

Macintyre High School



STAGE 5 ELECTIVE SUBJECTS 2026 - 2027



Message from the Principal

Students progressing into Years 9 and 10 enter what is also referred to as Stage 5. As Year 8 students, they have already enjoyed the opportunity to choose two elective subjects. In Stage 5, students are able to choose three elective subjects as well as following a program of study in a number of compulsory subjects.

Macintyre High School is committed to providing students with a broad range of learning opportunities to give them the best possible start for the future. High expectations, strong and effective support and a carefully balanced curriculum enable students to develop and grow both intellectually and personally.

There are a number of key elements to be found in the Stage 5 curriculum. These include:

- A sufficiently wide range of elective subject choices to provide for individual needs.
- High expectations held jointly by the school and by every teacher.
- Effective student welfare and support services.
- Opportunities to grow in personal responsibility and to grow as a member of the community.
- A wide range of leadership, sporting and cultural co-curricular options.

These critical elements are to be found at Macintyre High School. The school curriculum offers a range of academic, technological and vocational elective options for students. The school curriculum structure for 2025 will provide for three elective options.

It is strongly advised that students do not select a particular elective because friends may be selecting those courses. Students who select on this basis, often are unhappy with their selections and may find it impossible to change to a more suitable course.

Students should use this booklet as a starting point for the selection of subjects. Subject choices should be based upon personal interests and talents. Students should talk to their teachers and ask for guidance. Teachers will be able to provide advice based on their knowledge of student abilities and skills. They will be able to give students a more detailed understanding of the scope and demands of the courses in their area of expertise.

If parents wish to discuss any aspect of the Stage 5 curriculum at Macintyre High School please feel free to contact the Principal, Deputy Principal, Careers Adviser or the Year 8 Adviser.

Sally Chapple

Principal

STAGE 5

SUBJECTS AVAILABLE TO YEARS 9 AND 10 STUDENTS

The following information has been prepared to inform Year 8 students of the course structure that is in operation at Macintyre High School to support students to attain a Record of School Achievement. Students and parents should read this guide carefully before making selections and discuss the options available with teachers.

Students must study English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, as well as Personal Development Health and Physical Education. In addition, students select three (3) electives. When nominating elective subjects, both parents and students are strongly advised to consider an “all round” education.

A wise selection of subjects will be made up of subjects from a variety of learning areas combining subjects that are academic in nature, along with others that supplement their academic content with the scope for creative expression. Experience has shown the more successful students are those with a “balanced” subject combination rather than those who elect subjects with a bias in one direction.

While most subjects involve a contribution for materials, some practical courses may require additional financial outlay in relation to resources, dependent upon individual student interests. This should be taken into account when you make your subject selection.

If information is sought on the relevance of subjects to future education or career requirements, the student should approach the Careers Advisers, Mrs Snaith or Mr Gersbach for advice.

Course Structure A total of **nine** subjects must be taken

Core Subjects English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, PDHPE are compulsory for all students.

Careers education is also provided for all students in Year 10.

Electives Students may select **three** subjects from the following list of electives.

Aboriginal Studies	Agriculture
Child Studies	Commerce
Computer Technology	Dance
Drama	Elective History
Fashion & Design	Food Technology
Industrial Technology (Metal, Timber, Building Construction & Engineering)	iStem
Italian	Music
Photography	Physical Activity & Sports Studies
Technical Drawing & Graphics Technology	Visual Arts
Rural Operations/Agrifoods (ROPS)	

ELECTIVES - Course Descriptions

Students are asked to select three electives.

NSW Education Standards Authority guidelines require that all students complete at least one 200 hour, and/or one 100 hour elective for the Record of School Achievement. A total of 400 elective hours in or by completion of Year 10

The following pages contain course descriptions of the elective subjects offered at Macintyre High.

Each student will need to indicate their top FIVE preferences on the subject sheet. We will then place students in three electives that best fit their preferences. There is some opportunity for changing electives between Year 9 into Year 10.

OVERVIEW

Year 9 compulsory subjects		Year 9 electives			
English	No fee	Aboriginal Studies	No fee	Industrial Tech Metal	\$60
Mathematics	No fee	Agriculture	\$10	Industrial Tech Wood	\$60
Science	No fee	Child Studies	\$20	Italian	No fee
Geography	No fee	Commerce	No fee	MUSIC (optional instrument hire per semester)	\$60
History	No fee	Dance	No fee	PASS	No fee
PDHPE	No fee	Drama	\$10	Computer Technology	\$15
		Fashion & Design	\$40	Photography	\$75
		Food Technology	\$60	Rural Operations/Agrifoods	\$20
		Graphics Technology	\$10	Visual Arts	\$70
		History Elective	No fee	iStem	\$40
		Industrial Tech Building	\$60	Technical Drawing	\$10
		Industrial Tech Engineering	\$60		

Year 10 compulsory subjects		Year 10 electives			
English	No fee	Aboriginal Studies	No fee	Industrial Tech Metal	\$60
Mathematics	No fee	Agriculture	\$10	Industrial Tech Wood	\$60
Science	No fee	Child studies	\$20	Italian	No fee
Geography	No fee	Commerce	No fee	MUSIC (optional instrument hire per semester)	\$60
History	No fee	Dance	No fee	PASS	No fee
PDHPE	No fee	Drama	\$10	Computer Technology	\$15
		Fashion & Design	\$40	Photography	\$75
		Food Technology	\$60	ROPS/Agrifoods	\$20
		Graphics Technology	\$10	Visual Arts	\$70
		Industrial Tech Building	\$60	iStem	\$40
		Industrial Tech Engineering	\$60	Technical Drawing	\$10

Course: Aboriginal Studies

Course Description: The aim of Aboriginal Studies is to develop knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal identities, communities, autonomy, roles and the range of relationships between Aboriginal Peoples and non-Aboriginal people. The development of a range of consultation and research skills enable students to engage respectfully and responsibly with Aboriginal communities and become active and informed advocates for a just and inclusive world.

Objectives

Students:

- develop knowledge and understanding of similarities and diversity in Aboriginal identities, communities and cultural expression
- develop understanding of the importance of Aboriginal self-determination and autonomy
- develop understanding of Aboriginal Peoples' ongoing local, regional, national and international roles, and range of relationships with non-Aboriginal peoples
- develop knowledge and understanding of the factors influencing non-Aboriginal peoples' range of perceptions of Aboriginal Peoples and cultures, and the effects of these perceptions.
- develop research and communication skills that use appropriate protocols and ethical practices when working with Aboriginal communities.

Students value and appreciate:

- the diversity of Aboriginal cultures, experiences and perspectives the dynamic nature of Aboriginal cultures the importance of social justice and equity ethical practices.

Core study

1. Aboriginal Identities
2. Aboriginal Self-Determination and Autonomy.

Options

1. Aboriginal Enterprises and Organisations
2. Aboriginal Peoples and the Visual Arts
3. Aboriginal Peoples and the Performing Arts
4. Aboriginal Peoples and the Media
5. Aboriginal Peoples and Oral and Written Expression
6. Aboriginal Peoples and Film and Television
7. Aboriginal Peoples and Technologies
8. Aboriginal Peoples and Sport
9. Aboriginal Peoples' Interaction with Legal and Political Systems
10. School-developed Option.

Course: Agriculture**\$10**

Course Description: Students studying Agriculture will develop an understanding of the range of plant and animal species used to produce food, fibre and other products. Students will also develop knowledge of agricultural marketing and effective management based on sustainable practices.

Students studying Agriculture will develop skills in producing plant and animal products, solving problems in a range of agricultural situations, and working safely and co-operatively in agricultural settings. This can be elected as a 100 or a 200 hour elective (which means 1 year course or a 2 year course).

The course involves studying a variety of the following topics:

- Farm Safety and Animal Welfare
- Beef Cattle Production
- Beef Cattle Marketing
- Prime Lamb Production
- Poultry Production
- Pasture Production
- Horticulture
- Winter Cereal and Summer Crop Production
- Soils and Fertilisers
- Tractor Driving
- Wool Production

Course: Child Studies**\$20**

Course Description: This course provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the factors that impact young children's growth and development. Students will also enhance practical skills in communication, decision-making and evaluation whilst building respect for the individuality and uniqueness of young children and their families. It contributes to the development of young people in understanding and appreciating the range of ways they can positively impact on the wellbeing of children through roles in both paid and unpaid contexts.

Throughout the 200-hour course, students will explore 8 units of work, which may include:

- Preparing for Parenthood
- Conception to Birth
- Growth and Development
- Play and the Developing Child
- Food and Nutrition in Childhood
- Children's Literature
- Media & Technology in Childhood
- The Diverse Needs of Children
- Childcare Services & Career Opportunities
- Aboriginal Cultures and Childhood
- Health and Safety in Childhood
- Children and Culture
- Newborn Care
- Family Interactions

There are practical components to this course including food preparation, 'hosting' a baby shower, constructing nursery items and other engaging activities. A subject fee of \$20 applies to assist in covering the costs of these activities. Students may also have the opportunity to work with local childcare centres as well as other community services. Excursions may incur an extra cost.

Course: Commerce

Course Description: Commerce provides students with the knowledge and understanding that form the basis of sound decision making on consumer, financial, business, legal and employment issues. It develops in students an understanding of commercial and legal processes, financial management and financial literacy.

Commerce includes the following topic areas:

- Employment and Work Futures
- Towards Independence
- Law, Society and Political Involvement
- Law in Action
- Investing
- Running a Business
- Consumer and Financial Decisions
- The Economic and Business Environment
- Travel

The study of Commerce allows students the opportunity to link the real world with classroom learning and explores a range of issues which will be increasingly relevant to students as they mature. Living skills, rights and responsibilities, personal financial management and the practical application of commercial skills are important aspects of Commerce.

Course: Computing Technology

\$15

Course Description: Computing Technology underpins many professions and trades, and the skills of a technologically enabled workforce. It develops skills and knowledge in modelling networks and social connections, designing for user experience and analysing data.

Computational thinking is shown as a key process in the learning and understanding of Software development. This includes building mechatronic and automated systems, creating games and simulations and developing apps and web software.

The course has two focus areas Enterprise Information Systems and Software Development.

Practical learning and project work takes up most of the course time in the six focus areas:

- Enterprise Information Systems: Modelling Networks and Social Connections
- Enterprise Information Systems: Designing for User Experience
- Enterprise Information Systems: Analysing Data
- Software Development: Building Mechatronic and Automated Systems
- Software Development: Creating Games and Simulations
- Software Development: Developing Apps and Web Software

Course: Dance

Course Description: The Stage 5 Dance course is designed for students who appreciate and enjoy dance and wish to extend or build on their prior experiences of dance, or as an introduction to dance for students with no previous experience. The course will enable students to develop self-confidence and develop their capacity to establish and maintain safe, healthy and rewarding lives. Students are taught to value and enjoy dance as an art form through the interrelated study of the performance, composition and appreciation components of dance. Students will be exposed to various styles to broaden their knowledge and skills of dance.

Outcomes and course content: the course is divided into the following areas:

- Performance
- Composition (Choreographing movement)
- Appreciation

All students will engage in dance performance, composition, and appreciation. They will explore the elements of dance—space, time, and dynamics—and see how these elements connect across different dance practices.

Students will also learn to perform dances safely, focusing on dance techniques and performance quality. They will express ideas, feelings, and experiences through creating their own dance compositions.

Additionally, students will study and analyse various dance performances and works, gaining insights into people, culture, and society.

Please note: Dance is a performance-based subject. Students will therefore be expected to perform as required. This includes class performances and school events.

Course: Drama

\$10

Course Description: Drama is a form of action in which aspects of human experience is portrayed. It is an exploration of experiences and situations through enactment.

In Drama students learn about themselves and others by creating characters and responding to situations. Drama provides a powerful means of exploring the ways people engage with different situations, ideas and issues.

Junior Secondary Drama offers a particularly valuable means of increasing self confidence and social awareness. Students are involved physically, emotionally and intellectually with the subject – students learn through doing. Drama is a cooperative process through which students develop their ability to collaborate and communicate. Drama has a body of knowledge, which is valuable to secondary students as it is an important form of expression and communication in all cultures.

In one-way or another, Drama touches every life. It can be a source of learning and entertainment, a point of contact, an abiding interest, a career or an outlet for creative energies. No matter which one applies to you, the skills, experiences and fun you have in Drama will remain with you forever.

Course: Fashion and Design (Textiles and Design)

\$40

Course Description: Fashion and Design is concerned with three areas of study:

1. Design
2. Properties and Performance of Textiles
3. Textiles and Society

The following units are studied:

- Design Me
- Woven Stories
- Fashion Flair
- Colour Therapy
- Toy World
- Mini Designer

Each unit of work will contain project work from the area of study appropriate to the project and focus area being selected, thereby developing practical skills in designing, producing and evaluating.

Focus areas upon which project work will be based include:

- Apparel – includes clothing and accessories (hats, jewellery, belts)
- Furnishings – include curtains, cushions, quilt covers, bean bags
- Costume – includes fantasy characters, masks, theatre costumes
- Textile Arts – includes dyeing, printing, beading, embroidery, quilting, appliqué and wearable art
- Non-apparel – includes toy making, puppets, children's books bags, dolls

All project work will be documented and can be presented in a variety of ways, which may include digital portfolio, design folio, diary, journal or any other appropriate method.

A subject fee applies to cover costs of most resources and specialist equipment. Students will be responsible for the cost and of purchasing materials for individual project items.

Course: Food Technology

\$60

Course Description: The study of Food Technology provides students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the nature and role of food. Areas of nutrition, food safety, food processing and technology, and preparation will form the basis for the subject.

Study in Food Technology will be based upon the following topic areas of:

- Food Selection and Health
- Food for Special Occasions
- Food in Australia
- Food for Special Needs
- Food Service and Catering
- Food Product Development
- Food Trends

Students will be expected to be involved in and complete the following to meet course requirements and outcomes

- Significant number of practical experiences as it relates to the topic being explored
- Assigned research tasks
- Group tasks
- Project work involving designing, producing and evaluating solutions for specific food purposes

A subject fee has been established to cover the cost of consumable items, such as food and other related materials. Students must wear enclosed leather shoes in this subject for health and safety regulations.

Course: History Elective**100 or 200 hour course**

Course Description: The aim of the History Elective course is to stimulate students' interest in and enjoyment of exploring the past, to develop a critical understanding of the past, and to enable them to participate as active, informed and responsible citizens. This course is designed to be a more student directed and practical approach to the disciplines of History.

Students explain the importance of key features of past societies, including groups and personalities. They evaluate the contribution of cultural groups, sites and/or family to our shared heritage. They develop skills to undertake the processes of historical inquiry. They identify, comprehend and evaluate the usefulness of historical sources in the historical inquiry process. They explain different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past.

Skills and knowledge developed in History Elective will prepare students for Stage 6 HSIE subjects and develop skills that are essential for University/TAFE.

A site study excursion will be a part of the course content which may include long-distance travel.

History Elective Stage 5

Students will choose from either a 100 course in Year 9 or continue through to a 200 course in Year 10. There is an opportunity in each year for the students to develop their own interests

The course content will be selected from the topics below:

- War and peace – The Vietnam War, World War II
- World myths and legends – Greek and Roman mythology, Mesopotamian mythology
- Ancient, Medieval and Modern Societies – The Roman Empire, 5th Century Greece
- Film as History – Analysing historical films
- Museum studies – Touring museums and looking at artefacts
- Crime and punishment – Salem witch trials
- School developed topic based on student interest

**Course: Industrial Technology –
Metal, Timber, Building Construction & Engineering**

\$60

Course Description: Industrial Technology provides students with opportunities to engage in a diverse range of creative and practical experiments using a variety of technologies widely available in industrial and domestic settings.

Students can select from the following:

- Industrial Technology Metal
- Industrial Technology Timber
- Industrial Technology Building Construction

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of materials and processes related to their area of study and construct projects of a varied and challenging nature appropriate to their knowledge and practical skills.

A subject fee has been established to cover the cost of consumable items and to maintain systems and equipment at a level to provide students with resources to complete task requirements.

Students must wear enclosed leather shoes in this subject for health and safety regulations.

Course: iSTEM

\$40

Course Description: iSTEM is a NSW Department of Education approved elective course that can be studied in Years 9 and 10. Department approved elective courses will not appear on the Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

iSTEM develops skills and knowledges in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics that underpin many professions and trades, and the skills of a technologically enabled workforce. It provides students with learning opportunities to develop knowledge and skills to use the most-up-to-date technologies including additive manufacturing (3D printing), laser cutters, augmented and virtual reality, drones, smart robotics and automation systems, artificial intelligence (AI), and a range of digital systems.

Students gain and apply knowledge, deepen their understanding, and develop collaborative, creative and critical thinking skills within authentic, real-world contexts.

The course uses problem and project-based learning approaches to solve problems and produce practical solutions utilising engineering design processes in the following areas:

- Computer-Aided Design (CAD)
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Aeronautical Engineering
- Agricultural Technology
- Cyber Security
- Design for Space
- Mechatronics and Robotics
- Medical Technology
- Surveying and Geospatial Engineering
- Sustainable Transport

Course: Italian

Course Description: Students studying Italian will have the opportunity to develop their communication skills in a language other than English.

The course involves reading, writing, listening and speaking and will focus on interactive tasks in the following topic areas:

- Family and Friends
- School
- Hobbies
- Travel and Transport
- Food
- Pets and Animals
- Art and Music
- Geography and Culture

Students will link the world of Italy and the Italian language to their current experiences and broaden their multicultural awareness in the process. This is excellent preparation for the senior course.

Course: Music (fee if hiring an instrument per semester)

\$60

Course Description: Elective Music is an opportunity to listen to and create music as a direct comparison to the songs that are chosen as performance pieces. Solo works and / or group performances are the main reason people choose music, but it is also an opportunity to develop higher order thinking skills.

These skills are essential in further education, workplace and everyday life.

While completing musical activities, students are developing their skills in collecting, analysing and organising information, communicating ideas and planning and organising activities.

Working as part of an ensemble aids in the ability to work as part of a team, and through this students learn practical methods of problem solving. All these practical aspects can be tied into the use of technology.

Students are encouraged to learn an instrument, and develop their use of voice promoting self-confidence.

Key theory and practical aspects:

- Scales – chords and keys
- Practical rhythm recognition and ensemble skills (scores – charts and parts)
- Transcription Skills – using instruments to help capture on both paper and computers
- Arrangements Skills – modifying written music so it is better to perform

Students are always encouraged to use the facilities of the music department for extra-curricular practice, bands and ensembles and instrumental clubs.

Course: Photography

\$75

Course Description: Photography is made up of three areas of study:

- Wet Photography
- Digital Photography
- Time based forms

This course is well suited to students who have had limited or no prior experience in this subject.

Focal areas upon which project work will be based include:

- Introduction to Wet Photography
- Special Effects
- Introduction to Digital Imaging
- Photoshop
- Developing Themes and Styles
- Introduction to Video
- Individual Project

A subject fee applies to cover resources and equipment.

Course: Physical Activity and Sport Studies

Course Description: This course represents a broad overview of physical activity and the many possible contexts in which individuals can include activity into their lifestyle. It aims to enhance a student's capacity to participate effectively in physical pursuits as well as develop an appreciation of the components and value of physical activity in contributing to wellbeing and society, leading to improved quality of life for themselves and others.

This course has a strong practical component in which students participate in a range of movement applications and provide students with the opportunity to develop their movement skills, tactical awareness and game play strategy as well as assist the performance of others. In addition, to developing students' confidence, understanding and participation in physical activity, students gain valuable skills in organisation, enterprise, leadership, teamwork and communication.

Some of the units explored during PASS are:

- Anatomy and Physiology
- Fitness and Performance
- Sports Coaching
- Event Management
- Participating with Safety
- Sport in Society

The PASS course incorporates a wide range of lifelong physical activities, including recreational and leisure pursuits, competitive and non-competitive games, individual and group fitness activities. This elective is designed for those students who enjoy practical PE lessons and wish to further develop their skills and knowledge of a range of concepts related to physical activity and sport in addition to the PDHPE curriculum.

**Course: Technical Drawing and Graphics Technology
(Computer aided Design and Drawing)**

\$10

Course Description: This course involves study of graphics principles and techniques to produce a wide range of images, models, pictures and drawings. Through these principles students will learn to use technical drawing instruments, and computer aided design to create geometrical, orthogonal and pictorial drawings.

A range of drawing / graphics area that will be studied:

- Fusion 360 (Computer Aided Design and Drawing)
- 3D Printing
- Orthogonal Drawing
- Pictorial Drawing and Rendering
- Architectural Drawing
- Cabinet and Furniture Drawing
- Computer Animation
- Engineering Drawing
- Product Illustration

A subject fee has been established to cover the cost of consumable items and to maintain systems and equipment at a level to provide students with resources to complete task requirements.

Course: Visual Arts

\$70

Course Description: The study of Visual Arts provides students with a comprehensive experience of making and interpreting art.

Students will develop skills in art-making:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Graphic Design
- Sculpture
- Ceramics
- Designed Objects
- Photo media
- Documented Forms- Time Based Forms
- Textiles & Fibre
- Collection of Works

Students make artworks that build a body of work using an extended range of material and techniques.

Students use their Visual Arts Diary to document exploration of ideas and interests, experiment with new ways to develop artworks by selecting and utilising appropriate materials.

A subject fee applies to cover resources and equipment.

**Course: Agrifood Operations /Rural Operations “ROPS”
(Cert I in Agriculture)**

\$20

Course Description: This is a one hundred hour elective designed for Stage 5. At the end of this Vocational Education and Training (VET) course you are eligible for a Certificate I in Agrifood Operations AQF qualification for a one-year course.

This elective is focused on agricultural activities, is skills based and largely ‘hands on’.

If you do this in Year 9 and choose it again in Year 10 you start early commencement of Primary Industries if you demonstrate suitability. This means by end of Year 12 you could obtain either Certificate II or III in Agriculture. To qualify for a Certificate I you must complete a compulsory unit on “Work Safety and Maintaining the Workplace” and then a variety of electives including machinery and crop work, chemical use, intensive livestock work, extensive livestock work, horticulture and nursery work, support horse work and assist with crutching and shearing.

Course: Primary Industries - Industry Curriculum Framework

School Delivered

Primary Industries provide products and services in response to the demand not only for food and fibre products but also for recreational and leisure activities. These products and services influence the daily lives of all members of society.

Working in the Primary Industries involves:

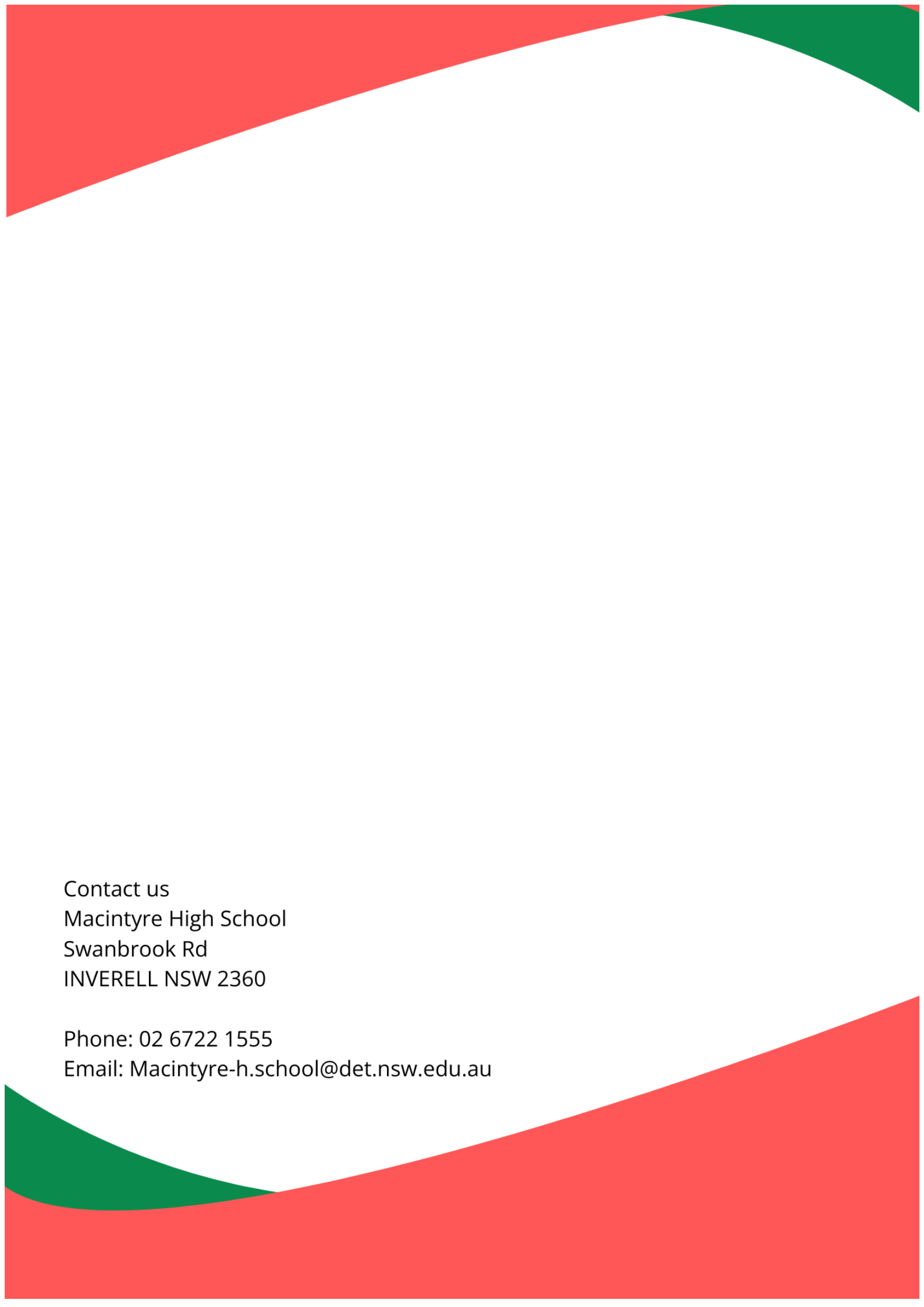
- Dealing with and caring for animals
- Breeding and growing livestock (dairy, beef, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens) crops and grains
- Maintaining and using equipment such as tractors, harvesters, bailers and ploughs
- Overseeing and managing farming operations
- Developing and producing new products and technologies

Samples of occupations students can aim for in Primary Industries:

- Animal attending
- Crop production
- Dairy farming
- Horse care
- Livestock rearing and breeding
- Pest and disease control
- Landscaping
- Horticulture
- Shearing
- Sheep and wool production
- Rural conservation and land management
- Cultivation of flowers

Course description:

The courses are based on units of competency, which have been developed by the agriculture, horticulture, land management and conservation and other Primary Industries to describe the competencies, skills and knowledge required by workers in the industry.



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