



DENMARK
SENIOR HIGH
SCHOOL

Strive to Achieve

2017

Year 8

Course Information Handbook

*Small enough to care
— large enough to deliver*





Welcome

Thank you for your interest in enrolling at Denmark Senior High School as a Year 8 student in 2017. You can expect a wide range of exciting new learning opportunities which will build on from those you have experienced in Year 7.

Our students have access to a range of specialty teachers and facilities. Students will have the opportunity to engage in activities in the areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences. They will also study a range of specialty courses in Visual and Performing Arts, Physical Education and Technologies. Denmark Senior High School has a range of excellent resources and facilities that will allow students to experience activities that they may never have had the chance to try before, as well as to build on existing knowledge and skills.

During 2017, Year 8 students should make use of the learning opportunities provided to take advantage of their abilities as well as beginning to develop ideas about what their future may hold. This will help you decide on appropriate course pathways as you progress through Secondary School.

Denmark Senior High School staff look forward to working with our Year 8 students in 2017. We are happy to provide the assistance necessary to make the transition to High School as smooth and stress-free as possible.

Please feel free to contact the school on 98 480 100 if you require additional information or assistance.



Location - Location—Location

Located on the south coast of Western Australia, Denmark Senior High School's site affords magnificent views to the river reserve from its modern facilities. Our students are drawn from Denmark, Walpole and the surrounding hinterland. Students have access to the full range of facilities that a large Senior High School would aspire to, with the benefit of moderate class sizes in a close community of approximately 400 students.



Opened in 2014 our Library, Science, Art, Textile, Food Science and Trades facilities are second to none. Denmark Senior High School also boasts Music, Drama, Media and Computer facilities and a gymnasium plus a variety of general classrooms. Outdoor activities at local beaches, rivers and forests, or even competitions in Albany and surrounding areas are a short trip in our 34 seat bus.

Student Services

If you have any problems, they are better shared before they start to impact on your relationships and schooling.

You will have access to services including: Nurse, Psychologist, Aboriginal Education Worker, Youth Worker, Counselor, Literacy Teacher, Year Coordinators and Student Services Co-ordinator.

Students with Special Needs

Students with special needs are supported by a group of dedicated assistants working with teachers on individualized programs. Aside from integration into classes, these students also have access to "The Cottage" - a fully self contained living unit with kitchen, bathroom and laundry facilities.

Contributions

The Department of Education sets the fee structure for schools. Generally a student in Year 8 will have a fixed course and therefore the costs will fall within these guidelines. Currently the Department of Education is still to advise schools of the permissible "Contributions" cap. Schools are also permitted to charge for extra-curricular activities and high cost options and these charges will be compulsory for students choosing these activities. Assistance is available for students who are on certain Government allowances (eg: Health Care Card) and the Manager of Corporate Services can advise parents of their entitlement in this area.

Lockers

A limited number of Lockers are available for use by students who may have to store items during the day. An annual fee is charged up front for this service.

Buses

Please check your eligibility for School Bus Services online as it can change when you move schools
<http://www.schoolbuses.wa.gov.au/>



THE STRUCTURE OF YEAR 8 STUDIES

The school day is divided into 6 periods of approximately 50 minutes - two before Recess, two before Lunch and two in the afternoon. All Students will have a program based around a common core of lessons with specialist teachers in specialist rooms. With 30 Periods during any week, they will generally study:

English	5 single periods	Mathematics	5 single periods
Science	5 single periods	Physical Education	1 double period
Humanities & Social Sciences	5 single periods	Drama	1 single period
Metalwork & Woodwork	1 double period	Art	1 double period For one semester
Food Science	1 double period for one semester	Health Education	1 single period
STEM	1 single period	Digital Technology	1 single period

Students selected for the **Basketball Extension Program** will not do Physical Education. They will do two double lessons of Basketball and every attempt will be made to let them sample all other practical areas at least once during Year 8.

Students studying **Instrumental Music** will do one double period of Class Music and every attempt will be made to let them cover all other practical areas at least once during the year.

YEAR 8 COURSES

English

In Year 8 English students begin to learn more about the complexity of the English language and how to use it effectively. Students are provided with opportunities to learn how to speak, listen, read, view and write with purpose, understanding, effectiveness and critical awareness in a wide range of contexts. They develop knowledge of the ways in which language varies according to content, purpose, audience and context as well as their grasp of the conventions of English. Students are exposed to a range of written and visual texts and are encouraged to relate these to aspects of contemporary society as well as to personal experience.

Throughout the course students develop their ability to discuss and analyse texts and language critically and with appreciation. As students progress, the range of text types expands from the familiar to the unfamiliar, and from the simple to the complex. Teachers provide students with a wide range of tasks and activities which give them the opportunity to demonstrate their levels of achievement in the three strands of Language, Literature and Literacy against the four Outcomes of English: Listening and Speaking, Reading, Viewing and Writing.

Mathematics

Students in Year 8 will be immersed in the Australian Curriculum which provides learners with essential mathematical skills and knowledge in *Number and Algebra*, *Measurement and Geometry*, and *Statistics and Probability*. This curriculum develops the numeracy capabilities that all students need in their personal, work and civic life. There is a focus on developing increasingly sophisticated mathematical reasoning, analytical thought and problem-solving skills. Student learning is supported by use of appropriate texts, technology and manipulatives. Year 8 students will also become familiar with the capabilities and use of their scientific calculator. Students will be graded according to ability and progress demonstrated in Year 7. There will be three pathways with Pathway 1 and 2 courses essentially covering the same content with opportunity for challenge and acceleration being provided to the mathematically able. Students in Pathway 3 will be provided a curriculum with appropriate support tasks and pacing of content to continue the development of their mathematical skills and understandings.

Science

Year 8 Science will build on students' studies commenced in Year 7. This year aims at expanding student's knowledge of basic science concepts and developing science skills. Denmark Senior High School approaches science learning in a highly practical and hands on way. This involves students engaging in investigations using appropriate laboratory equipment to undertake planned and open ended practical tasks. Whenever possible, learning opportunities will be based on hands on activities to provide experiences, which should have real life applications.



The development of the Australian Curriculum allows the Science Department to expand student's knowledge and conceptual understandings of

- Scientific Inquiry
- Earth and Space Sciences
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Science as a Human Endeavour

The area of Scientific Inquiry involves skills development, research and experimental design as outlined in the Australian Curriculum under Inquiry and Human Endeavour. Students in Year 8 will build on the breadth, depth and specificity of their Year 7 scientific understanding.



Throughout Year 8, students will need to demonstrate their skills and abilities, both practical and conceptual, through a range of assessment.

STEM

STEM is a multidisciplinary subject and is an acronym that stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. There is an Australian wide educational push for the development of STEM skills in students to cope with the increasing technological demands of the workplace. In STEM classes students will work on projects that will integrate the different STEM skills, in addition to working on problem solving, team building and communication skills. The focus for STEM Year 8 is to increase the detail of student's project work as well as the autonomy at which they work. Students may work on projects that include coding and environmental design.

HaSS

Humanities is the study of people and their interactions with each other and the environment. In Year 8 our focus is guided by the West Australian Curriculum to incorporate the strands of Geography, History, Civics and Economics.

Year 8 Geography explores the different types of landscapes we have in Australia and the connection to country of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We also explore the dangerous world of geomorphic hazards and consider how we can prevent, mitigate and prepare for such events. Our major historical focus of study is the Medieval world (including a depth study of the black death). This allows us to fully immerse ourselves in the lives of people in the Middle Ages society and feast, debate and celebrate surviving the Plague!

In Civics and Citizenship students explore civil and criminal law through infamous case studies and conduct a mock trial to demonstrate their understanding of the legal process. The year is rounded out by participating in the Real Game which is a simulation of real life money management. Students get jobs, an income and pay taxes, and budget and plan holidays. This is a fantastic interactive experience which covers aspects of the Economics course.

Health and Physical Education

Health Education

In this course students study concepts related to self-esteem, interpersonal skill development, sexuality, safety education, first aid and issues relating to smoking, nutrition and disease prevention. The concepts covered will adopt an awareness-raising approach, with an emphasis on harm minimisation.

This course will also discuss responses to self-management skills and Social and emotional issues as they arise throughout Year 8.

Physical Education



Students in Year 8 will study the movement skills and strategies to gain confidence in physical activity through a variety of sports, including European Hand Ball, Indoor Cricket, Softball, Netball and Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, Indoor Hockey and Athletics. Physical Education promotes a healthy, active lifestyle and provides students with the opportunity to develop leadership and team work skills, with an emphasis on participation.

Students must wear the Denmark Senior High School sports uniform as outlined in the uniform policy. Throughout Year 8 the emphasis is on participation in a range of sports.



Technologies



Woodwork and Metalwork

Students use the Technology Process to develop design ideas and workshop skills with hand and machine tools to produce personal projects using plastics, wood and metal. Students will have the opportunity to complete a number of personal models, with an emphasis on individual achievement and self-paced learning. A safe working environment will be promoted at all times.

Food Science

Building on the foundation of skills and knowledge gained in the Year 7 course, students will explore a greater depth of nutritional understanding, and maintaining a healthy body weight. Using the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and the Australian Dietary Guidelines, students will explore meal planning for breakfasts, lunches, dinners, and foods for entertaining.

Digital Technology

This course introduces students to various computer applications, which will develop a level of computer literacy that enables them to function effectively in their home, school and community environments. Students use the Technology Process to investigate a variety of forms of information including a critical analysis of the Internet. They will also develop basic keyboard skills in this practical environment.



The Arts

Visual Arts

Students will be given the opportunities to use arts skills, techniques, technologies and processes to create, interpret, develop, explore and communicate arts ideas. Students will explore and develop their understanding and mastery of the elements of art, drawing and painting techniques, ceramics, print making and design. Students are expected to maintain a visual diary which portfolios their understanding and mastery of art skills, processes and history.



Drama

A course based on improvisation, characterisation and dialogue to introduce Drama skills. Emphasis is on having fun whilst developing dramatic skills that may have applications to how students relate in real life.



Music

Some students have been accepted into the School of Instrumental Music program and besides their normal class Music, will have instrumental lessons. These students will study a general music program in Year 8 and will investigate a range of music genres, instruments and innovations. Students will study aspects of: Music skills and processes, Music in society. Music responses and Aesthetic understanding in music.

As music is a performance-based art all students can be assured of plenty of support in every aspect of the course, especially when performing. Students are given the opportunity to develop their theoretical and practical skills to standards of excellence.

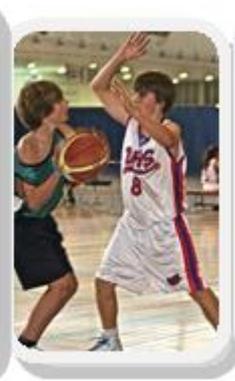


As all teachers in the music program are professional players, students are encouraged to attend the public performances that their teachers give throughout the year. Students also attend other live performances performed by professional players. Students receiving instrumental lessons participate in the School Band and practice one afternoon a week after school. The band takes part in the State Concert Band Competition each year, as well as performing numerous times throughout the year.

Basketball Extension

(Requires the completion of Selection Criteria)

Basketball Extension is a specialised elective over three years, for students who demonstrate a particular talent and/or keen interest in basketball. Positions are offered to 25 students entering Year 8 who show potential to perform at top level basketball. The course includes playing, refereeing, coaching and administration. Students will be given an opportunity to develop their individual and team skills through intense coaching via access to specialist coaches. Students learn about basketball practice and theory including basic skills, techniques and tactics, a preliminary referee's accreditation, a preliminary coaching course, a sports medicine workshop, and a statistics course. Students keep an extensive diary to track their personal development. Students will require a school basketball uniform which must be worn during all lessons.



Special Tips for Success at High School

- from the 2014 Year 8 Students

1. *Listen carefully to the teacher*
2. *Colour code your timetable*
3. *At each break, get your books ready for the next two periods*
4. *Before school, (or the night before), check your timetable and make sure you pack the things you need for your lessons that day*
5. *Keep your files neat and organised. (File dividers are great)*
6. *Make time for homework*
7. *Do your homework as soon as you get it*
8. *Ask if you are not sure about something*
9. *Your Year Coordinator is a good person to go to for advice*
10. *Choose your friends wisely!*

HOMESTUDY AND STUDY GUIDELINES

Personal responsibility is critical to successful learning. Home study is a vital part of the learning process. Parents are in partnership with students and the teachers and are encouraged support study.

Homework requirements can vary significantly between courses. Students are encouraged to develop regular patterns of study even at times when formal homework is limited. Extra reading on topics, keeping up with current affairs, completing class work, and discussing school-work are all useful additions to a study program. This will prepare them for the busier times.

THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITY

- Set home study which is meaningful and reflects the needs of each learning area.
- Advise students clearly and accurately of the home study and study guidelines.
- Set clear and reasonable last dates for submission.
- Return marked home study promptly.
- Provide feedback to students.
- Contact parents about consistently late, lost or substandard work.

THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY

- Take responsibility for learning.
- Complete all set home study.
- Record due dates
- Find out what is missed when absent.
- Prepare a home study timetable and allocate time to organise files and equipment.
- Ask for help when difficulties with home study arise, **well before the due date.**

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Be aware of our home study and study guidelines.
 - Assist in balancing sport, social commitments, study, part-time work and relaxation.
 - Encourage the preparation of a home study and study timetable.
 - Show interest by asking about home study and encouraging the completion of all home study by due date.
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DENMARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Contact us:

Administration

Principal:

Diane Cole

Deputy Principals:

Years 7-9:

Wayne Austin

Planning/Senior School:

Year 10-12

Bob Kirk

Manager Corporate Services:

Lauren Anstiss

Year 7 Transition:

Wayne Austin

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Susan Fahey

HaSS:

David Beckwith

Student Services:

Katherine Mitchell

School Nurse:

Paula Stretton

Specialist Program Contacts:

- **Basketball Program:**

Lindsay Stirling/Ken Davies

- **Building & the Trades:**

Gavin Palmer/Patrick McConigley

- **Drama:**

Deb Edmondson

- **Gifted and Talented :**

Wayne Austin

- **Hospitality:**

Jodie Pollard

- **Music:**

Meghan Weber

- **Physical Education:**

Dylan Judd/Allan Knight

- **SES Cadets:**

Wayne Austin

- **Visual Arts:**

Emily Gummer

- **Vocational Courses**

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