Lakeside
COLLEGE

Year 9 Handbook

2027



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Welcome

Curriculum Overview



On behalf of all members of the Lakeside College community - welcome to Year 9. This is a very exciting stage in your educational journey. The Lakeside College Secondary School program provides you with an opportunity to experience an exciting range of new subjects, meet new teachers, and develop solid friendships. We value respectful relationships between students, teachers, and parents and our programs are designed to help our students grow into resilient, life-long, and curious learners.

There has been much research about the importance of Year 9 as a crucial stage in a child's educational journey. Year 9 students are becoming more and more independent and this is a time where students are encouraged to take up different opportunities for learning and pursue their interests and passions

Year 9 students are given numerous opportunities to learn outside of the classroom. We have an extensive sporting and co-curricular program that engages students in a variety of interesting and challenging activities. Taking part in co-curricular activities gives students access to new experiences, helps them develop new skills, and allows them to meet students from different classes and year levels. It also allows them to investigate different interests and new ways of learning.

We encourage all of our students to embrace all the opportunities available to them. Our aim is for all students to better understand themselves as learners and embrace opportunities to grow academically, physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Our learning and teaching programs are designed to challenge all students appropriately and we use various sources of data to inform our practices and approach to learning.

Mr. Josh Rosaia
Acting Head of Secondary School

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Year 9 at Lakeside College

At Lakeside College, our curriculum is designed around the learning outcomes identified in the Australian Curriculum. At Year 9, all students experience a range of subjects across different disciplines with specialist teachers as well as accessing an extensive Elective Studies Program. Some key features of the Year 9 program include:

- Core studies in English, Maths, Science, Health and Physical Education, German (Languages), Christian Studies & Humanities
- Our Christian Studies Program is based on the Christian Studies Curriculum Framework produced by Lutheran Education Australia
- An extensive Elective Studies Program that enables students to complete up to four semester-based units throughout the year. The Elective Studies Program is designed to give students an opportunity to try different subjects from a variety of disciplines. It also enables them to indulge their passions by selecting more than one elective from the same discipline.
- Year 9 students also participate in a comprehensive Pastoral Care program, which takes place for 50 minutes a week. The program focuses on the development of resilience, peer relationships, leadership, as well as individual health and wellbeing.
- All Year 9 students participate in a camp program. The program is designed to help students build resilience, set achievable goals and learn the value of challenging themselves through the development of a growth mind-set.
- All Lakeside students belong to a Homeroom and the Homeroom Teacher plays an important role in supporting our students. All students are expected to engage in Homeroom-based activities, including taking part in and organising devotion/prayer.



The Role of the Homeroom Teacher

The Homeroom teacher plays a significant part in how we educate young people. As students grow through their teenage years into adolescence, they experience a number of physical, emotional, and social changes. For some students, this can be a very unstable, stressful and anxiety-provoking time.

This instability affects the wellbeing and learning of students. We recognise that students who do not feel safe, secure and protected will struggle to learn and this has been backed by a significant amount of research.

Our nurturing Homeroom environments provide stability and care through:

- Daily connection with a teacher and check in-space,
- One main point of communication between home and school
- A place to help develop spiritually, emotionally, and interpersonally.

At Lakeside, it is our desire that each student is known as an individual by every teacher, and that they develop a particularly strong relationship with their Homeroom Teacher. The Homeroom Teacher is the first point of contact for parents/guardians and will often be the liaison point for any school-related matters.



Inclusive Education

Inclusive Education at Lakeside College allows for the coordination, service and provision of learning support for students. It is relevant to all students and of particular importance to those with specific identified needs. Our approach at Lakeside College is founded on the belief that every child has the ability to reach their developmental potential underpinned by equitable and inclusive practices.

The individual differences of students – both their strengths and challenges – are recognised and acknowledged through the provision of individualised or modified programs. Individual differences may relate to students who need support in their learning by a specialist teacher or students who need to be further challenged and enriched in their learning.

The Inclusive Education Coordinator assists staff in catering for the individual needs of students by supplementing and augmenting the provisions of the classroom in a supportive and caring environment. The Student Support Officer may provide resource support, classroom support or withdrawal support, either individually or in a small group according to needs identified.

As students with identified needs move into their senior years, additional educational planning is suggested to ensure that choices and pathways are considered to match a best-fit pathway. You can make an appointment with our College Careers Counsellor to help you identify what possibilities are available.

If you would like to engage further with inclusive education at the College, please contact your child's Homeroom teacher or our Inclusive Education Coordinator.



Home Learning

Home Learning is, indeed, an important aspect of our learning and teaching programs. We stress, however, the importance of the time allocated to Home Learning tasks at each year level. Parents are encouraged to help their child adhere to the time allocated for completing Home Learning tasks as a way of ensuring that their child does not spend an unreasonable amount of time on Home Learning. Teachers support this process by encouraging the use of a diary or organisational tool and the planning of a study timetable. The use of these also allows students to keep track of assessment tasks they are required to complete and when assignment work is due.

There is now an overwhelming amount of evidence on the benefits of Home Learning, especially amongst senior students. However, it is important to ensure the amount of Home Learning given to students is balanced and targeting specific learning outcomes.

At Lakeside College, we believe that Home Learning should:

- Consolidate classroom learning
- Foster and sustain lifelong learning skills
- Encourage students' responsibility for their own learning
- Enhance students' capacity to manage their personal learning

Research has shown that home learning is important because:

- It improves your child's thinking and memory
- It helps your child develop positive study skills and habits that will serve him or her well throughout life
- Home Learning encourages your child to use time wisely
- It teaches your child to work independently
- Home Learning teaches your child to take responsibility for his or her work
- It allows your child to review and practice what has been covered in class
- It helps your child to get ready for the next day's class
- Home Learning helps your child learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and computer Web sites to find information
- It encourages your child to explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits
- It allows your child to extend learning by applying skills to new situations
- It helps your child integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task, such as book reports or science projects
- Home Learning helps parents learn more about what your child is learning in school
- It allows parents to communicate about what he or she is learning
- It encourages parents to spark your child's enthusiasm



Home Learning

We have also designed our curriculum and learning programs so that Home Learning should be:

- Age- and stage-appropriate
- Interesting, challenging and, where appropriate, open-ended
- Balanced with a range of activities
- Purposeful, meaningful and relevant to the curriculum
- Assessed by teachers with feedback and support provided

Outlined below is the recommended Home Learning time for students in Year 10.

Year 9
Home learning is allocated on most weekdays. It is expected that students will spend between 1-2 hours on homework per evening from Monday to Thursday:

Given that many students are actively involved in activities on the weekends, it is preferable that home learning is not set over the weekend. However, it is expected that any home learning that is not completed during the week should be finalised on the weekend.

Year 9 Home Learning could include:

- Daily independent reading and/or targeted literacy
- Revision and preparation for tests and assessment tasks
- Projects and assignments as discrete tasks
- Reinforcing key learning and develops skills further
- Extension of class work



Year 9 Curriculum Structure

At Year 10, all students will complete the following core studies for the entire academic school year:

- English, Mathematics & Science
- Health/PE
- Christian Studies, Humanities
- German

A variety of subjects form part of the Elective Studies Program. Students select up to four semester-length units of study and complete two elective units per semester. The following elective studies are offered to all Year 9 students in 2027:

- 3D Art and Design
- Art
- Fashion Art
- Graphic Design
- Be Your Own Boss
- History's Mysteries
- Cake Decorating
- Introduction to Baked Goods
- Coding and Software
- Forensic Science
- Environmental Science
- Drama
- Music
- Media
- Sport Science



Subject Descriptors - Core Studies

English
Students will interact with their peers, create and engage with spoken and multimodal texts, and analyse literary texts. With a range of purposes and audiences, they discuss and expand on ideas, shaping meaning and providing evidence. Students will read, view and comprehend a range of texts created to inform, influence and/or engage audiences. They will analyse representations of people, places, events and concepts, and how texts respond to contexts. Students will analyse the effects of text structures, and language features including literary devices, intertextual references, and multimodal features, expressing and expanding ideas, shaping meaning and providing evidence of their analysis and understanding.

Units covered throughout the year include:
- Text Study: Hidden Figures (2016) directed by Theodore Melfi
- Thematic Unit: Poetry
- Text Study: Mao's Last Dancer (2003) written by Li Cunxin
- Persuasive Unit: Analysing persuasive texts; developing persuasive speech

Assessment
- Mixed-genre text production
- Poetry portfolio
- Text response essay Language analysis



Core Studies

Mathematics
In Number and Algebra, students solve problems involving integer operations and financial maths. They apply the laws of indices to solving problems. Students expand and factorise binomial expressions and graph quadratic functions. They solve linear and quadratic equations. Students evaluate the gradient, distance and midpoint when given two points on the cartesian plane. In Measurement and Geometry, students calculate the area of composite shapes and the surface area and volume of cylinders and prisms. They apply Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry, to find unknown sides and angles. Students apply the enlargement transformation to images of shapes. In Statistics and Probability, they compare and analyse the distributions of multiple numerical data sets. Students determine the outcomes for compound events and represent these in various ways.

Mathematics Advanced Analysis and Enrichment Program
In Year 9, students can be invited to participate in a Mathematics Advanced Analysis and Enrichment class. This program is designed to provide an exciting and challenging learning experience for students who have demonstrated exceptional aptitude and enthusiasm for mathematics. Through engaging activities, problem-solving exercises, and in-depth exploration of mathematical concepts, students will have the opportunity to expand their mathematical knowledge and skills beyond the regular Year 9 curriculum.

Assessment
- Pre-tests and post-tests
- Topic Tests
- Investigations and projects



Core Studies

Science
Students explain how body systems provide a coordinated response to stimuli and describe how the processes of sexual and asexual reproduction enable survival of the species. They explain how interactions within and between Earth's spheres affect the carbon cycle. Students analyse energy conservation in simple systems and apply wave and particle models to describe energy transfer. They explain observable chemical processes in terms of changes in atomic structure, atomic rearrangement and mass. They will recognise the importance of First Nations Australians and the role they play in contemporary science.

Assessment
- **Research Projects**
- **Assessed Practical Work**
- **Tests**
- **Posters**
- **Analysis of an Issue**

Health
The health curriculum supports students to refine and apply strategies for maintaining a positive outlook and evaluating behavioural expectations in different leisure, social, movement and online situations. Students learn to critically analyse and apply health and physical activity information to devise and implement personalised plans for maintaining healthy and active habits. They participate in the Re-thinking Drinking alcohol awareness program, investigating the impact of alcohol consumption on optimal health and functioning. Students undertake a sports injury and first aid course focusing on the prevention and management of sports injuries. They reflect on the importance of respectful relationships and safe sexual practices and the impact this can have on health and wellbeing.

Assessment
- Action Plan
- Profile
- Projects
- Student workbook



Core Studies

Physical Education
Students engage in a range of known and new sports in order to develop gross and fine motor skills in areas both recognised and as a new exposure. Students participate in a variety of areas of sport, including Invasion Games: Basketball, Netball, European Handball, Ultimate Frisbee and AFL; Striking Sports: Softball and Teeball; and Net Sports: Tennis and Volleyball. Students develop skills specific to each sport, practice and receive feedback, and apply new skills in modified games. Year 9 students are given additional responsibility in PE, conducting a Sports Education in Physical Education Program (SEPEP). SEPEP allows focus on skills development and the capacity to explore the diverse roles involved in organising and implementing any sporting competition. SEPEP is designed to run over a term and replicate a season of a club competition, providing ongoing and authentic opportunities to embed sports career education into their PE program.

Assessment
- Verbal understanding of skills and rules
- Skill analysis via video
- Assessed Practical Work
- Student feedback

German
Students will learn to ask and give permission and to persuade people, names of food and drink items in German and how to order and pay for a meal. They will also learn how to speak and write about different sports and the role of sport in German culture. Furthermore, they will learn how to name parts of the body, say how they are feeling and arrange for a medical appointment.

Students will also learn about places of interest in Germany, restaurant etiquette in German speaking countries and wellbeing in Germany. The following aspects of grammar will be covered: Use of modal verbs, comparative and superlative forms, the imperative mood and the use of the accusative and the dative cases.

Assessment
- Reading
- Listening
- Speaking
- Writing
- Project Work



Core Studies

Christian Studies
In Year 9, Christian Studies uses an inquiry approach to guide students through big questions about faith, identity, and the world. The course explores four core strands: Christian Beliefs (the Trinitarian nature of God), Christian Church (how faith is expressed through community and sacraments), Christian Living (living in love and service), and Christianity in the World (engaging thoughtfully with diverse religious and cultural frameworks). This framework encourages students to reflect on their own worldview while understanding the challenges and opportunities within a diverse spiritual landscape.

In the unit Vocation: Finding Purpose, students explore the Lutheran concept of vocation to navigate their search for identity and meaning. They reflect on their unique gifts and talents, discovering how faith shapes character and calls them to joyful service and community engagement. Through a reflective journal, they develop empathy and see faith as an active, living force. In Stewards of Creation: Awe and Action, students study Genesis 1 and 2 to explore the beauty and complexity of the natural world.

They examine what it means to be responsible caretakers of the earth, using creative and ethical reflection to prepare them for their upcoming Cairns experience with eyes of curiosity and respect. In the Reformation unit, students investigate the historical, political, and religious factors that sparked the Reformation. Focusing on Martin Luther's challenge to the medieval church, they explore how his convictions reshaped Christianity and established the enduring Protestant traditions we see today. Finally, in Songs for the Human Journey: Psalms, students explore a selection of Psalms as ancient songs and poems that capture the full spectrum of human emotion, from joy and wonder to grief and fear. Through these texts, they encounter a deeply personal God who offers a relatable language for every season of life.

Assessment
- Essays/Reports
- Reflections
- Posters
- Oral presentations
- Investigations
- Projects



Core Studies

Humanities
Students develop the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adapt to change. This learning area has a historical and contemporary focus, from personal to global contexts, and considers the challenges that may occur in the future.

In History, students delve into the historical significance of Australia's past; from the period of the early modern world up to 1918. Students study the causes and effects of events, developments, turning points and movements globally, in Australia and in relation to World War I. Students learn about the social, cultural, economic and/or political aspects related to the changes and continuities in a society. Students also learn about the roles of significant ideas, individuals, groups and institutions connected to the developments of this period and their influence on historical events.

In Geography, students learn how people's activities and environmental processes change the characteristics of places. They study the effects of human activity on the environment and the challenges to sustainable food production and food security in Australia and appropriate management strategies. In developing their understanding of the environment, students earn the features of biomes' distribution, and the interconnections between people, places and environments. They take part in various fieldworks in order to analyse strategies to address a geographical phenomenon or challenge.

In Civics and Citizenship, students learn about Australia's political system and how it enables change. They examine the ways political parties, interest groups, media and individuals influence government and decision-making processes. Students investigate the features and principles of Australia's court system, including its role in applying and interpreting Australian law. They examine global connectedness and how this is shaping contemporary Australian society.

Assessment
- Research Projects
- Fieldwork Project
- Research Report
- Posters
- Tests



Electives

3D Art and Design
Students explore the world of Art and Design, focusing on using modeling software to design, model, and print 3D artworks, and/or products. Year 9 Students can explore premade STL files using them as the base to print their product, with the focus on learning how to model and create printable files, and then make packaging for their product. Initially, students would design their characters by hand using traditional art and design techniques, then print their own Funko POP character, designing the boxes they are contained in further exploring the design capabilities of Adobe Photoshop.

Assessment
- Character design using traditional art and design techniques
- Funko POP Character 3D printed
- Use of Adobe Photoshop to create packaging
- Electives

Art
Students investigate the different tonal rendering skills required to create a realistic eye, they are then introduced to the theme of bullying, where Levi Hawken and Kent Morris are the artists of focus. Students develop their own ideas around what bullying means to them and plan and create an artwork with an anti-bullying message. Students manipulate materials, techniques and processes to develop and refine ways to represent ideas and subject matter in their artworks. Students engage with the artistic style of Pop Art, investigating the artists Howard Arkley and Takashi Murakami to create their own version of a Pop Art house painting, experimenting with different painting techniques, and design ideas.

Assessment
- Tonal Rendering skills
- Bullying themed student lead artwork
- Pop Art House



Electives

Bake and Decorate
In Bake and Decorate students design and create a variety of baked food goods including a range of muffins, biscuits, pastries and cakes with a strong focus on understanding ingredients for form and function and using tools and equipment accurately to create a designed product. Taking inspiration from current food trends in decorating, students use creative design thinking and project management skills to plan, design and create delicious baked food solutions.

Assessment
- Research Tasks
- Design Brief Tasks
- Weekly Practical Productions

B**e Your Own Boss**
Students use the $20 Boss Program as a framework to sell a product of their choice. They learn entrepreneurial and team collaboration skills, design a product idea, establish a budget, develop a marketing campaign, and put together market stalls for a lunchtime event. Throughout the semester, students must work together to ensure the success of their campaigns and make a profit, which is then directed to our fundraising partner, ALWS.

Assessment
- Business proposal
- Budget
- Marketing campaign
- Market stall

Cafe Culture
In Cafe Culture, students develop skills and knowledge in safety and food hygiene, menu planning, special dietary requirements, and food presentation while cooking a variety of foods utilising different cooking methods. As an introductory level to hospitality, students will learn about the industry and its role in the community. The vocational emphasis will enable students to acquire and develop a range of interpersonal, organisational, food preparation and service skills useful in the hospitality industry.

Assessment
- Hygiene and Safety Task
- Design Task
- Research Task
- Weekly Practical Productions



Electives

Coding and Software
Students experience a number of different applications of coding in the real world. Students learn how to program using Microsoft Excel. They build their understanding of Python. The students learn how to use VBA to create Macros in Microsoft Word and Excel. This is a bridging course from Year 8 Digitech to the Year 10 RoboCode subject.

Assessment
- Problem Solving Projects
- Creating Programs for different situations.

Environmental Science
The students learn about Australian Animals and Plants and how they interact with each other. The students will learn about how to identify different Plants and Animals. They learn about the conditions necessary for survival and how various animals and plants interact with one another and their abiotic environment. They learn how the land geography interacts with the water and habitats of the animals and plants that live in them.

Assessment
- Reports
- Lab reports
- Investigations

Fashion Art
In Fashion Art, students explore the world of textiles and fashion design through creative, hands-on projects. They develop an understanding of various textile materials, learning about different yarns and fabrics and how their properties affect the performance and quality of textile products. Students practice fundamental sewing skills and the safe use of tools and equipment to construct quality textile items, while also experimenting with surface design techniques such as tie-dyeing and screen printing. Throughout the course, students apply the design process – from generating and presenting design ideas to producing items and evaluating the finished products for improvements. They also consider the role of textiles in society and for individual consumers, examining how fashion and textile items meet personal, cultural, and practical needs.

Assessment
- Fashion Design Comparative Poster
- Fashion Design & Illustration



Electives

Forensic Science
This semester-long elective creates an opportunity for a cross-curricular approach, integrating elements of both science and humanities. Students have the opportunity to engage in the fascinating world of criminal investigation and forensic analysis. Students are introduced to the fundamental principles and techniques of forensic science and complete modules throughout the semester covering various aspects of forensic science. Students complete a laboratory report after they have conducted a DNA extraction and profiling experiment using simulated examples.

The elective builds on students' problem solving and critical thinking skills through investigating crime and analysing evidence; all whilst providing an insight into the interdisciplinary nature of scientific inquiry.

Assessment
- DNA Analysis - Laboratory Report
- Presentation
- Group Project
- Quizzes

Graphic Design
Year 9 Graphic Design introduces students to the exciting field of visual communication. Over one semester, students learn the fundamental elements and principles of design, such as line, shape, colour, texture, typography, and balance, and how to use these to create effective visual messages. Students follow a design process from initial concept sketches and brainstorming through to refining and producing final artworks. They will use both traditional techniques (for example, hand-drawn sketching and layout planning) and digital tools, learning to use graphic design software for illustration, image editing, and layout design.

Assessment
- Elements & Principles Poster
- Design Portfolio



Electives

Media
In this elective, students explore how media artworks express varying values and viewpoints. They examine how elements like intent, structure, setting, characters, and genre conventions are used to convey meaning. They also assess the influence of social, institutional, and ethical factors on creating and using media artworks. Activities include analysing media, creating media projects, and using media technologies and common programs.

Assessment
- Analysing media
- Creating media projects
- Use of Media technologies and tools

Music
Students focus their attention on a specific instrument of their choice. By developing specialist skills, students start to take control of their own music-making through interactive and collaborative activities and assessments. The area of songwriting is explored as students study, read and perform typical song forms from various music styles. Through these explorations, students work in small groups to create their own songs using instruments and appling music elements of harmony, texture and form.

Assessment
- Solo and ensemble performances
- Technical assessments on instruments
- Theory and listening tests
- Research reports on music artist/s



Electives

Sports Science

Students, through practical and theoretical lessons, explore the structure and functions of the body systems such as skeletal and muscular systems. They learn the various energy systems and how these systems influence movement, exercise and sporting performance. The students create their own training programs which allow them to explore various sports and activities and the fitness principles and energy systems required to excel in these activities. They explore the use of legal and illegal ergogenic aids and how these can enhance or inhibit sports performance as well as the field sport psychology and the mental preparation of the elite athlete. The unit culminates in an excursion to the Victorian Institute of Sport to meet a Commonwealth or Olympic athlete and a tour of the facilities to show students their learning in action.

Assessment

- Projects
- Topic tests
- Create a training program
- Sport psychology analysis

History's Mysteries

Students investigate some of history's great mysteries that baffled and intrigued people for centuries. In the first unit, some of the examined case studies include the disappearance of Roanoke colony, the identity of Jack the Ripper, and the enduring legend of the Loch Ness Monster. The second unit explores cryptozoology across the world, including our very own local mythical creature, the Bunyip. Through this, students build skills in investigation, source analysis and critical thinking.

Assessment

- Presentation
- Investigative report
- Creature poster



Electives

Drama
Discover the exciting world of Drama! This elective offers a vibrant, performance-based introduction to a wide range of theatrical styles and performance skills. Designed as a rich "taster" course, it builds foundational techniques in voice, movement, and collaboration. Students dive into the high-energy worlds of improvisation, physical theatre, and Commedia dell'Arte, while also exploring the heightened stakes of melodrama, silent film, Shakespearean comedy, and contemporary Australian scene work.

Beyond the classroom, the course includes a fantastic excursion to experience a live theatre production, connecting classwork to the professional stage. This subject is perfect for developing lasting creativity, confidence, and teamwork. Whether your child is an aspiring performer or simply looking to build essential public speaking and collaboration skills for the future, this supportive environment requires no prior experience, just energy and a willingness to try something new!

Assessment
- Creation and group performance of a Lazzi
- Creation of silent film