



**GERALDTON**  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

# Year 7/8 Curriculum Handbook 2024



## Geraldton Senior High School

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# Introduction

Welcome to Geraldton Senior High School, a senior secondary public high school in the Midwest Region that caters to the needs of students from Year 7-12. For those who are already associated with our school, you will appreciate what a great school we have and the exciting opportunities that are offered to all students. To those who are learning about our school for the first time, I am confident you will soon realise what a great decision you have made to be part of the Geraldton Senior High School community. As a Year 7 or Year 8 entering Geraldton Senior High School in 2024, you will become a member of a cohort of students who are offered a significant number of rich learning and extra curricula opportunities. You will also become part of the traditions of a great school, and you will be supported by dedicated and committed staff.

The information contained in this booklet introduces you to the subjects and programs that are offered to Year 7 and Year 8 students at our school in 2024. Other aspects of the school including the outstanding services that are available to support students at school also form part of the information presented. The program of study that every Year 7 and Year 8 student will undertake in 2024 has been determined through the School Curriculum and Standards Authority as part of the Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline. Clear pathways are created for students so they can choose subjects which allow them to develop the skills, knowledge, and understandings to better prepare for a more diverse range of course offerings as they progress through their secondary schooling.

As a progressive mainstream senior high school, we are committed to developing a strong relationship with parents/caregivers as we believe that working together in the education of your child will result in them achieving positive outcomes. Please take time to read all the information in this booklet and I am confident you will gain a real sense that we offer a supportive, comprehensive, and inclusive education program for every child.

We look forward to working with you in providing an outstanding education for your child.

**Karena Shearing**  
**PRINCIPAL**

# Curriculum Overview and Course Structure

All Year 7/8 students at Geraldton Senior High School will study a broad curriculum, with subjects from the following learning areas:

- The Arts
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technologies
- Languages

## Western Australian Curriculum

The Western Australian Curriculum is implemented across academic learning areas and addresses general capabilities which include:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Information and Communication Technology
- Critical and creative thinking
- Personal and social competence
- Ethical behaviour
- Intercultural understanding

The general capabilities describe what students should understand, value and be able to do as a result of their curriculum experiences. Students achieve these outcomes at increasing levels of complexity as they progress through their schooling.

## Year 7/8 Course Structure

All Year 7/8 students will undertake the following compulsory courses:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities and Social Sciences
- Physical Education
- Health Education
- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Digital Technologies
- Design and Technology
- Food and Textile Technology
- Languages

# Assessment and Reporting

Student achievement will be assessed and reported on in each subject. Assessment will be carried out continuously and will measure your child's progress towards attaining the outcomes of the subjects being studied. Typical assessment methods include written and objective tests, assignments, models and projects, experiments, open-ended tasks and portfolios.

Teacher judgements about your child's performance are based on knowledge of your child's work that is gained over time and in a range of situations. Each assessment contributes to a cumulative evaluation of performance.

The school will provide regular reports on your child's achievement throughout the year. These will comprise the following:

- an interim report towards the end of Term 1
- a mid year report
- an end of year report

# Student Requirements for Year 7/8

The following items are essential to enable your child to successfully participate in all classes and activities. All students are expected to come to class fully equipped and prepared to work from day one.

## Requirements

- Backpack or bag (essential)
- Closed-in shoes

## Pencil case containing:

- Pens Medium point (2 red 2 blue)
- Pencils 2B & HB
- Pencil Sharpener
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Highlighters (pack of 4)
- USB Flash Drive 1GB (or greater)
- Set of headphones for use with computers, these are the same as used for IPOD or MP3s
- Scientific Calculator
- A4 lined paper pads and A4 file or A4 lined exercise books.

## Dress Code

All students are to wear the full school uniform. Please be aware that the government has legislated a NO DENIM and compulsory uniform policy in all government schools. Students are also to wear full school uniform for excursions, TAFE etc unless they have a note to say otherwise from a teacher.

INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS WILL ADVISE OF OTHER ITEMS AS REQUIRED



# Student Services

The Student Services team meets the diverse needs of all students. The team promotes personal and social excellence among students and discourages those influences that can work against the attainment of standards in each of these areas. The team provides holistic support to assist students in achieving their personal potential.

The Student Services team includes the following staff/services:

- Student Services Deputy Principal
- Student Services Manager
- House Coordinators
- Student Support Officer (Student Services Reception)
- School Nurse + First Aid Officer
- School Psychologist
- Chaplain
- Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers

By working as a team, Student Services meets the needs of the whole child so their experience at school is happy, healthy and supports the achievement of positive outcomes.

## House Coordinators

House Coordinators oversee matters relating to individual students and their welfare. They carry out a significant role in supporting the overall planning and organisation of student activities at the school. Year Coordinators are an excellent point of reference in all matters relating to student pastoral care and wellbeing.

# Contributions and Charges

Government funding is provided to schools for the operating costs associated with the education of students. These costs include salaries of teaching and support staff, student support services, school buildings, furniture and equipment, school maintenance, school security and operational costs.

Parents are responsible for the cost of certain materials, services and facilities directly used or consumed by students. This can include textbooks and the provision of text materials, specialist materials used in practical subjects (including Arts, H&PE and Technologies), excursion costs, hire of specialist equipment and venues.

Parents are also responsible for the provision of a student's personal items - for example pens, pencils, paper, files, notebooks, calculators, etc. and will receive a contributions and charges sheet outlining costs for your child's chosen courses.

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS:** Each high school in WA can request a contribution of up to \$235 per student per year in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. At Geraldton Senior High School, we have an extensive and diverse curriculum for Year 7/8 students which includes a range of Electives. The Year 7/8 course provides the necessary core curriculum subjects as well as the choice for students to participate in elective areas that meet individual career pathways and interests. The total cost of this course is set at \$235. It includes hire of textbooks and provision of text materials and course materials.

The following table outlines a breakdown of costs incurred for your child:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| <b>English</b>                                    | <b>\$30.00</b>  |
| <b>Mathematics</b>                                | <b>\$30.00</b>  |
| <b>Science</b>                                    | <b>\$30.00</b>  |
| <b>Humanities and Social Sciences</b>             | <b>\$30.00</b>  |
| <b>Physical Education</b>                         | <b>\$20.00</b>  |
| <b>Health</b>                                     | <b>\$5.00</b>   |
| <b>Electives @ \$15 each (includes Languages)</b> | <b>\$90.00</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                      | <b>\$235.00</b> |

Over many years GSHS has built up an excellent range of resources and students have been able to participate in a wide range of educational experiences. We will continue to rely on the support of parents through the payment of contributions and charges to help us ensure the continued provision of excellent facilities and services is retained.

Payment Plans can be arranged through the Finance Officer and our School will accept payment by cash, cheque, EFTPOS or directly from your bank account.

Voluntary Approved Requests are also included as part of the contributions parents/caregivers can make towards their child's education at Geraldton Senior High School, this can include contributions towards the chaplaincy program, the library, the school buses and Information Technology.



# COURSES

## English

The English Learning Area at Geraldton Senior High School continue to develop student's skills and understandings based on the Western Australian Curriculum which organises the content into three strands: Language, Literature and Literacy. Students are provided opportunities to learn how to speak, listen, read, view and write with purpose, understanding, effectiveness and critical awareness in a wide range of contexts.

“The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers, and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate, and build relationships with others and with the world around them” (Australian Curriculum, ACARA, 2010).

So, just what happens in an English classroom these days? Walk into one of our classes during the year and you might see students reading anything from a fable to a classic or contemporary Australian novel. They may be studying the features of a blog, a graphic novel, or a webpage. Perhaps they're drafting an essay, putting the finishing touches to a short story or poem for entry into the Randolph Stow Writing Competition or constructing a multi-modal presentation. They could be engaged in a panel discussion, 'Q and A' style on a social issue or transforming a text to produce an alternative way of thinking. They may be analysing music videos, media representations or still images to develop their visual literacy. They may be actively listening to song lyrics, speeches, podcasts, TED Talks or their peers to explore themes connected to their world. All of this, and more, on top of the basics of spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

## Languages – Indonesian

The Indonesian: Second Language subject enables all students to communicate proficiently by providing students with essential communication skills in Indonesian, an intercultural capability, and an understanding of the role of language and culture in communication.

In year 7, students communicate in Indonesian, interacting with peers and known adults to exchange information about self, family and friends, and interests. They engage in individual and collaborative tasks that involve planning, inviting, planning, deciding and responding, or work together to highlight their language learning for family, friends and their school community.

Students will participate in 2 hours per week of Languages.



# Humanities and Social Sciences

HASS is the study of people and where they live. The Year 7/8 courses are based on the Western Australian Curriculum and cover four main areas. A key aim is to equip students to retrieve information and apply their knowledge in a meaningful way in the 21st Century.

## Year 7

### History

Students learn how historians and archaeologists investigate the past and the role of history in humanity and then explore in depth, the Ancient World of Egypt.

### Geography

Students investigate water as a resource and ways of overcoming the issues of water scarcity. Students explore factors that influence where people live, and strategies that enhance the liveability of places for young people.

### Economics and Business

Students learn to understand how wants and needs can be satisfied with a focus on why individuals work; the different types of work available and how people derive an income.

### Civics & Citizenship

Students learn about Australia's legal system and how it provides justice and a citizen's role within the law. They explore key features of Australia's democracy, and how it is shaped through the Australian Constitution and constitutional change.

## Year 8

### History

Students learn about the Medieval World and investigate Europe during this time. A second depth study looks at the Black Death in Asia, Europe, and Africa in the 14th century.

### Geography

Students investigate landforms and landscapes in Australia and around the World. A focus is on natural hazards like volcanoes, earthquakes, and other dangerous events. A second area of study explores Australia and the migration of people.

### Economics and Business

Students learn about how Australian Markets and business operate and the influences on them such as government and consumers. The changing nature of work and its future is examined.

### Civics & Citizenship

Students learn about Democracy in Australia and how citizens participate in government. They examine how laws are made in Australia and how different cultures interpret laws.



# Mathematics

Mathematics is essential to performing work tasks and life tasks effectively, yet it often goes unrecognised in our day to day lives. Building mathematical understanding and skills allows us to access new opportunities, whether at home, at work or at play. Strong numeracy skills underpin access to the content of all Learning Areas and Mathematics has a role to play here and now and into the future. At Geraldton Senior High School, we strive to develop an appreciation and understanding of maths so that students are enriched by their learning, so that they can apply the maths they learn, see how it is used, or pursue it in further education or workplace training. To do this we aim to nurture our students' mathematical proficiency with a strong mathematical understanding backed up by fluency of thinking, and mathematical reasoning that fosters a problem-solving mindset.

## Number and Algebra

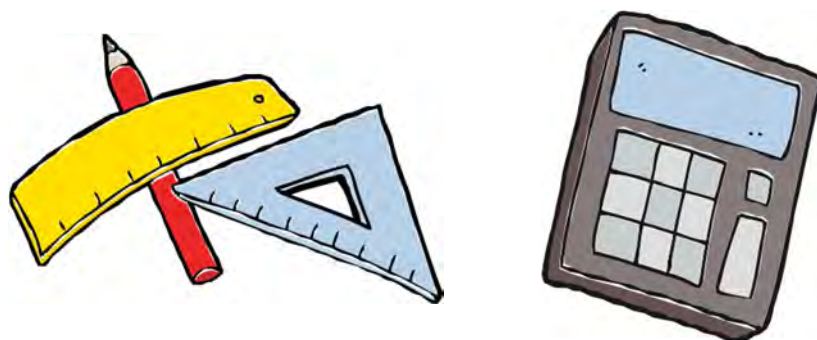
Students solve problems involving the comparison, addition, and subtraction of integers. They work with whole numbers and indices to calculate perfect squares and square roots. They calculate fractions and percentages of quantities, using percentages, fractions and all four operations to solve problems, including making financial decisions by comparing costs. Students use variables to represent numbers, and extend numerical laws to algebraic contexts, solving simple linear equations and making numerical substitutions into algebraic expressions. They model real world problems, plot on to a Cartesian Plane and interpret Linear Relationships.

## Measurement and Geometry

Students describe different views of three-dimensional objects. They represent transformations in the Cartesian plane. Students solve simple numerical problems involving angles. They use formulas for the area and perimeter of rectangles, and they name the types of angles formed by a transversal crossing parallel lines.

## Statistics and Probability

Students identify issues involving the collection of continuous data. They construct stem-and-leaf plots and dot plots. Students describe the relationship between the median and mean in data displays. They calculate mean, mode, median and range for data sets. Students determine the sample space for simple experiments with equally likely outcomes and assign probabilities to those outcomes.



# Science

The Year 7 and 8 science courses are based on the Western Australian Curriculum. Four units covering 'Science Understanding' will be completed during the year. Each unit will contain the themes below and incorporate 'Science as a Human Endeavour' and 'Science Enquiry Skills':

## Mixtures and everything

In this unit students learn about laboratory safety and equipment. They investigate pure substances, mixtures, solutions and separation techniques. They then apply this knowledge to the water cycle and water treatment.



## Earth and Space

In this unit students learn about the earth's renewable and non-renewable resources. They then look at earth, the relationships between the earth moon and sun, investigating day and night, seasons, eclipses, and tides.

## Movement and Motion

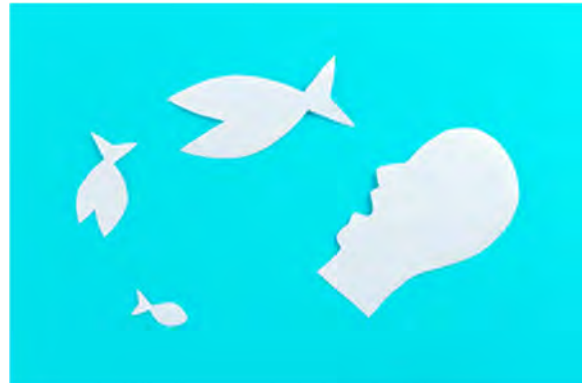


In this unit students learn about balanced and unbalanced forces. They explore the effects of gravity and investigate friction, and simple machines such as levers and pulleys.

## Classification and Living Systems

In this unit students learn about the classification of living organisms, they also explore the feeding relationships between organisms, native food webs and how humans have an impact on food webs and food chains.

Students' knowledge and understanding will be assessed through tests, research, and extended response assignments, as well as practical skills assessments. A single grade will be awarded at the end of each semester.



# Health and Physical Education

## Year 7/8 Health and Physical Education

We aim to immediately engage our new students in a variety of sporting activities which incorporate team building as well as promote the development of movement and skills. Year 7 and 8 students will learn several sports, in addition to opportunities such as the House Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. We pride ourselves on the conduct and sportsmanship of our students, both on and off the sporting field and have high expectations which reflect community standards. Participation and attendance in all Physical Education classes is compulsory.

Through our Health program we support the physiological, mental, and social wellbeing of all students. Students will learn how to take positive action to enhance their health, safety, and wellbeing by using effective communication and problem-solving skills. Below is a summary of the key components to the Health and Physical Education curriculum, which provides students with opportunities to develop attitudes and values that promote a healthy lifestyle.

## Physical Education

### Movement and Physical Activity

Moving our body

Movement skills, sequences, game tactics and strategy to defend space and retain possession

### Understanding movement

Long term adaptations to exercise and how physical activity can be improved through increasing a range of fitness components

### Learning through movement

Communication skills that enhance team building and listening skills Ethical behaviour and fair play through participation

## Health

### Personal, social and community health

Being healthy, safe, and active

- Strategies to promote safety in online environments
- Managing emotional and social changes associated with puberty
- Help-seeking strategies
- Strategies to make informed choices to promote health, safety, and wellbeing.

Communicating and interacting for health and wellbeing

- The impact of relationships on own and other's wellbeing.

Contributing to healthy and active communities

- Preventative health practices for young people to avoid and manage risk
- Health and social benefits of physical activity and recreational pursuits.



# The Arts

Our vision in the Arts is to provide creative opportunities for all Arts students in a safe, caring, and inclusive environment.

The Year 7/8 courses are specifically designed for students who appreciate arts subjects and enjoy making and performing creatively. It is an opportunity for students who have not yet decided on an area of specialisation in the senior years to explore and find where their skills and needs will take them. All the Arts courses enable students to have fun, gain confidence and learn new skills.

## Available Arts Courses

Visual Arts – Visual Arts and Media Arts

Performing Arts – Dance, Drama, Music Instrumental Music

## Visual Arts

Visual Arts – students are introduced to the fundamental skills involved in communicating visual ideas. Students develop visual language skills along with design development skills by participating in activities such as Drawing, Painting, Printmaking, Design, Pottery and Sculpture. Selected work will be displayed at the Arts Extravaganza.

Media Arts – students learn basic media production skills and photography. Some of the skills include creating and editing reality television, game shows and short films. Students use digital video cameras and related software to create movies and prints.

## Performing Arts

Dance – students collaborate to produce a circus-based performance. They learn skills such as expression, projection and focus and demonstrate their capabilities to a public audience. Whilst the program is weighted towards practical skills and technique there are backstage management crafts and production technologies which students can align to. Practical activities include acrobatics, breakdancing, use of hoops and ribbons and choreographic devices.



Drama – students collaborate to create a performance work which will be presented to a public audience. They explore the elements of drama such as role, character and relationships, voice and movement, space, time and situation, mood, atmosphere, and dramatic tension. Whilst the program is weighted towards practical skills and technique, there are tasks which link to backstage management such as lighting, sound, and the understanding of general backstage technologies.

Music – students develop an appreciation of music of different styles and from different cultures. They learn about the influence of music in the world we live.

## Instrumental Music

Students currently involved in the Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) program in their primary school automatically continue in this program when they enter Geraldton Senior High School.

Instrumental Music provides the opportunity for students to continue to develop their instrumental performance skills both individually and in small and large groups. Students in Year 7 also can audition and take part in the Instrumental Music program and play in the school band.

# Technologies

Technologies is an engaging, hands-on area, encompassing many different skills. Students are encouraged to use their initiative to solve problems while working co-operatively with others, using appropriate equipment, and managing time effectively. This is done in the contexts of Design & Technology, Digital Technologies, and Home Economics.

## Food and Textile Technologies – Year 7



Students are given many opportunities to make a variety of foods which are tasty and nutritious, economical, easy and time efficient. As well as practical activities this subject will cover correct kitchen hygiene and safety, time management, food labelling, nutrition and how to plan for social occasions.

Students will also be given opportunities to learn about sewing, using a sewing machine and an over-locker. Students will design and create simple sewing projects.

## Digital Technologies – Year 7 / Year 8

Students get the chance to explore, create and develop logic and problem-solving skills using computer software. Using a collaborative approach, students create interactive presentations and entertaining videos for specific audience types.



## Design and Technology – Year 8



Within the Materials context students are given the opportunity to apply their designing skills to make products from both Wood and Metals, learning how to use both hand tools and selected workshop machines. Students are also given the opportunity to design their own product using Computer Aided Design (CAD) tools such as the Laser and 3D printers.

# Focus Programs

## Geraldton Clontarf Academy

The Geraldton Clontarf Academy exists to improve the education, discipline, self-esteem, life skills and employment prospects of young Aboriginal men. This is done by encouraging behavioural change and developing positive attitudes. Fundamental to this is the development of values, skills and abilities that will assist the boys to achieve better life outcomes.

Through a range of activities, Clontarf staff mentor and build strong relationships with students while the school caters for their educational needs.



## Stars Foundation



The Stars Foundation program works within the school system to drive community-led solutions aimed at overcoming the obstacles that prevent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls from attending and achieving at school. Girls in the Stars Program receive intensive one-on-one mentoring and support from our team of skilled field staff.

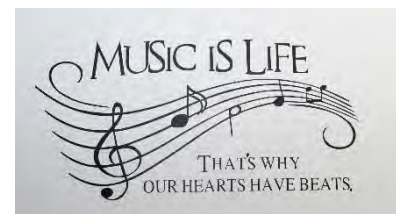
Our program increases the skills, employability, mental health, and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls throughout Australia – providing them with better opportunities to contribute to the social and economic outcomes of the wider community.

## COMPASS

Our qualified Teacher's, Learning and Support Coordinator and Special Needs Education Assistants are highly skilled in providing Individual Education Programs that make achievement accessible to all students. Each student's program is designed to complement their individual needs and abilities, to maximize student outcomes. These programs take a holistic approach, with mainstream subjects and specialised programs that focus on building academic skills such as literacy and numeracy, while fostering development in areas such as speech, mobility, community access, life skills and social and emotional growth.

## Class Instrumental Music

Students currently involved in the Instrumental Music School Services (IMSS) program in their primary school automatically continue in this program when they enter Geraldton Senior High School. Class Instrumental Music provides the opportunity for students to continue to develop their instrumental performance skills both individually and in small and large groups.



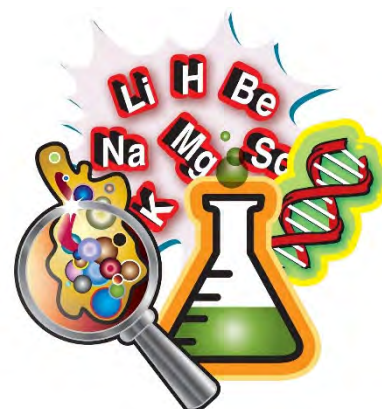


# Focus Programs cont.

## Academic Program of Excellence

To further develop the skills of students by providing an environment in which like-minded, high achieving students extend their learning across all learning areas. This program provides challenges where students can work with peers who share similar interests, aspirations, and abilities.

An appropriately challenging curriculum for each student is the goal hence the program includes enrichment and extension activities, as well as accelerated curriculum in Maths, English, Science and Humanities.



## Gifted and Talented Education Online

Students with exceptional academic ability will have the opportunity to engage in a learning environment that is intellectually stimulating and rigorous.

Students who meet the requirements of the Academic Selective Entrance Test (ASET) can study an online program to foster advanced analytical, critical and creative thinking skills. They follow a program that matches individual learning needs and accelerates learning by extending their skills with advanced and in-depth study.

## Literacy Intervention

MacqLit is delivered to selected small groups (up to 5 students) for up to one hour, four times a week. The program teaches the students how to read and spell words using appropriate decoding strategies which also helps to improve comprehension. Students will be identified via diagnostic testing which is completed in Term 1 of Year 7.

## Useful Contact Information

|  |                           |  |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Principal</b>                               | Mrs Karena Shearing       | <a href="mailto:Karena.Shearing@education.wa.edu.au">Karena.Shearing@education.wa.edu.au</a>       |
| <b>Deputy Principal<br/>Years 11-12</b>        | Mrs Kartini Signa         | <a href="mailto:Kartini.Signa@education.wa.edu.au">Kartini.Signa@education.wa.edu.au</a>           |
| <b>Deputy Principal<br/>Years 9-10</b>         | Mrs Rhonda George-Kennedy | <a href="mailto:Rhonda.Kennedy@education.wa.edu.au">Rhonda.Kennedy@education.wa.edu.au</a>         |
| <b>Deputy Principal<br/>Years 7-8</b>          | Mr Jay O'Sullivan         | <a href="mailto:Jay.Osullivan@education.wa.edu.au">Jay.Osullivan@education.wa.edu.au</a>           |
| <b>Manager<br/>Student Services</b>            | Ms Kate Davidson          | <a href="mailto:Katherine.Davidson@education.wa.edu.au">Katherine.Davidson@education.wa.edu.au</a> |
| <b>Program Coordinator<br/>The Arts</b>        | Ms Katie Hood             | <a href="mailto:Katie.Hood@education.wa.edu.au">Katie.Hood@education.wa.edu.au</a>                 |
| <b>Program Coordinator<br/>Senior School</b>   | Ms Hazel Snell            | <a href="mailto:Hazel.Snell@education.wa.edu.au">Hazel.Snell@education.wa.edu.au</a>               |
| <b>Program Coordinator<br/>English</b>         | Mrs Deb Stone             | <a href="mailto:Debra.Stone@education.wa.edu.au">Debra.Stone@education.wa.edu.au</a>               |
| <b>Program Coordinator<br/>HASS</b>            | Mrs Claire Annison        | <a href="mailto:Claire.Annison@education.wa.edu.au">Claire.Annison@education.wa.edu.au</a>         |
| <b>Program Coordinator<br/>Mathematics</b>     | Mr James Heseltine        | <a href="mailto:James.Heseltine@education.wa.edu.au">James.Heseltine@education.wa.edu.au</a>       |
| <b>Program Coordinator<br/>PE &amp; Health</b> | Miss Zoe Sellers          | <a href="mailto:Zoe.Sellers@education.wa.edu.au">Zoe.Sellers@education.wa.edu.au</a>               |
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| <b>Program Coordinator<br/>Technologies</b>    | Mr Enan Hann              | <a href="mailto:Enan.Hann@education.wa.edu.au">Enan.Hann@education.wa.edu.au</a>                   |



Respect | Responsibility | Doing Your Best