



Alphington
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Secondary Curriculum Pathways

CRICOS CODE: 018421J

PRIMARY COURSE CODE: 043106A

SECONDARY COURSE CODE: 18421J

Secondary School

The Secondary Years at Alphington Grammar School will continue to build on the learning and experiences your child encountered in their Primary Years. We expose Years 7 and 8 students to many curricular and co-curricular opportunities as they transition to Secondary School and discover more things about themselves and the world around them.

While every student is extended and expected to *Aspire to Excellence*, during Years 7 and 8 we also run an Advanced Learning Program for High Achieving students (The ALPHA Initiative). This program promotes higher order thinking skills, creativity, independent learning skills and ultimately paves the path to other accelerated learning opportunities.

During Years 9 and 10, the social and emotional development of our students is underpinned by our wellbeing curriculum delivered in partnership with our external providers; *The Resilience Project*, *Consent Labs* and *Gameplan*. Students also participate in the Global Gateways Program which will help them to understand new cultures and appreciate cultural diversity.

By the time they enter the VCE years, students will have been exposed to a breadth of learning areas and experiences to ensure they are selecting an academic program that ignites their passions and enhances their abilities. They will have also completed several workshops with our external exam preparation partners, *Elevate*.

The broad education offered at Alphington Grammar School aims to develop all students into young people who will be work ready, able to actively engage with the world they will help shape. We trust it will be a rich and rewarding educational journey.



Years 7 and 8

During Years 7 and 8 all students follow the same broad curriculum, providing a solid base for learning across a range of disciplines. The timetable operates on a 10 day cycle, with the periods of study per subject shown in brackets. The subject areas are listed below.

Year 7

English (9)

Maths (9)

Science (9)

Humanities (8) - History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business

LOTE: Greek (7), Chinese (7)

Physical Education (4)

Digital Technologies & Design (4)

Art (4)

Music (4)

Drama (4)

EISM Sport (6)

Assembly (1)

Health and Wellbeing (2)

Year 8

English (9)

Maths (9)

Science (9)

Humanities (8) - History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business

LOTE: Greek (7), Chinese (7)

Physical Education (4)

Digital Technologies & Design (4)

Art (4)

Music (4)

Drama (4)

EISM Sport (6)

Assembly (1)

Health and Wellbeing (2)



Year 9

As the students progress into Years 9 and 10, alongside the CORE subjects studied by all, they are given the opportunity to choose from an increasing range of electives across the two years.

CORE SUBJECTS

English (9)

Maths (9) - Students allocated into General Maths or Maths Methods streams from start of year

Science (9)

Humanities (8) - History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business

LOTE: Greek (7), Chinese (7), Chinese Second Language (7)

Health & Physical Education (5)

Digital Enterprises: Robotics (5)

EISM Sport (6)

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (All students select 2 electives per semester)

Media (5)

Art (5)

Music (5)

Drama (5)

Please note: All electives are offered subject to sufficient interest and enrolment.



Year 10

As students progress into Year 10, alongside the CORE subjects studied by all, they are given the opportunity to complete an accelerated VCE subject. This is designed to expose the Year 10's to the rigours of a VCE subject before they enter Year 11. It is also designed to reduce the subject load when in Year 12.

CORE SUBJECTS

English or EAL (9)

Maths (9) - Students allocated into General Maths or Maths Methods streams from start of year

Science (9) - Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology

Humanities (9) - History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business

EISM Sport (6)

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS (All students select 3 electives per semester)

Greek (9)

Chinese Second Language (9)

Art (9)

Music (9)

Visual Communication and Design (9)

Exercise Science (9)

Drama (9)

Students select two (2) electives and one (1) accelerated subject.

ACCELERATED VCE ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Business Management Units 1 and 2 (9)

Media Units 1 and 2 (9)

Health and Human Development (9)

History Units 1 and 2 (9)

Applied Computing Units 1 and 2 (9)

All electives are offered subject to sufficient interest and enrolment.



Introduction to VCE

A VCE program includes a number of different VCE studies (or subjects). These units can be completed over the two years, with a unit representing one semester or half a year of work. Units 1 and 2 are typically undertaken in Year 11, while Units 3 and 4 are usually completed in Year 12

What is the VCE?

The VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) is a course undertaken in order to complete secondary education in Victoria. It is conducted under the guidance of the VCAA (Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority). It is the basis for attaining an ATAR (Australian National Tertiary Admissions Rank) for tertiary selection.

What must I include in my VCE program?

In order to obtain the VCE, students must satisfactorily complete (attain 'S' outcomes) in at least:

- 3 English units (a unit is half a year's study of a subject)
- 3 Sequences of units 3 and 4
- 7 further units
- 16 units in total

What are the attendance requirements for the VCE?

All VCE units require 50 hours of class time, which equates to 93%. You need to attend sufficient class time to complete work.

How is the VCE assessed?

In Unit 1 and 2 VCE studies, students are assessed on their coursework and are awarded 'satisfactory completion' if they meet the requirements of each unit. In Unit 3 and 4 studies, students undertake formal graded assessments, including school-based coursework and at least one examination (written, oral or performance exams according to the study), which are set and marked by VCAA.

A study score shows how well students have performed in a study at Unit 3 and 4 level, compared to everybody else in Victoria who took that study. The maximum study score is 50. Each year, and for every study, the mean study score is set at 30. A score of between 23 and 37 shows that you are in the middle range of students; a score of 40 or more indicates that you are in the top 9%.

Students are encouraged to seek advice regarding their choice of subjects from the Careers Practitioner. The Assistant Principal - Head of Secondary is also available for consultation.

Points to Consider




- Many students are unsure about which subjects to choose. The most important thing is to pick subjects that you're interested in and capable of doing. Never choose a subject because it scales well.
- Think about your interests and career aspirations.
- Talk to your family, friends and teachers about your plans and get feedback from people you may know who work in your area of interest.
- Explore the web and printed material for information on career choice, pathways and courses.

VCE Common Study

ENGLISH

At Alphington Grammar School the study of English branches at Years 11 and 12 into two subjects: English and Literature. The Study of English or Literature is a compulsory component of a student's VCE program. Students thus are presented with three possible pathways:

PATHWAYS OF STUDY FOR ENGLISH

Year 11		Year 12
English Units 1 and 2		English Units 3 and 4
Literature Units 1 and 2		English Units 3 and 4* or Literature Units 3 and 4
Units 1 and 2 English and Literature		English Units 3 and 4 and / or Literature Units 3 and 4

*For this to combination of units students will need to undertake some supplementary study with respect to assumed knowledge and skills for Area of Study 2, Analysing and Presenting Argument from Units 1 and 2.

Approval for all pathways are subject to the approval of the Head of EHASS.



VCE Common Study

MATHEMATICS

Recommended pathways through VCE Mathematics

Year 10		Year 11 Units 1 and 2		Year 12 Units 3 and 4
Advanced		Specialist Mathematics		Specialist Mathematics (Must be taken with Mathematical Methods)
		Mathematical Methods		Mathematical Methods (May be taken on its own)
Mainstream		Mathematical Methods		Mathematical Methods (May be taken on its own)
		General Mathematics		Further Mathematics (May be taken with Mathematical Methods)
Core		General Mathematics		Further Mathematics (May be taken on its own)
		No Mathematics		

Entry into VCE Mathematics

Before their VCE subject selection process, all students in Year 10 will receive a recommendation regarding the Mathematics that they are most suited for. These will be largely based on students' test scores and examination results from Semester 1 using the following criteria:

Recommendation	Criteria
No Mathematics at VCE	Test Average and Examination below 35%
General Mathematics Units 1 and 2	Test Average and Examination above 45%
Mathematical Methods Units 1 and 2	Test Average and Examination above 70%
Specialist Mathematics Units 1 and 2	Test Average and Examination above 85%

Please note that each student is considered individually and recommendations are made at the teacher discretion in consultation with the Head of S.T.E.M.

Year 11

As they progress into Years 11 and 12, students begin their VCE studies. Units 1 and 2 are studied during Year 11. Units 3 and 4 are studied in Year 12. Where relevant it may be necessary to complete all 4 units in sequence. The subject areas are listed below.

UNITS 1 AND 2

EHASS

- Business Management (9)
- English or EAL (9)
- History (9)
- Legal Studies (9)
- Media (9)

STEM

- Applied Computing (9)
- Biology (9)
- Chemistry (9)
- General Maths (9)
- Maths Methods (9)
- Physics (9)
- Psychology (9)

LOTE

- Chinese First Language (9)
- Chinese Second Language (9)
- Chinese Second Language Advanced (9)
- Greek (9)

Health & PE

- EISM Sport (6)
- Health and Human Development (9)
- Physical Education (9)

Music & Arts

- Music (9)
- Visual Communications and Design (9)

Please note: All subjects are offered subject to sufficient interest. All students must study English, Literature or EAL. Enrolment in Literature will only be approved in consultation with the Head of EHASS.



Year 12

UNITS 3 AND 4

EHASS

- Business Management (9)
- Economics (9)
- English or EAL (9)
- Literature (9)

STEM

- Biology (9)
- Chemistry (9)
- Further Maths (9)
- Maths Methods (9)
- Physics (9)
- Psychology (9)

LOTE

- Chinese First Language (9)
- Chinese Second Language (9)
- Chinese Second Language Advanced (9)
- Greek (9)

Health & PE

- Physical Education (9)
- Health and Human Development (9)

Music & Arts

- Music (9)
- Studio Arts (9)
- Visual Communications and Design (9)

Please note: All subjects are offered subject to sufficient interest. All students must study English, Literature or EAL. Enrolment in Literature will only be approved in consultation with the Head of EHASS.



VCAA STUDY DESIGNS

ACCOUNTING

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/Accounting/Pages/index.aspx>

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/businessmanagement/2023BusinessManagementSD.docx>

ECONOMICS

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/economics/2023EconomicsSD.docx>

LEGAL STUDIES

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/legalstudies/Pages/Index.aspx>

BIOLOGY

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/biology/Pages/Index.aspx>

CHEMISTRY

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/chemistry/Pages/Index.aspx>

PHYSICS

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/physics/Pages/Index.aspx>

PSYCHOLOGY

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/psychology/Pages/Index.aspx>

ENGLISH/EAL

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/english/2023EnglishEALSD.docx>

LITERATURE

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/literature/2023LiteratureSD.docx>

TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORY UNIT 1 AND 2

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/history/Pages/Index.aspx>

HISTORY: REVOLUTIONS UNIT 3 AND 4

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/revolutions/Pages/index.aspx>

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/physicaledu/2017PhysicalEducationSD.pdf>

APPLIED COMPUTING AND DATA ANALYTICS

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/computing/Pages/Index.aspx>

GENERAL MATHEMATICS

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/generalmathematics/Pages/Index.aspx>

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/furthermathematics/Pages/Index.aspx>

MATHEMATICAL METHODS

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/mathematicalmethods/Pages/Index.aspx>

SPECIALIST MATHEMATICS

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/specialistmathematics/Pages/Index.aspx>

MEDIA

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/Media/Pages/Index.aspx>

STUDIO ART

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/studioarts/Pages/Index.aspx>

VISUAL COMMUNICATION AND DESIGN

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/visualcommunicationdesign/Pages/Index.aspx>

CHINESE - FIRST LANGUAGE

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/chinese-firstlanguage/Pages/Index.aspx>

CHINESE - SECOND LANGUAGE

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/chinese-secondlanguage/Pages/Index.aspx>

CHINESE - SECOND LANGUAGE ADVANCED

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/chinese-secondlanguage/Pages/ChineseSecondLanguageAdvanced.aspx>

GREEK - SECOND LANGUAGE

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/greek/Pages/Index.aspx>

HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/healthandhumandevelopment/2018HealthHumDevSD.pdf>

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/music/Pages/Index.aspx>