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HIGH SCHOOL
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**Stage 5
Z Elective**

Subject Information



**Year 9 2026
Year 10 2026**

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COURSES

Year 9 - Z Electives (100-hour courses)

The Art of Animation	CAPA
Cake Decorating and Café Fusion	Home Economics
Costume & Make up Design	Home Economics
CSI	Science
English Extension	English
Film Making	English
Henna Artistry	EALD
Music Jam	CAPA
Society Unplugged	Social Science
Visual FX and design	CAPA

COURSES

Year 10 - Z Electives (100-hour courses)

The Art of Animation	CAPA
Cake Decorating and Café Fusion	Home Economics
Costume & Make Up Design	Home Economics
CSI	Science
English Extension	English
Exploring Literary Genres	English
Music Jam	CAPA
Mindful Movement and Wellness	Social Science
People, Power and Politics	History
Visual FX and design	CAPA

Year 9 2026

Subject: The Art of Animation
Course Description
A strongly based practical based course which encourages the understanding of different types of animation through exploring a variety of drawing and video techniques. Students will develop understanding about the world of anime and then apply that knowledge to create their own characters and narrative.
Main topics/ themes covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundamentals in Drawing• Animation basics• Flipbook• Claymation• Design your own anime
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual Arts Process Diary• 2B, 4B, 6B pencil• Ruler, glue and scissors
What will students learn in this subject?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Step by step guide to designing anime characters (e.g. character design, creating worlds)• Technical skills in Drawing and Video• Develop their own stories through storyboarding• Gain knowledge of different animation styles and how to create them

Subject: Cake Decorating and Café Fusion
Course Description
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This course will consist of 50% Cake Decorating skills development and 50% Café skills development. Students will start in either the café or cake class and switch after term 2. • You will learn an introduction to the basic skills required to work in a café, prepare and serve café food and serve customers. Students will prepare food and serve coffee. • This course will also interest students keen to learn a basic introduction to cake decorating techniques. Students will bake and decorate a variety of cakes and cupcakes.
Main Themes/Topics covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee Machine Skills • Iced beverages • Production of café food – desserts, breakfast, lunch, snacks • Baking cakes and cupcakes • Different icings and their uses • Piping frosting skills. • Cakes for special occasions • Food hygiene practices • Essential baking skills: Icing and their uses • Piping skills
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School apron / tea towel/ solid black leather shoes • A good sized container for cake decorating
What will students learn in this subject?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of café skills • Food preparation and presentation skills • Customer service • Cleanliness and kitchen management skills • Cake baking and preparation of icings • Cake decorating skills- Piping icings, making decorations • Producing a finished cake product to take home

Subject: Costume & Make up Design	Faculty: Home Economics and Hospitality
<p>Course Description</p> <p>This course introduces students to the art and craft of costume and makeup design for theatre, film, and performance. Students will explore the fundamentals of character creation through clothing and makeup, learning how to interpret scripts, design costumes that support storytelling, and apply makeup techniques to enhance character portrayal. The course combines practical workshops with theoretical studies, fostering creativity, technical skills, and an understanding of historical and cultural costume contexts.</p>	
<p>Main Themes/Topics covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Costume Design: history and role in storytelling • Fabric and material selection • Costume construction techniques • Makeup fundamentals and application techniques • Special effects makeup and prosthetics basics 	
<p>Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No prior experience in costume or makeup design is necessary • Participation in practical workshops and group projects • Submission of costume and makeup design portfolios 	
<p>What will students get out of this subject?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to analyse and interpret characters to create appropriate costume and makeup designs • Techniques in sewing, fabric manipulation, and costume construction • Application of foundational and advanced makeup skills, including special effects • The ability to research and integrate historical and cultural costume elements • How to collaborate effectively in teams • Problem-solving skills related to costume and makeup challenges during productions • Confidence to present and justify design choices both visually and verbally 	

Subject: CSI	Faculty: Science
<p>Course Description</p> <p>CSI Bonnyrigg combines topics from Maths, Chemistry, Biology Physics, Psychology and Earth Science into a single course with materials already available in science and correlated to the national Science Education Standards. It has thought-provoking activities to help students develop critical thinking and problem solving.</p>	
<p>Main Themes/Topics covered</p> <p>Observational skills, crime scene investigations and evidence examination, the study of hair, fibres and fabrics, pollen and spore examination, fingerprint examination, DNA profiling, soil examination, handwriting analysis, glass evidence, blood and blood spatter patterns, casts and impressions. Incursion on Forensics.</p>	
<p>Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exercise book. • \$50 course fee 	
<p>What will students learn in this subject?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving skills which then may be used in Senior Subjects • Observational Skills 	

Subject: English Extension
Course Description
<p>English Extension course provides students with the opportunity to further strengthen their understanding of how and why aspects and concerns of texts from the past have been carried forward, borrowed from and/or appropriated into more recent cultures.</p> <p>Students undertake independent investigation to develop a sustained composition and document this process in their Major Work Journal and Reflection Statement.</p>
Main Themes/Topics covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The art of creative writing • Podcasts and their impact • Developing visual literacy skills • Discourse and ways of thinking • Reflecting on your compositions • Independent Research project • Gothic genre
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exercise book
What will students learn in this subject?
<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • craft language to shape meaning and express imaginative, creative, interpretive, and critical responses to a range of texts. • express imaginative, creative, interpretive, and critical ideas based on sophisticated analysis and theorising about complex texts and values. • reflect on and evaluate their own processes of learning and creativity. <p>This subject is recommended for those students who aspire to the Preliminary English Advanced or English Extension courses.</p>

Subject: Film Making
Course Description
Film Making – from Script to Screen
Main topics/ themes covered
<p>Lights, camera, action! In this exciting elective, you'll step behind the camera to explore the art of storytelling through film. Learn how to plan, shoot and edit your own short movies. Whether you're interested in directing, acting, cinematography or scriptwriting, this course will give you hands-on experience bringing creative ideas to life. Collaborate with classmates, experiment with visual effects, and showcase your work on the big screen.</p> <p>Discover your inner filmmaker — and tell stories that move, inspire, and entertain.</p>
Requirements
What will students learn in this subject?
Learn about writing scripts for film and how to turn it into a film

Subject: Henna Artistry	Faculty: EAL/D
<p>Course Description:</p> <p>Unleash your creativity and explore the ancient art of henna in this hands-on elective! From intricate floral patterns to bold contemporary designs, you'll learn the techniques, cultural significance, and history behind this beautiful art form.</p>	
<p>Main Themes/Topics covered</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master the basics of henna mixing and application • Develop your own signature style through guided practice • Discover the cultural traditions of henna across the world • Experiment with modern henna trends and fusion designs • Work on real-life projects during carnivals 	
<p>Requirements</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student participation fee-\$10 • Have a positive attitude and willingness to try new things 	
<p>What will students get out of this subject?</p>	
<p>Whether you're an artist at heart or just love hands-on learning, this course is perfect for students who want to express themselves through design and culture. Get ready to create, innovate, and bring your ideas to life—one henna masterpiece at a time!</p>	

Subject: Music Jam
Course Description
Music is a creative subject which allows students to display individuality and develop higher order thinking skills. Students will gain experience in an instrument of their choice, learning different techniques and developing their expertise. This practical based course is designed to enable students to have the opportunity to perform within an ensemble with some theoretical foundation to support their performances. Students will be encouraged to express themselves through music and explore their talents.
Main Themes/Topics covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety of equipment • The Guitar • The Piano • The voice • Ensemble works • The Drums • Performance techniques • Reading sheet music • Practise techniques • Styles of music
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 page exercise book
What will students learn in this subject?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoys practical work • Enjoys music • Is motivated to learn and explore an instrument • Able to work as a member of team for ensemble work

Subject: Society Unplugged
Course Description
Ready to unplug from the ordinary and dive into the exciting world of people, cultures, and society? Join <i>Society Unplugged</i> , a fun, fast paced adventure where you'll explore the cool connections that shape our world! Discover what makes different communities tick, uncover surprising stories from around the globe, and see society through fresh, new eyes. Whether you're passionate about understanding people or just curious about what shapes our world, this course will spark your imagination and open your mind. Come curious, leave inspired!
Main topics/ themes covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Identity: How personal and cultural identities shape us • Social Structures: The influence of family, community, and institutions • Cultural Diversity: Celebrating inclusivity and respect • Global Perspectives: Exploring migration, globalisation, and social justice • Media and Society: Analysing media's role in shaping views and trends
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curiosity about people and cultures • Openness to diverse perspectives • Active participation in discussions and group work • Willingness to think creatively and critically • Ability to collaborate effectively with peers
What will students learn in this subject?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dive Into Interactive Learning Get hands-on with cool activities, team projects, and lively discussions that make big society ideas come alive right before your eyes! • Explore Cultures Like Never Before Travel the world through music, art, stories, and traditions, all without leaving the classroom! See how different cultures shape the way we live and connect. • Boost Your Critical Thinking Superpowers Learn how to spot stereotypes, question social issues, and have thoughtful conversations that actually matter. • Connect to the Real World Link what you learn to today's news, global challenges, and the community around you so you understand your place in the bigger picture. • Unleash Your Creativity Show off your ideas using presentations, videos, artwork, or any cool creative project you can imagine! <p>Jump into Society Unplugged and explore society like never before, where learning is fun, inspiring, and totally unplugged!</p>

Subject: Visual FX and Design
Course Description
<p>Course Description Visual FX and Design course offered by the CAPA faculty in Stage 5 and available as a senior course in Stage 6. This course provides an in-depth exploration of how visual principles shape the products, clothing, lifestyles, and consumer choices that surround us every day.</p>
Main topics/ themes covered
<p>Design Practice – Explore how designers work and solve problems creatively. Design Process – Research, brainstorm, develop, refine, and present design ideas Frames – View and interpret design through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Structural</i> (design elements/principles), • <i>Subjective</i> (personal expression), • <i>Cultural</i> (social/cultural meaning), • <i>Postmodern</i> (irony, appropriation, new media). <p>Conceptual Framework – Understand the relationships between the designer, the design work, the audience, and the world.</p> <p>Design Disciplines – Hands-on projects in areas like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic design • Fashion design • Product and packaging design • Interior and environmental design • Illustration and character design • Web and interface design • Critical and Historical Studies – Learn about influential designers and movements, and reflect on design in context.
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Art Diary – idea development, experimentation, reflections. • Drafts and prototypes – annotate own work, concept development or iterations. • In-class activities – short tasks to reinforce knowledge of design elements, software, or history. • Peer/self-assessment – structured reflection on design choices and outcomes. • Verbal feedback – teacher/student conversations on progress and design thinking.
What will students learn in this subject?
<p>By studying this course in Stage 5, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills through practical design projects. • Learn how to communicate visually, using drawing, digital tools, and design software. • Understand how design shapes our culture, lifestyle, and choices as consumers. • Explore real-world careers in areas like graphic design, interior design, product design, and fashion. • Build confidence in self-expression while developing a personal style and visual voice. <p>Visual FX and Design course encourages students to think critically, create with purpose, and gain skills that are both valuable in the classroom and useful in future study, work, and life.</p>

Year 10 2026

Subject: The Art of Animation
Course Description
A strongly based practical based course which encourages the understanding of different types of animation through exploring a variety of drawing and video techniques. Students will develop understanding about the world of anime and then apply that knowledge to create their own characters and narrative.
Main topics/ themes covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundamentals in Drawing• Animation basics• Flipbook• Claymation• Design your own anime
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual Arts Process Diary• 2B, 4B, 6B pencil• Ruler, glue and scissors
What will students learn in this subject?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Step by step guide to designing anime characters (e.g. character design, creating worlds)• Technical skills in Drawing and Video• Develop their own stories through storyboarding• Gain knowledge of different animation styles and how to create them

Subject: Cake Decorating and Café Fusion
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Main Themes/Topics covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee Machine Skills • Iced beverages • Production of café food – desserts, breakfast, lunch, snacks • Baking cakes and cupcakes • Different icings and their uses • Piping frosting skills. • Cakes for special occasions • Food hygiene practices • Essential baking skills: Icing and their uses • Piping skills
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School apron / tea towel/ solid black leather shoes • A good sized container for cake decorating
What will students learn in this subject?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of café skills • Food preparation and presentation skills • Customer service • Cleanliness and kitchen management skills • Cake baking and preparation of icings • Cake decorating skills- Piping icings, making decorations • Producing a finished cake product to take home

Subject: Costume & Make up Design	Faculty: Home Economics and Hospitality
<p>This course introduces students to the art and craft of costume and makeup design for theatre, film, and performance. Students will explore the fundamentals of character creation through clothing and makeup, learning how to interpret scripts, design costumes that support storytelling, and apply makeup techniques to enhance character portrayal. The course combines practical workshops with theoretical studies, fostering creativity, technical skills, and an understanding of historical and cultural costume contexts.</p>	
Main Themes/Topics covered	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Costume Design: history and role in storytelling • Fabric and material selection • Costume construction techniques • Makeup fundamentals and application techniques • Special effects makeup and prosthetics basics 	
Requirements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No prior experience in costume or makeup design is necessary • Participation in practical workshops and group projects • Submission of costume and makeup design portfolios 	
What will students get out of this subject?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to analyse and interpret characters to create appropriate costume and makeup designs • Techniques in sewing, fabric manipulation, and costume construction • Application of foundational and advanced makeup skills, including special effects • The ability to research and integrate historical and cultural costume elements • How to collaborate effectively in teams • Problem-solving skills related to costume and makeup challenges during productions • Confidence to present and justify design choices both visually and verbally 	

Subject: CSI
Course Description
CSI Bonnyrigg combines topics from Maths, Chemistry, Biology Physics, Psychology and Earth Science into a single course with materials already available in science and correlated to the national Science Education Standards. It has thought-provoking activities to help students develop critical thinking and problem solving.
Main Themes/Topics covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observational skills, crime scene investigations and evidence examination, the study of hair, fibres and fabrics, pollen and spore examination, fingerprint examination, DNA profiling, soil examination, handwriting analysis, glass evidence, blood and blood spatter patterns, casts, and impressions. • Incursion on Forensics
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student participation fee of \$50 per student • Workbook
What will students learn in this subject?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving skills which then may be used in Senior Subjects. • Observational Skills.

Subject: English Extension
Course Description
<p>English Extension course provides students with the opportunity to further strengthen their understanding of how and why aspects and concerns of texts from the past have been carried forward, borrowed from and/or appropriated into more recent cultures.</p> <p>Students undertake independent investigation to develop a sustained composition and document this process in their Major Work Journal and Reflection Statement.</p>
Main Themes/Topics covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The art of creative writing • Podcasts and their impact • Developing visual literacy skills • Discourse and ways of thinking • Reflecting on your compositions • Independent Research project • Gothic genre
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • exercise book
What will students learn in this subject?
<p>Students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • craft language to shape meaning and express imaginative, creative, interpretive, and critical responses to a range of texts. • express imaginative, creative, interpretive, and critical ideas based on sophisticated analysis and theorising about complex texts and values. • reflect on and evaluate their own processes of learning and creativity. <p>This subject is recommended for those students who aspire to the Preliminary English Advanced or English Extension courses.</p>

Subject: Exploring Literary Genres
Course Description
Exploring Literary Genres
Main topics/ themes covered
<p>Step into the world of stories! In this elective, you'll journey through a range of literary genres — from mystery and fantasy to dystopian fiction, gothic tales, and more. You'll explore how writers use language, style, and structure to create meaning and engage readers across different times and cultures. Through reading, discussion, and creative writing, you'll deepen your understanding of what makes each genre unique — and why we're so drawn to certain kinds of stories.</p> <p>If you love reading, writing, or discovering new worlds through words, this course is for you.</p>
Requirements
What will students learn in this subject?
Learn more about different genres of literature.

Subject: Music Jam
Course Description
Music is a creative subject which allows students to display individuality and develop higher order thinking skills. Students will gain experience in an instrument of their choice, learning different techniques and developing their expertise. This practical based course is designed to enable students to have the opportunity to perform within an ensemble with some theoretical foundation to support their performances. Students will be encouraged to express themselves through music and explore their talents.
Main Themes/Topics covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety of equipment • The Guitar • The Piano • The voice • Ensemble works • The Drums • Performance techniques • Reading sheet music • Practise techniques • Styles of music
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 page exercise book
What will students learn in this subject?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoys practical work • Enjoys music • Is motivated to learn and explore an instrument • Able to work as a member of team for ensemble work

Subject: Mindful Movement and Wellness
Course Description
This unit combines mindful practices, physical movement, and wellness education to promote students' health and wellbeing. Students will engage in mindfulness exercises, develop body awareness through movement, and explore key wellness topics for balanced living.
Main topics/ themes covered
Movement, Mindfulness and Wellbeing
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journal/exercise book, active wear/sports wear
What will students learn in this subject?
<p>Movement activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilates core, foundations and posture • Stretching for flexibility and mobility • Foundational strengthening exercises • Spatial awareness activities <p>Mindfulness activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindfulness journal entries - improves mental wellbeing and teaches students how to emotionally regulate • Weekly Gratitude Log / gratitude sharing circle • Mindful breathing exercises • Goal setting and reflection <p>Wellness Core Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of good health and nutrition • Importance of sleep • Friendships and social wellbeing • How to study efficiently

Subject: People, Power, and Politics
Course Description
<p>Explore the nature of power and politics in this History course designed to give you an understanding of the way the political world works.</p> <p>Ever wondered what fascism, communism and socialism are? What is meant by 'left' and 'right'? Where did these ideas come from? How have they shaped the world to where it is today – a world of truth decay, misinformation and social fracture.</p> <p>This course will give you all you need to know to excel in year 10 History, Senior History, Legal Studies and allow you to understand what is happening in the world around you today.</p> <p>Absolute power corrupts absolutely – Lord Acton</p>
Main Themes/Topics covered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political ideas and structures such as democracy, fascism, authoritarianism, liberalism, socialism, anarchism, Nazism and monarchy. • The political spectrum • Ancient Power – Emperors of Rome and early fake news • Modern Dictators such as Stalin (Communist Russia), Hitler (Nazi Germany) • The rise (and fall?) of Democracy in the West • Personal interest study
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 180-page exercise book • Standard school stationary
What will students get out of this subject?
<p>Students will understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key political ideas that shape the modern world, • the history behind where these ideas came from • Key political figures and events

Subject: Visual FX and Design
Course Description
<p>Course Description</p> <p>Visual FX and Design course offered by the CAPA faculty in Stage 5 and available as a senior course in Stage 6. This course provides an in-depth exploration of how visual principles shape the products, clothing, lifestyles, and consumer choices that surround us every day.</p>
Main topics/ themes covered
<p>Design Practice – Explore how designers work and solve problems creatively.</p> <p>Design Process – Research, brainstorm, develop, refine, and present design ideas</p> <p>Frames – View and interpret design through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Structural</i> (design elements/principles), • <i>Subjective</i> (personal expression), • <i>Cultural</i> (social/cultural meaning), • <i>Postmodern</i> (irony, appropriation, new media). <p>Conceptual Framework – Understand the relationships between the designer, the design work, the audience, and the world.</p> <p>Design Disciplines – Hands-on projects in areas like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic design • Fashion design • Product and packaging design • Interior and environmental design • Illustration and character design • Web and interface design • Critical and Historical Studies – Learn about influential designers and movements, and reflect on design in context.
Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Art Diary – idea development, experimentation, reflections. • Drafts and prototypes – annotate own work, concept development or iterations. • In-class activities – short tasks to reinforce knowledge of design elements, software, or history. • Peer/self-assessment – structured reflection on design choices and outcomes. • Verbal feedback – teacher/student conversations on progress and design thinking.
What will students learn in this subject?
<p>By studying this course in Stage 5, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills through practical design projects. • Learn how to communicate visually, using drawing, digital tools, and design software. • Understand how design shapes our culture, lifestyle, and choices as consumers. • Explore real-world careers in areas like graphic design, interior design, product design, and fashion. • Build confidence in self-expression while developing a personal style and visual voice. <p>Visual FX and Design course encourages students to think critically, create with purpose, and gain skills that are both valuable in the classroom and useful in future study, work, and life.</p>