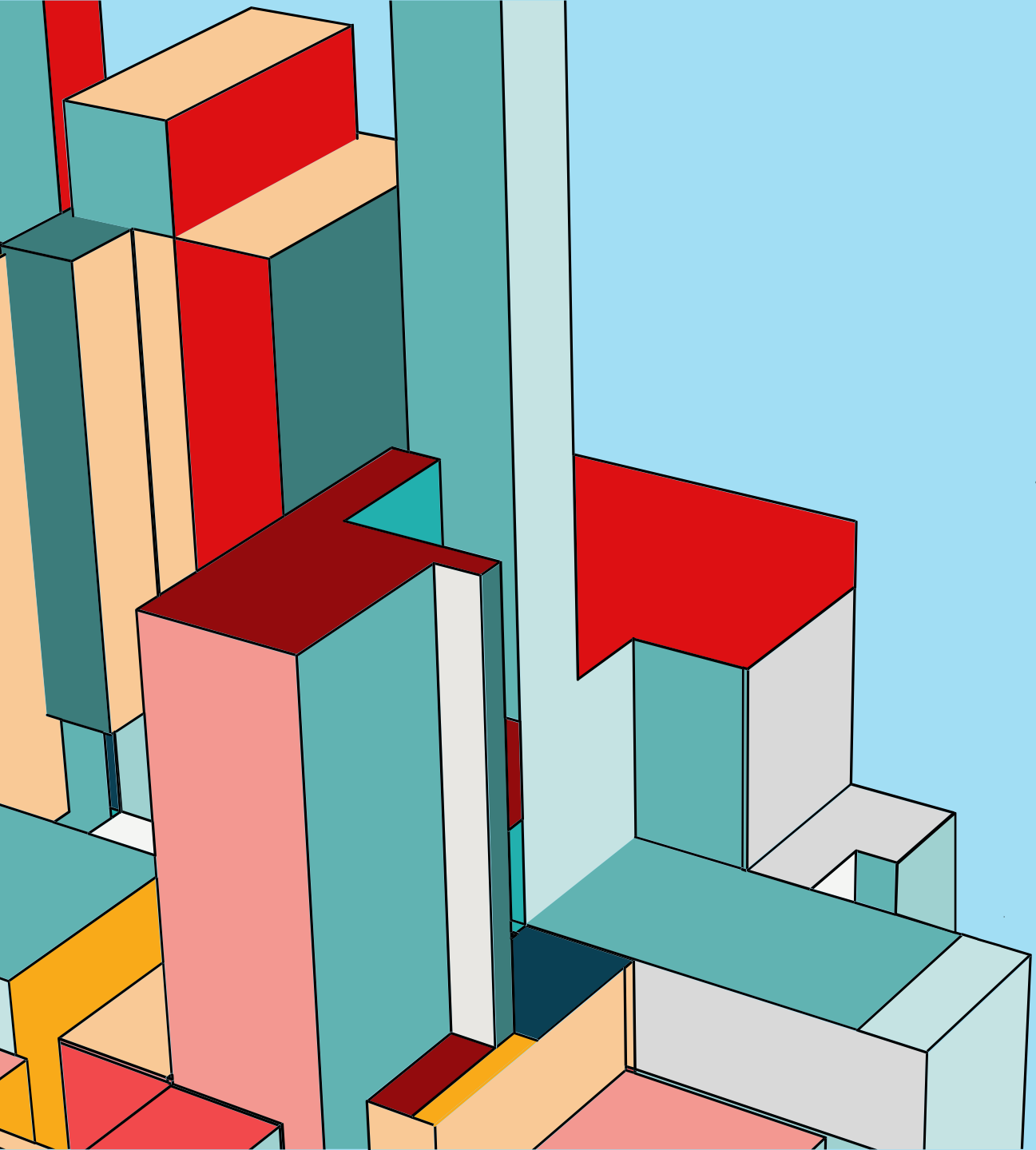


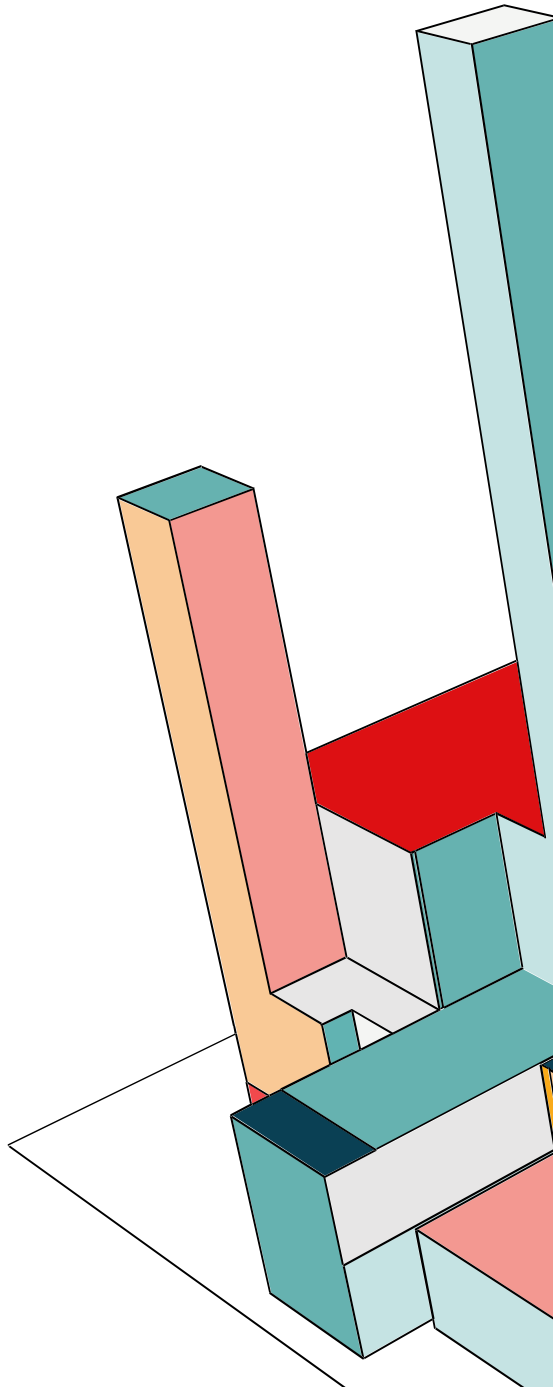
STAGE 6
ENGLISH

STAGE 6 ENGLISH AIMS TO:

- Develop essential skills for higher education and careers, such as critical thinking, independent learning, and effective communication.
- Enable students to comprehend and analyse diverse texts, understand different contexts, and become more engaged and confident communicators in personal, social, and professional settings.

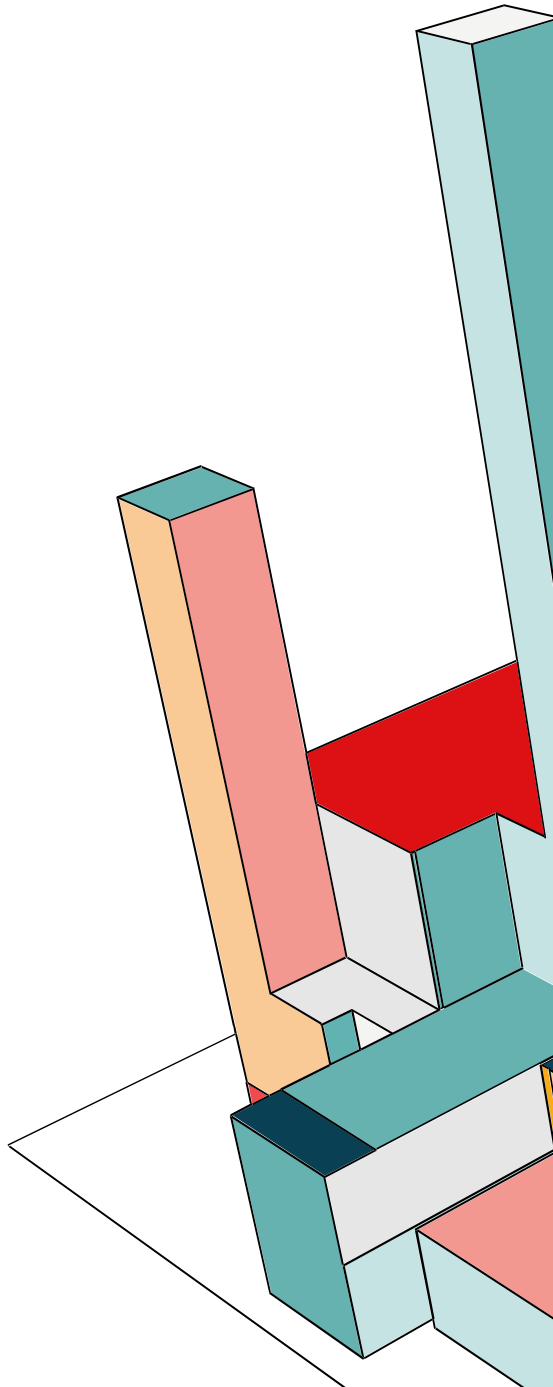
INFORMATION

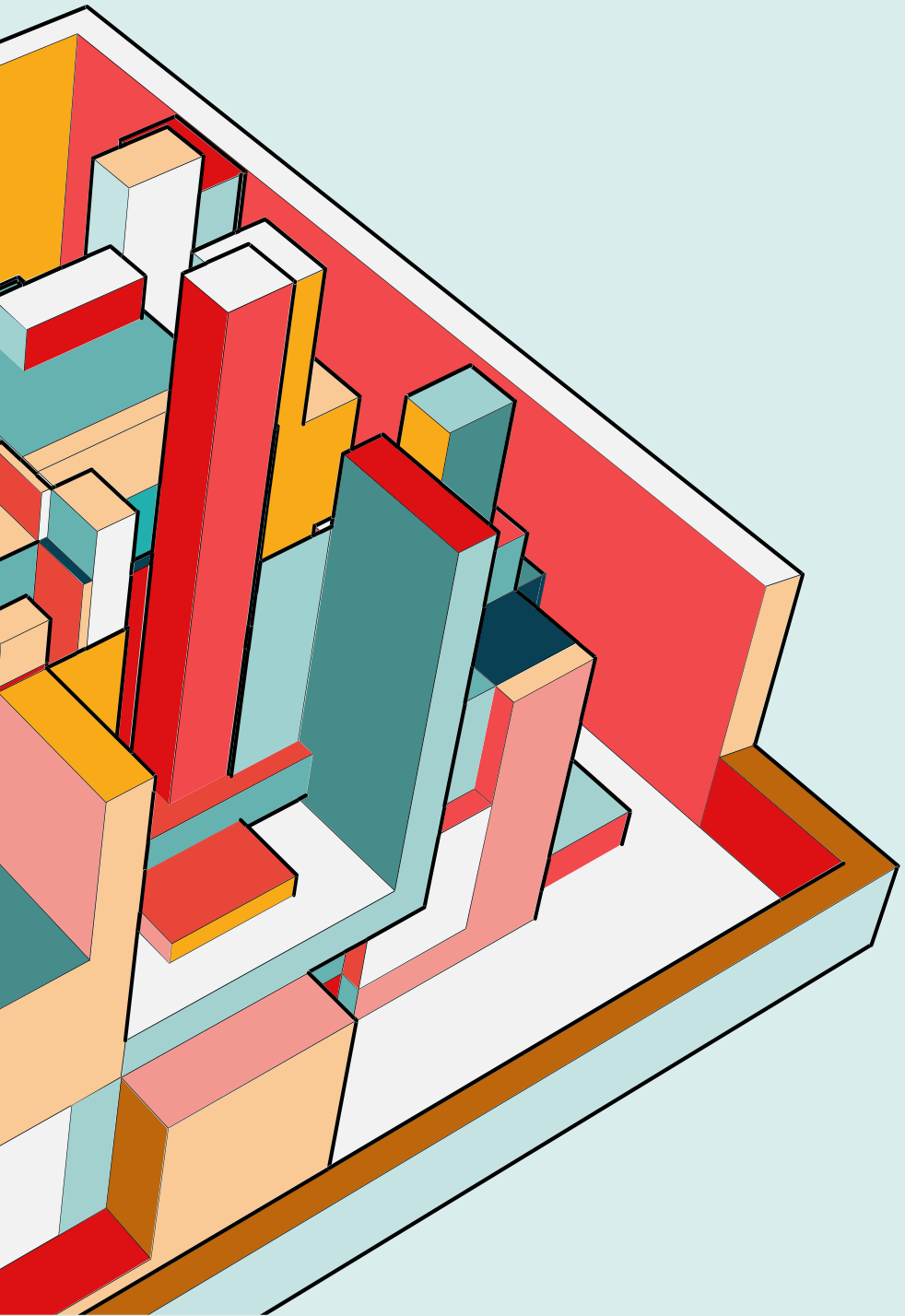
- English is the only mandatory course, meaning you must study English in Stage 6/for your HSC.
- If you are planning on getting an ATAR, English counts towards this ATAR – no matter what mark you get in Year 12.
- Your Year 11 English study is vital in setting up your skills, competencies and understanding for Year 12 (in all subjects, not just English).
- There is limited opportunity to move across English courses (due to time restraints, content covered etc.)
- For these reasons, it is important that you know what is available to you an to make the but decision for your study.



YEAR 11 COURSE OPTIONS

- English Studies (there is both an ATAR and Non-ATAR option for this course)
- English Standard
- English Advanced
- English Extension I (must be studied concurrently with English Advanced)





COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

ENGLISH STUDIES (NON-ATAR OR OPTIONAL ATAR EXAM)

Description:
English Studies is a practical course that helps you build confidence in reading, writing, speaking, and using English in everyday life. You will study a wide range of texts, including short stories, magazines, films, advertisements, digital media, and some literature. The focus is on real-world communication, creative expression, and understanding how texts shape experiences.

Great option if you want to strengthen your literacy for work, TAFE, apprenticeships, or everyday communication.

You can still sit an optional HSC exam to count it toward an ATAR, but many students take it without the exam.

ENGLISH STUDIES (NON-ATAR OR OPTIONAL ATAR EXAM)

Who it's for: Students seeking to consolidate literacy through practical and varied texts. It's suited for those not aiming for ATAR, though sitting the exam optional could allow ATAR eligibility.

Course expectations & engagement:

- Responding to and composing **oral**, **written**, and **multimodal texts**—such as literary, media, digital and stimulus-based formats.
- If choosing the optional HSC exam (not compulsory) in Year 12, it is a **2 hour 30 minute** examination paper
- Examination results have a celling of a Band 4 (70%)

Other relevant info:

- No HSC exam = no ATAR, unless the optional exam is sat.
- Built for confidence and everyday communication; supports a practical approach to English skills over literary analysis.

<u>English Studies is not a 'bludge'. It requires commitment and completion of all course work - just like any other course at Kingscliff High School.</u>

ENGLISH STANDARD

Description:
English Standard focuses on improving your skills in reading, writing, viewing, and creating texts across different types. You will study novels, films, plays, short stories, poems, and nonfiction. The aim is to help you develop confidence in analysing texts and expressing ideas clearly.

You will write essays, imaginative pieces, persuasive responses, and multimedia compositions.

This course is designed for students who want a balance: it prepares you for further study, work, or university and requires a competent level of analysis.

ENGLISH STANDARD

Who it's for: Students aiming for ATAR, with a broad ability and interest in literature and texts across media and forms.

Course expectations & engagement:

- Engage with a **wide variety of texts**: prose, drama, poetry, nonfiction, film, media, and digital texts.
- Emphasis on developing **language, literacy, analytical**, and **creative communication skills** in reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, representing.
- Schools choose texts (no prescribed list for Year 11) from modules and electives.

Other relevant info:

- Continues into Year 12 with two (2) **HSC examinations (Paper 1 = 90 mins, Paper 2 = 2 hours)**
- Supports students building confidence in interpreting meaning and refining communication across text types.

<u>English Standard requires academic commitment as well as completion of all course work.</u>

ENGLISH ADVANCED

Description:
English Advanced challenges you to think deeply and critically about complex ideas in texts. You will study a Shakespeare play, poetry, a novel, and another text type such as a film, nonfiction, or media text. The course develops your ability to write sophisticated essays, conduct close analysis, and explore how language shapes meaning, culture, and perspectives.

You will engage with texts that are intellectually challenging and require detailed interpretation.

Best suited for students who enjoy reading, discussing big ideas, and writing critically and creatively.

Strong preparation for university, especially in humanities and communication courses.

ENGLISH ADVANCED

Who it's for: Students keen on deeper critical and creative engagement with challenging texts–high analytical capacity, strong interest in literature.

Course expectations & engagement:

- Delve into **prose fiction, drama, poetry, nonfiction, film, media, digital texts**, including **Australian** and **intercultural** works (including from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander authors)
- Opportunities to **investigate complex ideas**, **emulate and employ sophisticated language**, and reflect critically on texts and composition.

Other relevant info:

- Continues into Year 12 with two (2) **HSC examinations (Paper 1 = 90 mins, Paper 2 = 2 hours)**
- Strong framework for ATAR, continued focus on textual depth and critical communication.

It is strongly recommended that you do not select English Advanced unless you are achieving at 80% or above in Year 10

English Advanced requires academic rigour as well as completion of all corse work.

ENGLISH EXTENSION I

Description:
English Extension I is for students who love literature and want to go beyond Advanced. You'll explore how texts reflect values, cultures, and worldviews, and you'll conduct your own independent research into texts of your choice.

In Year 11, you study how texts connect with culture and value, and complete a research project.

In Year 12, you study "Literary Worlds" through three prescribed texts plus a related text you choose.

This course encourages independent, creative, and critical thinking at a very high level.

Studying Extension I in Year 11 also allows for the opportunity to study Extension II in Year 12

ENGLISH EXTENSION I

Who it's for: Highly capable students already in English Advanced, keen to explore literature with further independence and complexity.

Course expectations & engagement:

Year 11 (Extension, 1 unit):

- *Texts, Culture and Value* study (~40 hours) and Related research project (~20 hours), involving a chosen text and its manifestations in recent contexts.

Year 12 (Extension 1, 1 unit):

- Elective (60 hours), involves three prescribed texts (at least two extended print texts, including possibly poetry) and one related text.
- Culminates in a 2 hour HSC examination, that is sat in addition to the 2 Advanced English Papers.

Extension 2 (requires Extension 1; additional 1 unit) involves:

- *Author and Authority* study plus an independent Major Work (with journal and reflection documentation) (~40 hours Major Work, ~20 hours study).
- Culminates in a 90 minute HSC examination, that is sat in addition to the 2 Advanced English Papers AND the Extension English Paper and The Submission of a Major Work.

Other relevant info:

Extension I deepens analytical and creative skills, requiring strong independence and literary curiosity.

Co-requisite: English Advanced.

Extension II only available in Year 12 after completing Extension I and Advanced English in Year 11

CONSIDERATIONS

Course	ATAR Eligibility	Academic Demand	Text Depth	Suitability
English Studies	Optional ATAR (if exam sat)	Moderate; Practical literacy focus	Everyday/text-based	Suited to students wanting HSC certification without ATAR priority
English Standard	Yes	Moderate-High; balanced literacy and literary study	Wide genre exposure	Good middle ground; builds skills for many pathways
English Advanced	Yes	High; deep analytical & creative	Complex, high-level literature	Best for confident readers/writers aiming for uni
English Extension I	Yes (1 unit, plus possible Extension 2)	Very high; independent, scholarly	Specialized literature	Ideal for strong Advanced students seeking further challenge

RECOMMENDATIONS

If you're academically confident and ready for challenge
→ English Advanced is a strong fit. If you excel further in English, consider adding Extension I (and potentially later Extension 2 in Year 12).

If you prefer a balanced, robust course that supports ATAR
→ English Standard is ideal.

If your focus is on HSC certification and practical literacy, or if ATAR is not a priority → English Studies provides a supportive pathway.

NEXT STEPS

- Select what suits you, not what your friends choose (your English selection is important)
- Talk to your teacher
- Talk to Mr. Anderson
- Talk to your parents/carers
- Ask questions if you are unsure ☺