

ST JOHNS PARK HIGH SCHOOL



Year 8 | 2026

ELECTIVE SUBJECT SELECTION HANDBOOK

Year 8 Curriculum 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Elective subject selection for the current Year 7 students who will be in Year 8 in 2026 will commence **in Term 4** with a Year Group assembly presentation. Students will receive their unique WebCode via student email. This will enable us to plan our curriculum and teaching requirements for next year.

Students will study one elective in Year 8 from a broad selection of subjects. Electives have been introduced to provide students with some choice in their curriculum for the first time in their education. The electives have been carefully chosen from a range of disciplines and are intended to provide for an interest at the same time give them a taste of some elective courses that may be taken in Year 9. It is important to note that Year 8 electives are not seen as a pre-requisite or necessary for further study in Senior School or Years 9 and 10.

Students will have access to the Subject Selection Booklet explaining the process of making the selection of electives. They will need to consider elective choices and discuss these with parents/carers and teachers. Students will complete the online selection process. Students are required to return a printed copy of the subject selection form, signed by parents/carers, to the front office.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of this process, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Moisidis
Principal

Elective Subject Selection Year 8

For all students of Year 8, the following subjects will be mandatory;

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Visual Arts
- Music (Mandatory)
- Technology (Mandatory)
- PDHPE and Sport

All students of Year 8 have the opportunity to **select one elective subject**. The following information is designed to assist students in making an informed decision.

A few tips for students

There are a few things to remember when selecting an elective subject for next year.

Consider the following;

- Choose those subjects that you like and that you are good at. You have more chance of being successful when you are studying a subject that you find enjoyable.
- The subjects you select at this stage of your school life are not going to have any bearing on your career choices. You will have the opportunity to select a new range of subjects in Years 9, 10 and 11.
- Do not choose a subject based on teachers. You may find that your favourite teacher is not teaching that subject next year. It is not until the end of Term 4 that your teachers know what classes they will be taking in the coming year.
- Be an individual and do not choose subjects based on what your friends are choosing. As individuals, we all have different strengths and interests. You will still have recess and lunch to see your friends.

Take the time to get to it right. Talk to your parents/carers, your Class Teachers and Head Teachers and get advice. By doing your homework, you will make the right choices for you.

Electives and associated costs

To access information on each elective, refer to the following pages:

Electives	Additional cost	Page
Cook like a Chef	\$50 per year	8
Music – Pop / Rock Band	No cost	9
Picture This! (Ceramics/Photography)	\$30 per year	10
Project FIFA (Soccer)	\$50 for Training Kit	11
Slam and Spike HeadCOURTers (Basketball/Volleyball)	\$50 for Training Kit	12
STEAM	No cost	13
Working with Wood	\$25 per year	14

Associated costs for elective subjects being offered

- Costs shown reflect the cost of materials and other resources required for successful completion by each student and are compulsory.
- Classes will be formed based on your preferences.
- It is important to prioritise the subjects in order of preference, as if one course is full your next choice will be selected.

Selecting Elective Subjects

To assist in the elective subject selection process, a practice page listing the elective subjects available and their course code has been provided at the back of this booklet. This page does not need to be returned to school. It can be completed by students and discussed with parents/carers and teachers prior to the final selection being made.

The subject selection process will be completed, during Term 4. Each student will be sent an email containing a personalised log-in code and detailed instructions on how to complete the online elective subject selection process. Each student will be required to return to the front office a printed copy of the subject selection screen, which has been signed by parents/carers.

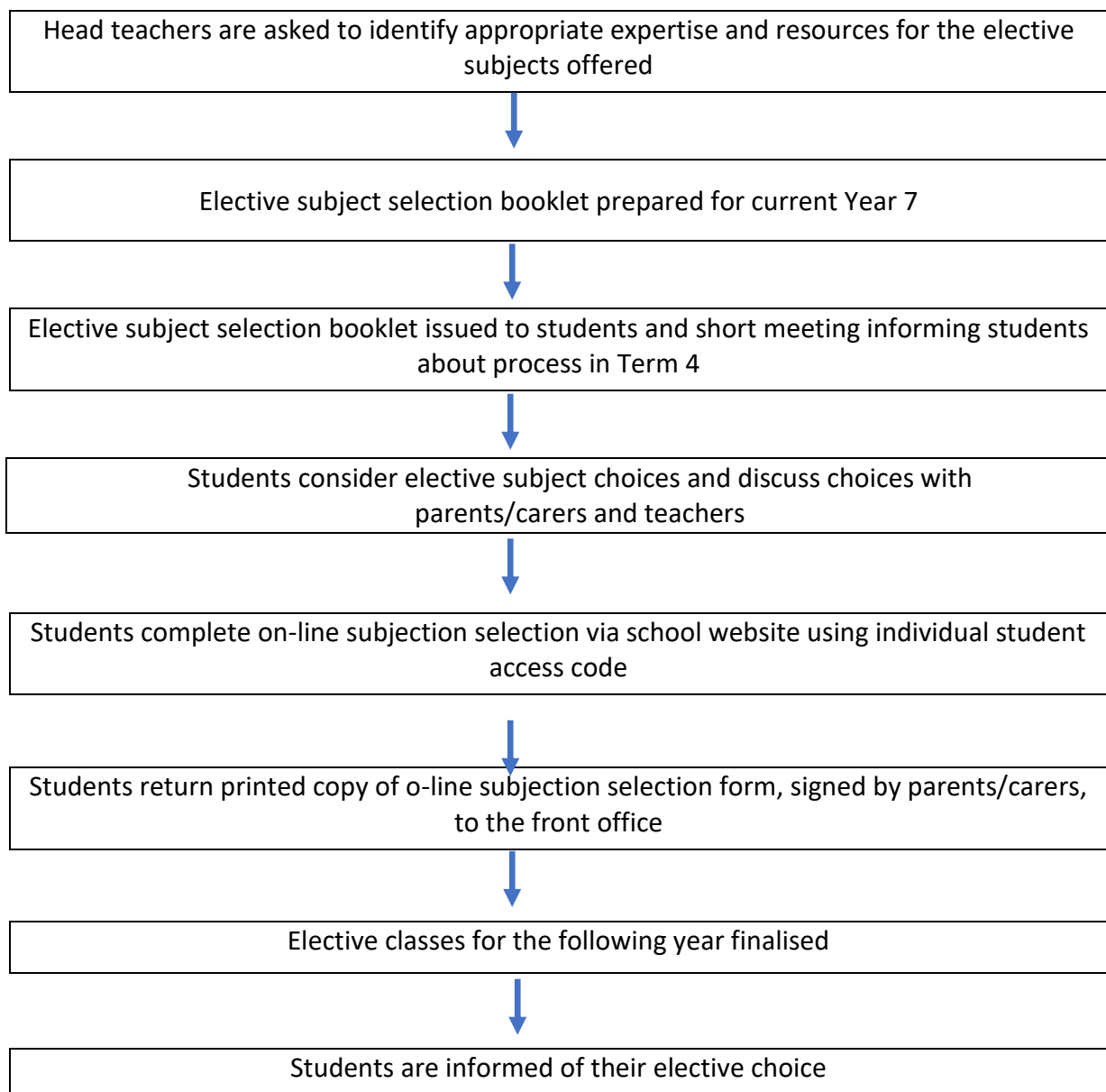
In signing this form, parents /carers are acknowledging and accepting responsibility for the payment of the course fees associated with the elective subjects chosen.

One of the reasons for choosing subjects for next year, at such an early stage, is to allow both students and school to plan.

Student Planning

One of the reasons for choosing subjects for next year, at such an early stage, is to allow both students and school to plan. For students it is important to take the time and research subjects before they make their final decisions. Completing the research and making the right choice means that students have a smooth and uninterrupted start to Year 8. Experiences have shown that students changing subjects in Term 1 generally find it difficult to catch up and succeed in that subject. To avoid setting our students up for failure, we encourage students to make their choice right the first time and discourage subject changes in Year 8.

The process by which your electives will be decided



While every effort is made to ensure that students get their first choice, this may not always be possible due to limited class sizes and timetable constraints.

Elective Subject Selection Online Instructions

All students will receive a unique code to allow themselves to complete the online elective subject selection process, via email. When the code has been received, please **do not share this code with anyone else**, as they could log in and change your subject choices.

To select your subjects online:

- Go to the school webpage <https://stjohnspk-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>
- Click on the heading 'Student Learning'. This is shown at the top of the screen.
- Click on the heading 'Courses we offer' then click on 'Subject Selection' (left hand side of the screen)
- Scroll down until you find Year 8 (here you can find the Elective Subjection Booklet)
- Then find the Edval logo  **edval** and click '[Online subject selection weblink](#)'
- A screen will then come up with 'Edval'. There will be a space for you to sign into your account by entering your unique WebCode. (check DOE email)
- You will then be taken to a screen in which you can select your subjects.
 - Do not use the back button while selecting your subjects.
 - You must choose your subjects in **order of preference 1 to 6.**

The Edval website will be open from Monday 20 October 4.00pm to Monday 27 October 4.00pm

Important Information:

- You must print your subject selection form and have your parents/ caregiver sign the form
- Return the form to the front office by **Friday 31 October 2025**

Cook like a Chef

Faculty: TAS – Home Economics

Cost per student: \$50 per year

Course Description:

Learn to prepare and present food like a MasterChef! This course is a purely practical cooking course and includes dishes from the categories:

- Soups and starters
- Elements of main courses
- Desserts
- Café style food

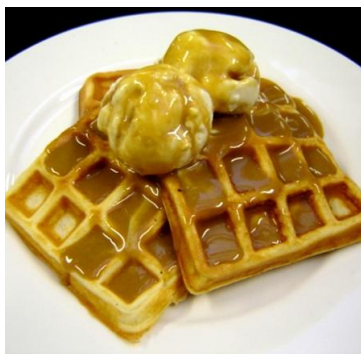
Some dishes include:

- Bruschetta
- Hamburger and Fries
- Cheesecake
- Chicken Pie

By the end of this course students will be able to:

Know how to use a variety of kitchen equipment safely.

- Know how to use a variety of kitchen equipment safely.
- Know how to present food like a Master Chef.
- Prepare a wide variety of dishes from appetising entrees to delicious desserts.



Music – Pop/Rock Band

Faculty: Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

Cost per student: No Cost

Course Description:

Students will:

- Choose an instrument from: electric guitar, acoustic guitar, electric bass, keyboard, drum kit, percussion, and vocals.
- Learn to read print music appropriate to the instrument chosen.
- Learn to play solo pieces, group (ensemble) pieces and Karaoke songs.
- Perform on school assemblies, showcase concerts and talent quests.
- Learn to improve as a soloist or member of a group.
- Learn to use the latest technology for the chosen instrument, such as guitar pedals, amplifiers, PA and Hard Disk recording

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Learn how to play guitar, electric bass guitar, drum kit, keyboard, percussion, vocals and other instruments.
- Have opportunities to compose/record their own compositions (This may involve computer editing, CD image creation and burning)
- Learn a variety of popular songs, original and remixed, from the beginnings of Rock 'n' Roll through songs from the 70s, 80s, 90s to the latest hits.
- Develop the skills of musical appreciation



Picture This!

Faculty: Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

Cost per student: \$30 per year

Course Description:

Students will participate in both Photography where they will:

- learn how to take great pictures using both film and digital cameras. They will take lots of photographs, such as portraits, still life and landscape. Students will use equipment in the Darkroom to make black and white photographs and will learn how to use Photoshop to manipulate their digital images.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Learn basic photographic composition techniques.
- Make positive and negative photograms.
- Make and use a pinhole camera to make a permanent image.
- Manipulate images to obtain special effects.
- Discover ways to mount and present their photographs.



Project FIFA (Soccer)

Faculty: PDHPE

Cost per student: \$50 for Training Kit

Course Description:

The subject 'Project FIFA' incorporates a wide range of soccer activities, including skills, rules, sporting history, competitive and non-competitive games, and individual and group physical fitness activities. The 'Project FIFA' is a practical-based course, which enables students to develop and improve their skills related to movement and physical activity, specifically soccer. There will also be a theory component of this course where students will improve their knowledge of soccer, including how to improve movement skills, safety in sport as well as rules and guidelines for the safe participation in soccer.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Develop the knowledge and understanding of indoor and outdoor soccer.
- Examine basic anatomy and nutrition relevant to participation in soccer.
- Participate in soccer to improve their skill, technique and game sense.
- Develop a foundation for efficient and enjoyable participation and performance in soccer.



Slam and Spike HeadCOURTers (Basketball/Volleyball)

Faculty: PDHPE

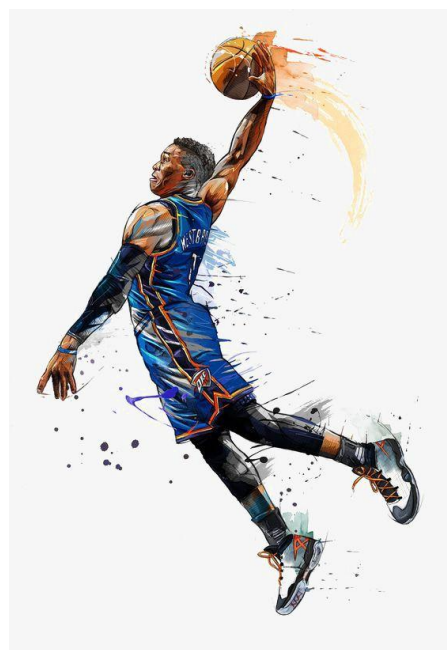
Cost per student: \$50 for Training Kit

Course Description:

The subject 'Slam and Spike HeadCOURTers' incorporates a wide range of basketball and volleyball activities, including skills, rules, sporting history, competitive and non-competitive games, and individual and group physical fitness activities. The elective is a practical based course, which enables students to develop and improve their skills related to movement and physical activity, specifically in basketball and volleyball. There will also be a theory component of this course where students will improve their knowledge of these sports including how to improve movement skills, safety in sport as well as rules and guidelines for the safe participation in basketball and volleyball.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Develop the knowledge and understanding of basketball and volleyball.
- Examine basic anatomy and nutrition relevant to participation in basketball and volleyball.
- Participate in basketball and volleyball to improve their skill, technique and game sense.
- Develop a foundation for efficient and enjoyable participation and performance in basketball and volleyball.



STEAM

Faculty: Innovation

Cost per student: No Cost

Course Description:

This course explores the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) through hands-on, project-based learning. Students will gain practical experience managing projects, collaborating in teams, and tackling real-world challenges using Artec Robotics—developing skills highly valued by today's employers.

In this interactive elective, students will engage with a comprehensive robotics curriculum, utilising software and hardware systems to explore important themes like climate change, sustainable living, space exploration, and innovative design. Centred on student interests, this course encourages learners to devise practical solutions to contemporary challenges, preparing them for the future with essential, industry-relevant skills.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Investigate, create and design solutions to real-world problems.
- Develop their collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creative skills.
- Develop their project management skills.
- Learn to use design thinking methods.
- Develop their use of technology



Working with Wood

Faculty: TAS – Industrial Arts

Cost per student: \$25 per year

Course Description:

Take your skills to the next level from what you learnt in Year 7. In Working with Wood, you will design and create various projects using a variety of techniques and tools that you have not used before. Projects such as lolly dispensers, games, and many useful projects to use at home. With freedom to design and discuss your ideas with the teacher, see your ideas turn into reality and be proud of what you made yourself.

By the end of this course students will be able to:

- Develop basic skills using tools.
- Follow routine instructions during assembly of timber items.
- Be able to design specific projects for use at home.
- Keep the work they have made



Year 8 Elective Choice Practice Page

Course Code	Electives	Order of preference 1 to 7	Reasons why
8CLC	Cook like a Chef		
8MRB	Music – Pop / Rock Band		
8PT	Picture This! (Ceramics/Photography)		
8PFS	Project FIFA (Soccer)		
8SSH	Slam and Spike HeadCOURTers (Basketball/Volleyball)		
8STE	STEAM		
8WWW	Working with Wood		