



MARSDEN
HIGH SCHOOL

**ELECTIVE SUBJECT
SELECTION GUIDE
YEAR 8 2025**

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Principal's message

Dear parents, carers and students,

The importance of students having a say in their learning and what areas they want to investigate further is crucial to their future pathway. The more opportunities explored the better. In offering an elective option in Year 8, Marsden High School is providing students with the chance to further explore a subject area they have an interest in and wouldn't normally get the option to learn more about until Year 9 when three elective choices are available. Year 8 is now a time for students to begin an individualised journey toward their chosen educational and vocational paths and further improve their communication, collaborative, critical and creative thinking skills.

This booklet is designed to provide a greater understanding of the nature and content of the various elective subjects offered at Marsden High School for Year 8, to assist students in planning their course of study. It should be used in conjunction with discussions with teachers, advisers and family.

Students should take care to choose carefully and take advantage of the opportunities offered at Marsden High School; selecting elective subjects they have an interest in and will enjoy studying. The Year 8 curriculum will provide students with a solid foundation for their continued studies in Stage 5 (Years 9/10) and the senior school.

I wish you well with this important process and please don't hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions.

Steve Smith
Principal

A message to students from Ms Roman

Year 7 face the exciting task of selecting an elective for Year 8. It is a wonderful opportunity for you to choose a course that you are interested in and wish to explore in-depth. This is an important decision so think carefully before choosing your preferred course. I encourage you all to choose courses that you are interested in and are best for you. Remember, the decision you make is an individual choice and should be made by you, independent of what your friends select. It is important to discuss your options with your parents/carers and ask head teachers any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions or require further guidance in selecting the course that is right for you. Good luck in gaining your first preference!

Study pattern for Year 8

The academic curriculum is made up of both **mandatory** and **elective courses** of study, delivered over a two-week cycle.

1. **Mandatory Curriculum in Year 8:** Mandatory curriculum requirements are set by the NSW Education Standards Authority and the NSW Department of Education and Communities and will be followed in the courses below:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Geography/History (HSIE)
- PDHPE
- Music
- Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)
- Visual Arts
- Sport – four hours per cycle.

2. **Elective Subject:** Year 8 students have the opportunity to take **ONE** additional elective subject. This will run for 2 periods per week. (4 per cycle). The elective subjects on offer are:

- Chinese
- Dance
- Drama
- Fashion and Design
- Japanese
- Robotics
- STEM
- Talented Sports
- Outdoor Education and Fitness

It is important to note that the elective subject does not have to be continued into Years 9 and 10. Students will be given further opportunity during Term 3 of Year 8 to select from a further range of subjects for Years 9 and 10.

How to use this guide

This booklet is designed to provide parents and students with an overview of the elective courses offered for study during Year 8 at Marsden High School and a guide for the selection of these courses for 2023.

Use this as a starting point to help you think about which electives you might be interested in. Parents and students are encouraged to talk to the head teachers of the courses, should they require clarification of any details relating to a particular course. You can also find out more by talking to teachers, advisers and others.

Deciding which subjects to choose

All students should consider their choices carefully. Whilst there may be a limited capacity to change subjects in Term 1 of Year 8, it is dependent on a number of factors, including the availability of places in other subjects.

Students should seek out information on the content and nature of courses and talk to as many people as possible – parents, teachers, older students who have done similar electives, family, year adviser and others.

Your choice of subjects should be influenced by:

- **Interests** – a student should choose subjects on the basis of what he/she enjoys and/or achieves best in.
- **Motivation** - students should not be influenced in their choice of subject because a friend is selecting it. There is no guarantee that friends will be in the same class.

Do not choose a subject because a particular teacher may be taking that subject. There is no guarantee that you will have that teacher as these decisions will not be made until much later in the year.

Who to contact for more information

If students have questions about a particular elective subject, they should contact the head teacher for that subject for more information.

Subject	Head Teacher Contact Details
Chinese	Ms Riley Tombs - Head Teacher, Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) and Languages other than English (LOTE)
Dance	Ms Riley Tombs - Head Teacher, Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) and Languages other than English (LOTE)
Drama	Ms Riley Tombs - Head Teacher, Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) and Languages other than English (LOTE)
Fashion and Textiles	Ms Claire Morgan - Head Teacher, Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)
Japanese	Ms Riley Tombs - Head Teacher, Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) and Languages other than English (LOTE)
Robotics	Ms Claire Morgan - Head Teacher, Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)
STEM (Science, technology, engineering & mathematics)	Ms Neelam Dalal - Head Teacher, Science
Talented Sports	Mrs Sarah Maguire - Head Teacher, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
Outdoor Education and Fitness	Mrs Sarah Maguire - Head Teacher, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

If students would like more general advice on elective selection, they can also contact a member of their Learning Leadership team.

Stage 4 Learning Leadership Team:

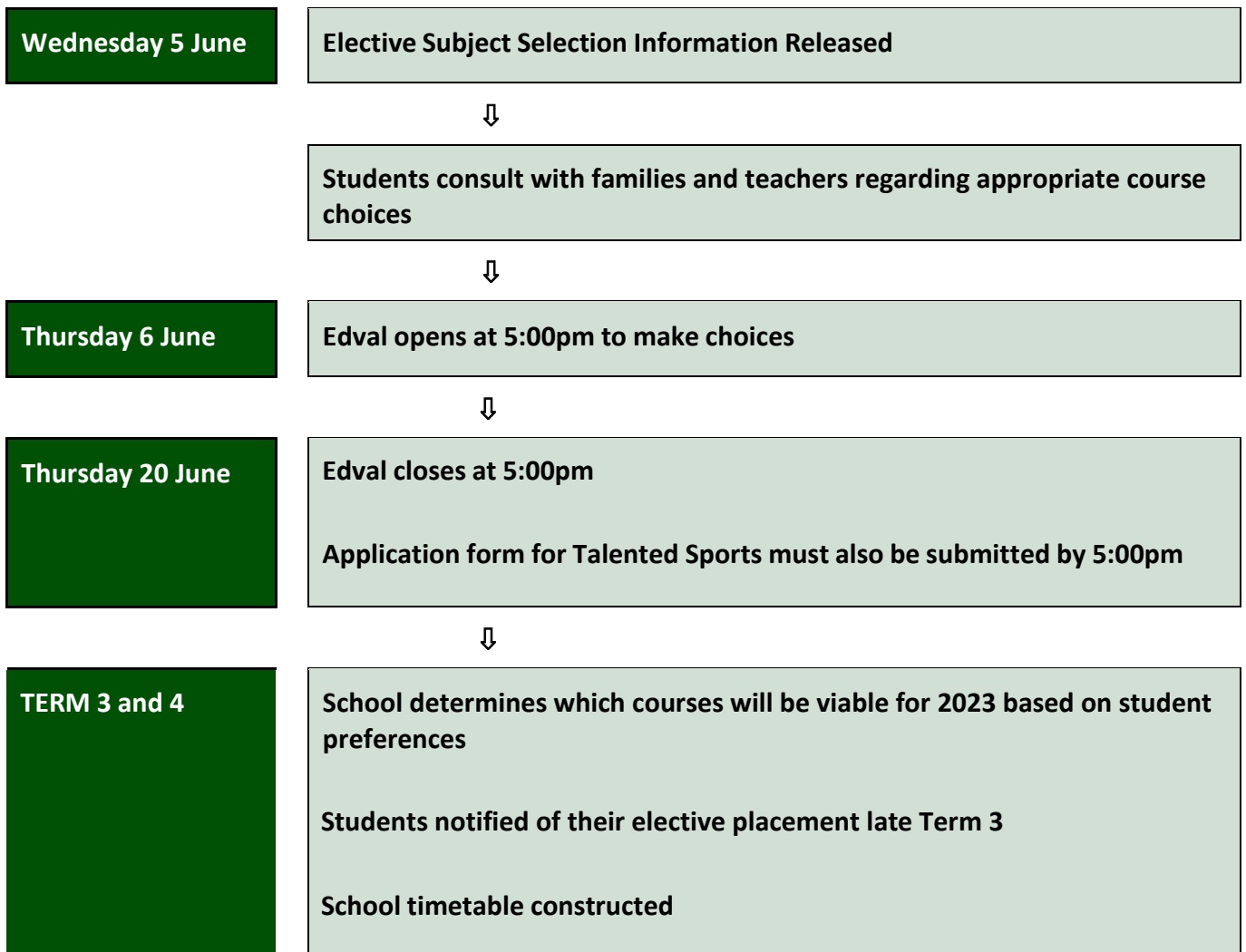
- Year Adviser – Ms Roman
- Head Teacher Learning & Wellbeing – Ms Nadia Blasutto
- Deputy Principal – Ms Koufos

Procedure for selecting courses

Course selections are done online through the Edval system. Students will need to submit three elective choices, in order of preference, **before 5pm Thursday 20 June**. Please consider the order of your selections carefully, particularly your reserve subjects, as you are not guaranteed your first choice and not all subjects are guaranteed to proceed, as the process is driven by student interest.

Also, please be aware that you **do not** need to make your choices quickly in order to increase the chances of getting your top preferences. As long as your preferences are submitted by the due date, all selections are treated equally.

2024 Timeline



How to register your subject selections

An email will be sent to your student DOE email address

Dear Year 7 student,

Please follow the steps below to submit your subject selection for 2025.

STEP 1: Click: <https://my.edval.education/login>

STEP 2: Enter the web-code: (that will be provided to student via Marsden-hs email)

STEP 3: Select the subjects you want from the online drop-downs, in order of your preference.

STEP 4: Click [Submit] to register your preferences.

Online subject selections will **open at 5:00pm on Thursday 6 June.**

Online subject selections will **close at 5:00pm on Thursday 20 June.**

For the **Talented Sports** elective, please complete the online application form at <https://forms.gle/b9rMSYgdwZTrqdFq7>.

You will need to use your Marsden email address and log into your Marsden Google account to complete the form. This form must be submitted by 5:00pm on Thursday 20 June.

If you require any assistance with the online form, please contact Mrs Maguire.

Subject Availability

While we intend to offer a range of courses, students and parents should be aware that it may not be possible to run certain courses if too few students select them. Depending upon individual student choices, the school will create a Year 8 curriculum structure that suits the greatest number of students. Students will be placed into an elective as a result of this process, based on their preferences.

Subject Contributions

Each course offered in this booklet is listed below to indicate the course contribution. The school seeks your support in contributing to the costs of some materials used and consumed by students during their studies for items required that are not provided by the Department of Education. The payments will assist the school in providing additional benefits to students. While every attempt is made to keep such contributions to a minimum, they are required to be paid if a student is to participate fully in the subject. Students generally get to keep the products that they make from these consumable items. Arrangements can be made to pay in instalments. Please note that not all courses charge a contribution. If you have any concerns about the details of this information, please discuss with the Principal.

Subject	Cost	Additional Information
Chinese	\$30	Additional cost for excursion expenses where relevant.
Dance	Nil	Additional cost for excursion expenses where relevant.
Drama	Nil	Additional cost for excursion expenses where relevant.
Fashion and Textiles	\$50	Contributions are used for the purchase of consumables (materials required for student projects). Additional cost for excursion expenses where relevant.
Japanese	\$30	Contributions are used to provide student workbooks and online programs. Additional costs for Japanese/English dictionary (recommended) and excursion expenses where relevant.
Robotics and Digital Design	\$50	Contributions are used for the purchase of consumables (materials required for student projects). Additional cost for excursion expenses where relevant.
STEM (Science, technology, engineering & mathematics)	\$50	Contributions are used for the purchase of consumables (materials required for student projects). Additional cost for excursion expenses where relevant.
Talented Sports	\$100	Contributions provide access to specialist presenters from various sporting areas e.g. coaches, physiotherapists, nutritionists and for excursions.
Outdoor and Fitness	\$100	Contributions for excursion expenses.

Chinese

What is Chinese?

Through learning languages, students develop an understanding of global citizenship, and reflect on their own heritage, values, culture and identity.

This course provides students with the opportunity to gain effective skills in communicating in the Chinese language, to explore the relationship between Chinese and English, and to develop an understanding of the cultures associated with the Chinese language.

What will I study?

The components of this course are:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading and Writing

Some units of work to be covered are:

- Family
- Likes and dislikes
- Sports
- Daily routine
- Making arrangements
- Shopping

Each student is required to complete a variety of assessment items that includes research assignments and video presentations.

Who/why should I chose this elective?

This elective course is suitable for students who wish to better understand the role of language and culture in communication and to embrace diversity and differences.

This course caters for students of all abilities. Knowledge, skills and attitudes developed by these students will have relevance to possible career paths especially in the business world and money market as well as general life experiences.

Subject Fee Contribution

Mandatory Course Fee: \$30

Dance

What is Dance?

Dance is a unique form of self-expression. It is a cultural, economic and artistic part of everyday life. By studying Dance, you will have the opportunity to improve your physical health and ability to move, whilst also being able to express your own values and opinions in a physical way. You will engage in numerous activities like performing, composing and appreciating dance as an art form.

What will I study?

You will study and gain specific skills in 3 main areas including Performance, Composition and Appreciation.

- In **performance**, students will develop their coordination, strength and endurance skills in a variety of dance styles.
- In **composition**, students will have many opportunities to be creative and imaginative in order to choreograph their own unique dance works.
- In **appreciation**, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of dance as art form; they will also develop skills of researching, analysing, writing and criticising performances.

Who/why should I choose this elective?

All students are welcome to elect Dance as a subject. This subject will suit students who:

- Like to be physically active/creative
- Adapt well to change as with this subject no class is ever the same
- Are willing to learn about themselves and develop a **mature approach to life** through physical wellbeing

Other information

What if I can't dance?

Everyone can dance! You will gain experience and confidence to move with ease in a variety of dance styles.

- You need to know your physical limits, be open minded and willing to take on any challenges that may come your way
- You will be exposed to a variety of dance styles including: contemporary, ballet, jazz, musical theatre and tap
- You don't have to be trained in any one of these dance styles in order to participate in the course.

Subject Contributions

Nil

There may be additional costs for excursions as we often take elective students out to see live performances. These are optional experiences for students to attend.

Drama

What is Drama?

Drama is a practical and creative subject with a focus on performance and encompasses a broad range of dramatic activities, encouraging self-confidence, expression and creativity.

Students learn individual and ensemble skills as well as gaining confidence in front of an audience. Students also learn about theatre history and its place in the world. They will explore different performance styles and forms, as well as theatre design elements – lighting, stage and costume.

What will I study?

You will study and gain specific skills, individually and collaboratively, through:

- **making** drama that explores a range of imagined and created situations in a collaborative drama and theatre environment
- **performing** devised and scripted drama using a variety of performance techniques, dramatic forms and theatrical conventions to engage an audience
- **appreciating** the meaning and function of drama and theatre in reflecting the personal, social, cultural, aesthetic and political aspects of the human experience

Who/why should I choose this elective?

All students are welcome to elect Drama as a subject. It is best suited to those who have:

- An interest in performance
- The ability to work in a group
- A positive attitude and high energy
- Maturity and the ability to focus and reflect on your work
- The ability to take risks, try new things and go beyond your safety zone
- The ability to have fun learning and to laugh at yourself!

Other information

What if I don't like getting up in front of others?

This is a tough question - Drama WILL involve performance. Doing it can help you gain experience and **confidence** for public speaking and performance... but only if you participate - sitting on the sides is not an option!

Subject Contributions

Nil. There may be additional costs for excursions as we often take elective students out to see live performances. These are optional experiences for students to attend.

Fashion and Textiles

What is Fashion and Design?

The Fashion and Design elective is an integrated study that focuses on Fashion in Industry. This course will provide students with knowledge of the properties, performance and uses of textiles. They explore fabrics, designs and colouration. Students examine the historical, cultural, and contemporary perspectives on fashion and design. Students investigate the work of fashion designers. Fashion and Design projects give students the opportunity to be creative, independent learners and to explore functional and aesthetic aspects of the fashion industry. They develop transferable work-related skills, including interpersonal skills and entrepreneurial behaviours.

What will I study?

Students learn about:

- Exploring the nature of work and employment in the Fashion Industry
- Practical hands-on skills
- Current fashion trends
- Active wear and sports wear
- Costumes, including theatre costumes, fancy dress costumes and dance costumes
- Fashionable furnishings, including cushions, lampshades, bed linen, chair coverings, table linen, beanbags, wall hangings
- Non-apparel, including book covers, bags, backpacks, surfboard covers.
- Accessories such as shoes, hats, scarves, jewellery, and belts
- Fashion show
- Australian and International Designers
- Current Fashion Trends
- Fashion Seasons and Cycles
- New Technologies in the industry
- Sketching by Hand versus Computer-Aided Design
- Pattern making
- Work, Health and Safety

Who/why should I choose this elective?

This elective is suitable for students who enjoy working in alternative education environments. Fashion and Design students must have a willingness to work in teams, teamwork and being a team player. Fashion and Design students are independent workers who enjoy hands-on practical experiences who are interested in current trends in fashion. Practical experiences allow students to develop skills, be innovative, be dynamic and gain confidence in the use of a range of ideas and demonstrate your creative talent.

Other information

Related subjects in Stage 5 and Stage 6:

- Textiles Technology
- VET Courses

Subject Contributions

Mandatory Course Fee: \$50

Japanese

What is Japanese?

Through learning languages, students develop an understanding of global citizenship, and reflect on their own heritage, values, culture and identity.

This course provides students with the opportunity to gain effective skills in communicating in the Japanese language, to explore the relationship between Japanese and English, and to develop an understanding of the cultures associated with the Japanese language.

What will I study?

The components of this course are:

- Speaking
- Listening
- Reading and Writing

Some units of work to be covered are:

- Family
- Likes and dislikes
- Sports
- Daily routine
- Making arrangements
- Shopping

Each student is required to complete a variety of assessment items that includes research assignments and video presentations.

Who/why should I chose this elective?

This elective course is suitable for students who wish to better understand the role of language and culture in communication and to embrace diversity and differences.

This course caters for students of all abilities. Knowledge, skills and attitudes developed by these students will have relevance to possible career paths especially in the business world and money market as well as general life experiences.

Subject Fee Contribution

Mandatory Course Fee: \$30

Robotics

What is Robotics?

The Robotics elective is an integrated study that focuses on New Technologies. The course provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills in relation to Robotics and Digital Technologies, Electronics and Design and New Technologies.

What will I study?

Students learn about:

- Teamwork
- Computer Aided Drawing
- Robots
- Computer Coding
- Design
- Laser Printing
- 3D printing
- Electronics
- Digital Technologies

Each student is required to complete a variety of assessment items that includes practical tasks, research assignments and video presentations, while improving their skills and knowledge in development with New Technologies.

Who/why should I choose this elective?

This elective is suitable for students who enjoy working in digital technologies in a workshop environment. Robotics students must have a willingness to work in teams, teamwork and being a team player. Robotics students are independent workers with inquiring and critical thinking, working on hands-on practical experiences.

Other information

Related subjects in Stage 5 and Stage 6

- Engineering
- Design and Technology
- Multimedia
- Software Design and Development
- Information Processes and Technology

Subject Contributions

Mandatory Course Fee: \$50

STEM

What is STEM?

The Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics elective is a curriculum based on the ideas of educating students in four disciplines, integrating concepts that are usually taught as separate subjects in an interdisciplinary and applied approach.

What will I study?

Students learn about:

- Collaboration
- Introduction to STEM
- Creating solutions to solve real life problems
- Stem Racers
- Sustainability
- Mechanical
- Aeronautics
- Coding

Each student is required to complete a variety of assessment items that include hands on practical tasks, research assignments, projects and video presentations.

Who/why should I chose this elective?

Students who have a genuine curiosity in Science and application-based learning and want to utilise their problem-solving skills to solve real life problems.

Subject Fee Contribution

Mandatory Course Fee: \$50.00 and additional excursion costs

Talented Sports

What is Talented Sports?

The Talented Sports elective is an integrated study that focuses on specialised sports development for athletic students. Students learn to balance sport, academic performance and social life, which is important for physical and mental wellbeing.

What will I study?

Students learn about:

- Goal setting/time management
- School-life balance
- Leadership
- Mental wellbeing and resilience
- Physical health including pre-hab and re-hab
- Strength and conditioning
- Nutrition, hydration, rest and sleep
- Officiating and coaching

Each student is required to complete a variety of assessment items that includes research assignments, video presentations, self & coach assessments all while improving their physical, wellbeing and academic development.

Who/why should I chose this elective?

This elective is suitable for students currently participating in representative sport and/or aspiring to compete at the elite sport level. Students will be required to complete an application form before being accepted into this elective.

Other information

Students will have access to experts in physiotherapy, nutrition and psychology. Students will be required to assist at all sporting carnivals (School and Zone).

Subject Contributions

Mandatory Course Fee: \$100

Outdoor Education and Fitness

What is Outdoor Education and Fitness?

The Marsden Outdoor Education and Fitness elective is an integrated study that focuses on self-reliance, interdependence and leadership, the development of an adventurous spirit, managing personal risks, safe journeys in nature, the value of life-long outdoor recreation for enjoyment, health and well-being, understanding nature through direct experience and studying, and for developing deeper human-nature relationships.

What will I study?

Students learn about:

- Exploration
- Outdoor living Knowledge and Skills
- Group Dynamic Skills and Leaderships
- Outdoor Activity Knowledge and Skills
- Safety and Wellbeing Outdoors
- Environmental Awareness
- Environmental management, conservation and culture
- Health and Outdoor skills

Each student is required to complete a variety of assessment items that includes research assignments, video presentations, practical assessments all while improving their knowledge of the Outdoors.

Who/why should I chose this elective?

This elective is suitable for students currently interested in fitness and learning about being in the Outdoors or interested in starting the Duke of Edinburgh program.

Other information

Students will have a mixture of practical and theory lessons throughout the year.

Subject Fee Contribution

Excursions