations for different social situations. They develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to recognise instances of disrespect, discrimination, harassment and violence, and to act assertively to support their own rights and feelings and those of others.

Students investigate a range of health issues relevant to young people to understand the choices people make about their health and wellbeing. They examine the factors that can influence an individual’s choices, and explore and evaluate options, consequences, and healthier and safer alternatives. Students continue to refine their health literacy skills as well as their understanding of the sources of support available, to seek early help when they or people around them need it.

In these years, Health and Physical Education plays an important role in maintaining physical activity participation, through opportunities for skill development in a variety of movement forms that enhance performance and competence, as well as providing enjoyment and a sense of achievement.

Students practise and apply more complex combinations of skills and strategies in a range of movement situations and settings. They explore the range of factors and movement concepts that influence the quality of movement performances. They practise techniques that can be used to enhance their own and others’ performances.

Students have opportunities to practise using creative and collaborative processes to work in a group or team to communicate effectively, solve problems, resolve conflicts, and make decisions in movement and social contexts.

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
Theory: Relationships Practical: Net & Court/ Striking	Theory: Responsible decision making Practical: Athletics	Theory: ATODs Practical: Invasion Games	Theory: Growth and Development Practical: Student Wellbeing

Specific Subject Requirements: Appropriate footwear for practical lessons (as per GSHS uniform policy) and a hat for outdoors practical lessons

Assessment: Students will complete a variety of theory and practical assessments including, but not limited to, research reports, in class exams, movement tasks, and projects.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
HPE	HPE	HPE	HPE Fitness	Health Education Physical Education Recreation & Fitness	Health Physical Education Sport & Recreation Certificate III in Fitness
Core Subjects	Elective	General Subject		Applied/Essential Subject	VET Certificate Course

LANGUAGES

All students in Years 7 and 8 are required to do a semester of either Japanese or Intercultural Understanding. It is recommended students study the same subject in both year levels.

JAPANESE

Japan is Australia's 2nd largest trade partner in the world with many goods and services exchanged between the two countries. Japan is also the 10th most visited country in the world for Australians to travel to and there is a strong advantage for individuals who can communicate appropriately with Japanese people, be it for work or pleasure.

It is recommended that students have studied Japanese in Year 7. Year 8 Japanese teaches students an experience to read, write, listen and speak aspects of the language of 130 million people worldwide.

Unit 1	Unit 2
Giving directions and getting around – with travel to Japan a popular choice for Australians knowing how to interpret basic instructions is important. As a local, you might even be able to help a tourist in FNQ too.	Dining out – sushi is popular all throughout the world as a meal choice. There are other delicious foods to learn about and the customs of eating out in restaurants are also examined.

Assessment: Students in LOTE are assessed by the following tasks: speaking, writing, listening and reading.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese
	Core Subjects		Elective	General Subject	
					eLearning

TECHNOLOGIES

Technologies at Gordonvale SHS involves the study of Digital Technology, Design and Technology, Food and Fibre, and Food Specialisation. During Year 7, students have the opportunity to experience each of the Technologies subjects. In Year 8, students select two Technologies areas of focus from, studying one subject in Semester 1 and a different subject in Semester 2.

As students progress through the year levels, they may elect additional Technologies subjects.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Year 8 Design & Technology is a practical, hands on subject where students build upon skills developed in previous years while deepening their understanding of the design process. Students create physical projects and prototypes, documenting their progress in a project folio that records research, ideas, testing, and refinement. They generate, adapt, and develop design ideas, apply processes and solutions, and justify their decisions using established design criteria. The subject strengthens students' creativity, problem solving abilities, and confidence in producing well designed, functional outcomes.

Assessment: Safety glasses provided, covered in shoes, shirt tucked in, hair tied back.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Year 8 Design & Technology is a practical, hands on subject where students build upon skills developed in previous years while deepening their understanding of the design process. Students create physical projects and prototypes, documenting their progress in a project folio that records research, ideas, testing, and refinement. They generate, adapt, and develop design ideas, apply processes and solutions, and justify their decisions using established design criteria. The subject strengthens students' creativity, problem solving abilities, and confidence in producing well designed, functional outcomes.

Specific Subject Requirements: Safety glasses provided, covered in shoes, shirt tucked in, hair tied back.



FOOD & FIBRE PRODUCTION

Year 8 Food & Fibre Production is an engaging subject that focuses on environmental sustainability and sustainable agriculture. Students explore future farming practices from around the world and examine the social and environmental factors that influence modern food and fibre systems. They generate and adapt design ideas, develop processes and solutions, and justify their decisions using established design criteria. Throughout the unit, students complete formal theoretical components and take part in a variety of practical tasks, working both individually and collaboratively to deepen their understanding of sustainable production.

Assessment: Students in Technologies will be assessed through their practical assessment and written work (folio).

FOOD SPECIALISATION

Year 8 Food Specialisation develops students' knowledge and skills to safely and hygienically plan, prepare, and serve a variety of food products in a kitchen environment. Students generate and adapt design ideas, apply processes and solutions, and justify their decisions using established design criteria. Throughout the unit, learners also explore how to make ethical, sustainable, and healthy food choices, strengthening both their practical abilities and their understanding of responsible food practices.

Specific Subject Requirements: Covered shoes and hair tied back

Assessment: Students in Technologies will be assessed through their practical assessment and written work (folio).

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
TECHNOLOGY		Technology	Design & Technology Digital Technology Materials & Technology Specialisation Food & Fibre Production Food Specialisation		Cert II Engineering Cert II Hospitality Building and Construction
	Core Subjects	Elective	General Subject	Applied/Essential Subject	eLearning VET Certificate Course

THE ARTS

The Arts at Gordonvale SHS involves the study of Drama, Media, Music and Visual Art. During Year 7, students have the opportunity to experience each Arts subject with a specialist teacher. In Year 8, students select two Arts areas of focus from Drama, Media, Music or Visual Art, studying one subject in Semester 1 and a different subject in Semester 2. As students progress through the year levels, they may elect additional Arts subjects.

VISUAL ART

In Years 8, Art is all about exploring creativity, building foundational skills, and experimenting with different materials and techniques. Students will learn to draw, paint, sculpt, and create artworks while developing confidence in expressing their own ideas. They will study artists from different cultures and time periods to understand how art communicates stories and emotions. Throughout the year, students will practise observing the world around them, using the elements of art—like line, tone, colour, texture, form and shape—to produce thoughtful, imaginative pieces. Most importantly, Art encourages curiosity, problem solving, and discovering a personal artistic voice.

Areas studied include:

- Printmaking
- Ceramic sculpture
- Drawing
- Painting
- Mixed media

Assessment: Students will be assessed by practical folios and written work.

MUSIC

Year 8 Music explores how music can communicate meaning, mood, and atmosphere. Through responding to program music—including film scores, advertisements, and short films—students analyse and evaluate how the elements of music shape emotional impact and storytelling. Using digital tools, students create their own short stories or scenes and experiment with manipulating musical elements to build tension, convey atmosphere, and compose an original soundtrack. Students also develop their practical musicianship by refining their skills on a preferred instrument, applying musical techniques to support their creative work.

Assessment: Students will be assessed by practical performances, digital compositions, and written work (folios).

DRAMA

Students explore scripts and short scenes by rehearsing and performing in small groups. They develop confidence, creativity, and communication skills while learning how to use voice, movement, facial expression, and space to create believable characters. Students also reflect on and evaluate performances, including their own and those of others, considering characterisation, acting skills, and how effectively the performance communicates meaning and engages an audience.

Specific Subject Requirements: Nil

Assessment: Students will be assessed by practical performances and written work (folios).

MEDIA

In Media Arts, students are introduced to a range of techniques used by filmmakers to entertain, inspire, and educate audiences. They explore how meaning is created in moving-image media by identifying and explaining shot types, camera angles, and symbolic codes. Using digital technology, students apply these techniques to design and create a folio showcasing their understanding of cinematic conventions. Throughout the unit, they develop foundational skills in visual storytelling, media analysis, and creative production.

Assessment: Students will be assessed by a practical element (video/image production) and a written element (script, shotlist, storyboard, analysis).

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11 & 12
THE ARTS	Drama Media Music Visual Art			Drama Media Music Visual Art	Drama Film & Television Music Visual Art
					<i>Visual Arts in Practice Media Arts in Practice Music in Practice</i>
Core Subjects	Elective	General Subject		Applied/Essential Subject	VET Certificate Course



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