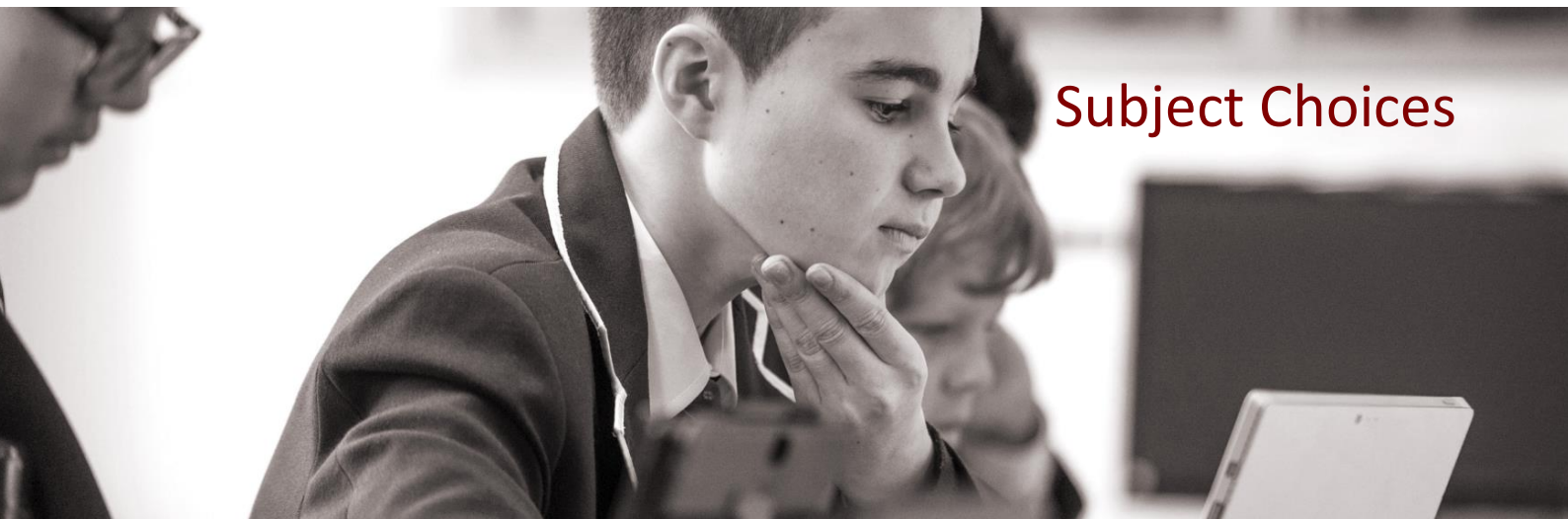




Middle School 2018

Subject Choices



This booklet provides information regarding Languages and Arts elective choices for new Year 7-9 Students at Prince Alfred College for the 2018 academic year. In addition to these elective choices, students study a range of subjects from eight learning areas in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Curriculum. Language and Arts elective choices made in 2018 are intended to continue through Years 7 to 9; as such it is important to consider these options carefully and to make positive choices based on interest, enjoyment, previous experience, and potential for future success.

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Languages

The *Australian Curriculum: Languages* is designed to enable all students to engage in learning a language in addition to English. The design of the Australian Curriculum: Languages recognises the features that languages share as well as the distinctiveness of specific languages. There are aspects of the curriculum that pertain to all languages. The key concepts of language, culture and learning underpin the learning area. They also provide the basis for a common rationale and set of aims for all languages. Recognising that learners can approach languages from diverse backgrounds, prior learning and motivations, Prince Alfred College offers both Asian and European language studies, set at different levels within each year group [*Australian Curriculum: Languages*]

Students choose ONE language to study. It is intended that studies in this language continue through Years 7-9.

French | Français

More than 220 million people speak French worldwide, and French is a major language of international communication. It is the second most widely learned language after English and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. French is also the second most widely taught language after English, and is taught on every continent. French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. Proficiency in French is an advantage for students interested in foreign service, translating/interpreting, medicine, linguistics and law. France also operates the biggest international network of cultural institutes (Alliance Française), which run French-language courses for over a million learners.

Chinese | 官话

With more than a billion speakers around the world, Chinese language is the most widely spoken language on earth. Chinese is learned through both *pinyin* (alphabetical) and character-based forms, with character vocabulary and use increasing in each year of study. Balancing the need to familiarise students with the use of characters is the fact that Chinese has no tenses, no cases, no genders and simple grammar. China is one of the world's oldest and richest continuous cultures, at over 5000 years old. Learning Chinese enables you to delve into this remarkable culture through its strong literary and cultural traditions. China is the second largest economy in the world, and it can be a great advantage to be able to speak Chinese and operate successfully in a Chinese cultural context – particularly within the Asia-Pacific region.

Italian | Italiano

Italian occupies a special position in Australia, particularly in South Australia which has one of the highest proportions of Italian migrant families in the country. It is a language of high culture and also a language spoken by one of the largest ethnic communities in the country. Learning Italian will give you access to one of the richest European cultural traditions and to the language of opera, film and music as well as the language of architecture, fashion and industrial design. Italian today is one of the eleven official languages of the European Union. Italy is a member of the G8 (the eight most industrialised countries in the world) and one of Australia's largest trading partners. Learning Italian is advantageous for students interested in international law, economics, commerce and trade. In addition, because of the large number of Italian speakers in Australia, Italian is relevant to such areas as migrant studies and sociology.

Arts

Arts in Years 7-9 is offered on an elective basis. Students choose two out of three broad Arts areas to study, allowing them to make positive study choices and providing the opportunity to develop expertise in particular Arts areas.

The Arts is a learning area that draws together related but distinct art forms. While these art forms have close relationships and are often used in interrelated ways, each involves different approaches to arts practices and critical and creative thinking that reflect distinct bodies of knowledge, understanding and skills. The arts have the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, exciting the imagination and encouraging them to reach their creative and expressive potential. At Prince Alfred College, students are encouraged to begin to specialise in their preferred arts forms in either visual or performing arts studies [*Australian Curriculum: The Arts*]

Students choose TWO Arts areas to study. It is intended that studies in these Arts areas continue through Years 7-9.

Art

Years 7 - 9 Art is offered as a broad multi-disciplinary range of aesthetic experiences that encourages a willingness to engage and to create. As such, Visual Arts caters for students of relative inexperience right through to those with more extensive visual arts background. This subject encourages risk taking and lateral thinking, whilst extending and developing practical expertise in a range of media including; traditional methods such as drawing, painting and sculpture as well as digital media such as Photoshop, Illustrator and Sketch-up. Visual Arts has exciting project based experiences such as 3D perspective drawing, logo graphic design, and self-portrait etching, which nurtures each student to explore ideas and create their own art and design works. The courses for years 7, 8 and 9 focus on creative and critical thinking, and these approaches, as well as their associated practical skills, equip students for further study in Art and Design in both SACE and the IB. University study and associated careers in architecture, fine arts, engineering, marketing, film and television, game design and multimedia all have strong connections to a middle school Visual Arts experience.

Drama

Through Drama, students learn to express their ideas, thoughts and opinions as they discover and understand the world. They learn that creating, making and presenting their work is as essential to learning in Drama as is being involved in a performance. Students develop their dramatic knowledge and understanding through participating actively in creative workshops, while learning the symbols, techniques, processes and skills of Drama. Drama learning provides students with opportunities to engage with creative industries and arts professionals and to learn about the potential for careers in performance and film. Students in Drama will learn about the history of theatre across diverse cultures. Drama contributes to the development of confident and creative individuals by encouraging and nurturing the student's creative, communication, group and movement skills. All students are encouraged to value performing and presenting as part of their learning.

Music

beginner: no previous experience in instrumental or ensemble performance

advanced: at least one year of instrumental/vocal study and/or ensemble performance

Music gives a child the possibility to use the mind in the most creative way, achieved through focus, intention and intense thought. The subject of Music caters for both the advanced instrumental player/singer and the boy with little or no experience. Through Year 7 to 9 the course allows students to experience creating and modifying music in a contemporary setting using class sets of computers with Garage band and Sibelius software. Students also have the opportunity to play music in class ensembles appropriate to each individual's standard. Students will learn the fundamentals of music in an engaging setting of practical performance together with relevant and interesting musicianship tasks. Analysis skills are also taught through the study of music context and styles. Students can if they wish take up an instrument and or singing as part of their study. The more advanced musician is also able to undertake solo performance as a part of course work.



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