



PATTERSON RIVER  
SECONDARY COLLEGE

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# YEAR 8 HANDBOOK 2026

PERSISTENCE · EXCELLENCE · COMMUNITY · RESPECT

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# 2026 YEAR 8 COURSE OUTLINE

In 2026 students in Year 8 will study the following year long subjects:

- English
- Languages (German or Learning Strategies)
- Humanities (History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Business and Economics)
- Learning for Now
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science

They will also study the following semester long subjects:

- Design Technologies
- Digital Technologies
- Food Studies
- Health
- Music
- Visual Arts

Students are to select a further four elective subjects for the year (2 elective unit per semester). Each of these electives runs for 2 periods a week. Please also choose 2 reserve units.

Course Code	Subject	Units
<b>VISUAL ARTS</b>		
8ANI	Animation	1
8CER	Ceramics	1
8DDR	Design Drop: Year 8 Merch Edition	1
8SART	Street Art	1
<b>DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES</b>		
8WOOD	Make it with Timber	1
8METAL	Retro Metal	1
8ROBOT	Robot Challenge	1
8STEM	STEM Race Cars	1
8SEW	Sew Cool	1
<b>DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES</b>		
8CODE	Coding and Game Development	1
<b>ENGLISH</b>		
8BOOK	Bookmaking & Illustration	1
8CRW	Creative Writing	1
<b>FOOD STUDIES</b>		
8FLAIR	Food with Flair	1
8CHEF	MasterChef	1
<b>HUMANITIES</b>		
8PPE	Pirates, Plagues and Prisoners	1
<b>GERMAN</b>		
8GLC	German Language and Culture	1
<b>PERFORMING ARTS</b>		
8BAND	Year 8 Band (Instrumental Music students) (this elective runs for both Semesters)	2
8DAN	Dance Works	1
8SHOW	Showtime	1
8THS	Theatresports	1
<b>Physical Education</b>		
8PEX	EXCEL Sport (selected students) (this elective runs for both Semesters)	2
8PSPT	Passport Sport	1
8SPORT	Sports & Recreation	1

# YEAR 8 ELECTIVE CHOICES

## ART

### ANIMATION (8ANI)

<b>EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$24.20
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	In this fun and creative elective, you'll bring your ideas to life through cartooning and Claymation. Explore the world of animation by designing your own characters, crafting scenes, and telling stories with your unique style. Whether you're sketching on paper or molding with clay, you'll learn the techniques to make your animations come alive, frame by frame. Get ready to transform your imagination into amazing animated creations that you can share with others!
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Visual Diary, Finished Artworks and Theory
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Art Creative Practise, Visual Communication Design

### CERAMICS (8CER)

<b>EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$45.00
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Get your hands dirty in this ceramics elective where creativity takes form! You'll explore the world of clay, learning techniques like hand-building and getting a feel for the potter's wheel to create your own unique pottery and sculptures. From experimenting with fun clay activities to shaping your ideas into designs, this course lets you turn your imagination into real, tangible art. Whether you're sculpting with your hands or spinning on the wheel, you'll discover the excitement of bringing your vision to life in clay!
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Visual Diary, Finished Artworks and Theory
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Art Creative Practise, Visual Communication Design

### DESIGN DROP: YEAR 8 MERCH EDITION (8DDR)

<b>EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$27.00
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Get ready to step into the world of music merch design! In this project, you'll use your creativity to craft standout promotional material for bands and musicians. From designing epic band tees to creating vibrant posters and album covers, you'll explore how to mix art and design with the vibe of the music scene. Whether you're into bold graphics or something more minimal, this is your chance to bring your ideas to life and see your designs make an impact.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Visual Diary, Finished Artworks and Theory
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Art Creative Practise, Visual Communication Design

## STREET ART (8SART)

<b>EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$36.30
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Step into the world of Street Art in this exciting elective where your creativity takes centre stage. Learn the art of stencil making and paste-ups as you design and create bold, eye-catching visuals that stand out. Whether you're crafting powerful messages or just looking to express your style, you'll discover how to turn ordinary walls into extraordinary canvases. This course is your chance to make a statement and leave your artistic mark on the world around you!
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Visual Diary, Finished Artworks and Theory
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Art Creative Practise, Visual Communication Design

# DESIGN TECHNOLOGIES

## MAKE IT WITH TIMBER (8WOOD)

<b>EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$33.00
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The focus of this elective is traditional woodwork skills and learning to work with the characteristics of timber. Limited time will be spent on the design process. Students will produce a laminated serving platter and a wall mounted coat rack. The laser cutter, vinyl and paint can be used to add decoration to the products.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Safe use of tools and machinery, correct and efficient use of equipment, understanding of material characteristics, successful completion of projects
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Product Design and Technologies

## RETRO METAL (8METAL)

<b>EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$33.00
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The focus of this elective is traditional metalwork skills and learning to work with the characteristics of non-ferrous metals. Limited time will be spent on the design process. Students will produce an enamelled copper bowl and a silver soldered ring. The ring project can be extended by adding resin, stamping texture or working with its shape.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Safe use of tools and machinery, correct and efficient use of equipment, understanding of material characteristics, successful completion of projects.
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Product Design and Technologies

## ROBOT CHALLENGE (8ROBOT)

**CURRICULUM CONTRIBUTION** \$33.00

**DESCRIPTION** Students will have two coding challenges in this elective through the design, building and programming of a robot using LEGO EV3 Mindstorms. The challenges are to create the robot that completes the set task the fastest or most efficiently. Students will develop skills related to forces, motion, electricity, construction and coding. Students will also have coding and flying challenges with the Mambo Drone fleet. Mambo Mini Drones are used to navigate a series of obstacles and courses.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT** Design of the robot, successful completion of challenges

**LINKS TO VCE** Systems Engineering

## STEM RACE CARS (8STEM)

**EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION** \$33.00

**DESCRIPTION** Students will work in teams of 2-4 to design and make race cars using a range of materials from the STEM area. The students will shape a timber car body, create laser cut wheels and 3D print accessories such as spoilers. They will develop skills in using the CAD programs CorelDRAW and Onshape to draw their designs. The speed of the cars will be measured to help inform improvements to their car designs. The students will race their final car designs to compete for the Fastest Individual Car Award and the Fastest Team Award.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT** Group design folio, Design of the race cars produced

**LINKS TO VCE** Product Design and Technologies, Systems Engineering

## SEW COOL (8SEW)

**EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION** \$33.00

**DESCRIPTION** The focus of this elective is to explore the art of textiles through the production of a soft toy and a woven basket. Both projects will look at traditional methods and apply them in more contemporary ways. Each student will make two products that will demonstrate their individual design ideas. The soft toy will involve embroidery, applique and hand stitching. Students will look at the work of the Tjanpi Desert Weavers and the techniques they use as inspiration for their basket weaving. Extension work will be a small project to learn about and practice sewing on a sewing machine.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT** Soft toy, Basket Weaving

**LINKS TO VCE** Product Design and Technologies

# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

## CODING AND GAME DEVELOPMENT (8CODE)

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	An introduction to coding and game development. Experience coding languages such as Python, Ruby and Javascript. Learn game development using Gamemaker. Design and create your own games.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Coding task – My many codes Development task – My idea, my game
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Applied Computing, Data Analytics, Software Development

# ENGLISH

## BOOKMAKING & ILLUSTRATION (8BOOK)

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Are you a budding author or artist – or maybe both? This elective offers you a great opportunity to create an original literary work, complete with your own illustrations. Develop and refine your writing and creative talents in this unit and be exposed to existing works that might surprise and inspire you. Perhaps this could be your first step towards producing a literary masterpiece that is enjoyed and remembered through the ages!
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Comic book creation, picture story book creation
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	English, Literature

## CREATIVE WRITING (8CRW)

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>Have you ever dreamed of seeing your name on the cover of a book? Or maybe you just enjoy reading and want to learn how stories are made. If so, this creative writing unit is for you!</p> <p>In this subject, you'll learn how to plan, write, and polish your own narrative. You'll explore what makes a great story - like interesting characters, exciting plots, and vivid imagery - and you'll get the chance to publish your final piece.</p> <p>Whether you've got a big imagination or just love putting words together, you'll finish this unit with a story you're proud of - just like a real author.</p>
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Journal writing, contribution to chapbook
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	English, Literature

# FOOD STUDIES

## FOOD WITH FLAIR (8FLAIR)

### EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION

\$88.00

### DESCRIPTION

You will learn techniques in food presentation which naturally leads to making food products that can be used to celebrate events or to give as gifts. Techniques explored will include baking (eg. cookies, decorated/iced cakes), pastries and preserves. Labelling and packaging of food products will be explored.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

Design Task and Production skills

### LINKS TO VCE

Food Studies, Health and Human Development, VET Hospitality

## MASTERCHEF (8CHEF)

### EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION

\$88.00

### DESCRIPTION

This elective will encourage and extend your basic cookery skills in a fun, competitive and team building environment. Inspired by the Masterchef TV series students will learn basic skills and then be given challenges such as: Mystery Box, Invention Test, Team cook-offs, and more.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

Design Task and Production skills

### LINKS TO VCE

Food Studies, Health and Human Development, VET Hospitality

# HUMANITIES

## PIRATES, PLAGUES AND PRISONERS (8PPE)

### DESCRIPTION

Choose your own adventure through Historical Inquiry. In this subject you will oversee the topic you learn about, from the questioning point right up to the historical argument. Topics you can choose from include The Vikings, The Ottoman Empire, The Angkor/Khmer Empire, Polynesian Expansion across the Pacific, The Black Death and Renaissance Italy. Enjoy studying the History you're interested in and leading your own Inquiry in this student led subject. Your findings will be presented in your final project which will take the format of a variety of options including a film or documentary, a diorama, a graphic novel or creative story, an audio-visual presentation.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

Historical Inquiry, Final Project

### LINKS TO VCE

History, English, Literature



# LANGUAGES

## GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE (8GLC)

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	In the German language and culture elective, students have the opportunity to extend their knowledge and understanding of both the German language and culture in a different teaching environment. This elective runs alongside normal classroom lessons but provides more depth and additional background on topics covered as well as bonus material not covered in the main classes. German elective students also have the opportunity to attend annual activities like the German Film Festival and take part in several German competitions – such as creating German advertisements or vlogs.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	German research, speaking, listening, reading and writing
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	German

# PERFORMING ARTS

## YEAR 8 BAND (8BAND)

<b>PRE-REQUISITES</b>	Participation in the instrumental music program.  Year 8 instrumental music students must pick this elective for both Semesters 1 and 2 as it will run for both Semesters 1 and 2.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The Year 8 Band elective will provide the opportunity to learn new and exciting songs and rehearse once a week as a band. Students will improve their ability to read music and play songs of increasing difficulty. There will also be opportunities to perform at school and in the wider community as well as excursion opportunities to see the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and an incursion with the Navy band.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Band performances
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Music

## DANCE WORKS (8DAN)

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	In Year 8 Dance, students are exposed to a range of dance techniques and styles. They are introduced to the choreographic process used to create dances and work in small groups to produce their own dance works. They also learn a dance work and further develop their understanding of group formations. Students engage in rehearsal, pre-performance and performance practices.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Choreographic and Rehearsal Processes, Performance and Reflection
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Dance

## SHOWTIME (8SHOW)

### DESCRIPTION

In Showtime, students step into the world of musical theatre, exploring acting, singing and dancing while learning how to bring a full-scale production to life. Working collaboratively as an ensemble, students workshop a musical from planning stages to the final performance.

Throughout the unit, students take on both performance and the production roles, gaining experience in direction, choreography, costume, set design, make-up, hair, props, lighting, sound and publicity. They develop skills in rehearsal processes, creative problem solving and teamwork, while building confidence in performance.

The unit culminates in the presentation of their finished production at the Drama Showcase, performed for parents and Year 7 students. No prior experience is required - just enthusiasm, commitment and a passion for the Performing Arts.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

Rehearsal process, performance, journal and reflection

### LINKS TO VCE

Theatre Studies, Dance and Music

## THEATRESPORTS (8THS)

### DESCRIPTION

In Theatresports, students dive into the exciting world of improvisation, building confidence, creativity and quick-thinking skills. Through drama games and structured activities, they learn the core principles of improvisation, including teamwork, spontaneity, listening and storytelling.

As part of their assessment, students design and present their own original drama games, developing both performance and leadership skills. They then put their learning into action by participating in a live Theatresports presentation at the Drama Showcase, where they perform improvisation challenges in front of an audience of parents and Year 7 students.

No prior experience is needed - just a willingness to take risks, have fun and say “yes” to new ideas.

### COURSE ASSESSMENT

Game creation and presentation, Theatre sport performance, journal and reflection

### LINKS TO VCE

Theatre Studies

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## EXCEL SPORT (8PEX)

<b>EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$363.00
<b>PRE-REQUISITES</b>	Participation in the Year 7 EXCEL Sport Program/recommendation from current PE teacher
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<p>This course is a continuation of the EXCEL Sport program offered at Year 7. It is a select entry program that offers the current EXCEL Sport students the opportunity to further enhance their individual sporting aspirations. The students will continue to develop the specialised movement skills to participate in a range of team-based sports confidently and competently. The program also continues to explore the strategic principles of team organisation, while enhancing game sense knowledge in a variety of settings. individual training programs, fitness testing, talent identification, sports coaching, video analysis techniques and technology in sport. This program will extend students' abilities in a range of sports and individual pursuits.</p> <p><b>Please note that EXCEL Sport will run for both Semesters 1 and 2.</b></p>
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Skill development and teamwork
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Physical Education

## PASSPORT SPORT (8PSPT)

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Students will participate in team sports from around the world such as Ultimate Frisbee, Gaelic Football, Grid Iron, Spike Ball and Korfball. You will also participate in traditional in-house sports and develop individual skills through drills, match practice, organisation of tournaments and examination of rules and tactics.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Gaelic Football Skills and Games Sense Development Invasion Sports Skills and Games Sense Development
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Physical Education

## SPORTS AND RECREATION (8SPORT)

<b>EXTRA-CURRICULA CONTRIBUTION</b>	\$55.00
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	The Sports and Recreation elective introduces students to a variety of sport and recreational pursuits. Students will visit local community clubs to participate in tennis, golf and lawn bowls. Students will also participate in traditional in-house sports such as ultimate frisbee, bocce, lacrosse and indoor hockey where they will be provided with the opportunity to develop movement skills and games sense through drills, match practise, organisation of tournaments and examination of rules and teamwork.
<b>COURSE ASSESSMENT</b>	Skills development and teamwork in: Lacrosse Skills development and teamwork in: Tennis
<b>LINKS TO VCE</b>	Physical Education



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