

# **Saint Marks' Coptic Orthodox College**



**Years 9 - 10**

**Subject Selection Booklet**

**2009 - 2010**

**Information for Students & Parents**

# Introduction

The Board of Studies is responsible for the Curriculum that leads to the award of the School Certificate. This booklet outlines the requirements and choices that are available to students in meeting these requirements.

This booklet is set out in the following sections:

- Curriculum Structure for Stage 5
- Frequently asked questions
- Elective subjects (Year 9, 2009 & Year 10, 2010)

## Curriculum Structure for Stage 5

At St. Mark's all Years 9 and 10 students are required to study **Coptic Orthodox Studies, English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**. All students are required to participate in Pastoral Care each week and Sport is compulsory.

Students at St. Mark's will be placed into the Mathematics Course that is most appropriate for their capabilities. Mathematics may be studied at Advanced (5.3), Intermediate (5.2) or General level (5.1). Placement into these levels will be the responsibility of the Head of Mathematics after consultation with the Mathematics teachers. There are no levels within the other courses in Years 9 and 10.

Students are required to select two elective courses to study in Years 9 and 10. Every effort will be made to offer the courses chosen, but course availability is determined by demand.

In the following pages you will find information about the courses that **may** be offered. Please remember that course availability will depend on student numbers, so make sure that you have alternatives in mind in case you can't get your first choice.

### Choosing an elective

A cause of concern for staff at this school is the rationale used by students to choose their electives. This school recommends that students choose an elective in an area that interests them. Students who choose an elective for any other reason usually end up unhappy and under performing.

For staffing reasons we cannot run every elective offered in this booklet. When the closing date has arrived we will then decide on the classes that will run based on the students' choices. Students who do not get their first choice will be offered their second choice if that course is running. Where neither choice of an elective is offered then we will negotiate with those students on an individual basis.

It is important that students make sure that the subject they choose is based on their interests rather than what subjects their friends have chosen or the advice of a friend suggesting that a certain subject is good for a future career. Once the classes have been finalised it may mean that options to change choices are not available. If a class is filled and our commitments to

run classes are made, we cannot create new classes to meet the demands of a small number of students.

**Availability of careers advice**

The careers advisor, Mrs. Gerges is available to assist all students, however, we do not provide formal careers lessons to Year 8 students.

**Subject Fees**

The Subject Fee covers resources used in a particular subject, and are specified for each elective.

*At the end of this booklet you will find a Course Selection Sheet. This should be completed and returned to **Mr De Martin** by **Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2008**. Please note that this form requires a parent's signature.*

## Frequently Asked Questions About Stage 5

<b>What is Stage 5?</b>	The Board of Studies, in their organisation of Curriculum considers Years 7 & 8 as Stage 4 and Years 9 & 10 as Stage 5. It is at the satisfactory completion of a prescribed curriculum of study at the end of Stage 5 that the <b>School Certificate</b> is awarded.
<b>What is the Board of Studies?</b>	The Board of Studies was established under the Education Act 1990 (NSW) and in broad terms, is responsible for the curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12, the registration and accreditation of non-government schools, and the assessment and examination of student achievement for the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate.
<b>How does a student become eligible for the award of the School Certificate?</b>	<p>To be eligible for the award of a School Certificate by the Board of Studies, students are required to follow and complete a pattern of courses developed or approved by the Board.</p> <p>To have satisfactorily completed a course of study for the School Certificate, a student must have a satisfactory record of application (effort). Students are also required to sit for the School Certificate Examinations in English-literacy, Mathematics, Science, Australian History and Geography, Civics &amp; Citizenship.</p>
<b>What is the course structure at this school?</b>	<p>Stage 5 are required to satisfactorily complete the following pattern of study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coptic Orthodox Studies – 200 hours</li> <li>• English - 200 hours</li> <li>• Mathematics - 200 hours</li> <li>• Science - 200 hours</li> <li>• History - 100 hours</li> <li>• Geography - 100 hours</li> <li>• P.D. Health P.E. - 200 hours</li> <li>• Electives 1 &amp; 2 (Years 9 &amp; 10) - 200 hours each</li> </ul>
<b>How do students choose an elective?</b>	Students have the opportunity to choose their electives from those listed in the second half of this booklet.
<b>On what basis should a student choose their elective?</b>	<p>Students should make their choice of an elective based on the answers to the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Am I interested in this subject area?</li> <li>2. Do I like this subject or type of subject?</li> <li>3. Is this a subject that I can work at and perform well in?</li> </ol>

<p><b>Can a student change an elective subject if they do not like their choice?</b></p>	<p>Yes, up until <b>Week 7 of Term 1 2009</b> and only if there is room in the class they want to move into.</p> <p>Students who wish to change their elective choice need to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collect a change of subject form from Mr. De Martin</li> <li>2. Appreciate that it is not automatic and requires a good reason, the support of their parents and cannot be used to avoid commitments in the subject that they wish to leave.</li> <li>3. Accept that they are required to complete work that occurred in the subject that they are changing into prior to their move.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Attendance in Stage 5</b></p>	<p>Students are expected to attend every lesson and all other organised activities for the all courses in their entire program.</p>
<p><b>What effect will an unacceptable absence have on a student's school certificate?</b></p>	<p>Any extensive absence or an excessive total of absences that are deemed unacceptable by the Head of College may result in the student being classed as having an unsatisfactory completion of that course (an "N" Award) and may therefore impact on the student's eligibility for the award of a School Certificate.</p>
<p><b>What are the requirements for the "Satisfactory Completion of the School Certificate"?</b></p>	<p>For the Satisfactory completion of a course, it is the student's responsibility to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete all assigned work including each assessment task, to the best of their ability.</li> <li>2. Ensure that any questions about marks, grades or comments awarded for individual pieces of work are resolved by the time work is handed back to the teacher.</li> <li>3. Demonstrate that through effort and achievement the student has met the requirements of the course.</li> </ol>
<p><b>What is an "N" award for unsatisfactory completion of a course?</b></p>	<p>Students will receive an "N" Award determination in any course if they do not meet all the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Follow the course of study developed or endorsed by the Board of Studies.</li> <li>b) Apply themselves with due diligence and sustained effort to the set tasks and experiences provided in the course by the school.</li> <li>c) Achieve some or all of the outcomes of a particular course being studied.</li> </ol> <p><u>NOTE:</u> The receipt of an "N" award determination may mean that the student is not eligible for the Award of a School Certificate and may need to repeat Year 10.</p>
<p><b>Are students and/or their parents given warning of unsatisfactory completion of a course?</b></p>	<p>Yes. If the Head of College, on the recommendation of a teacher of a course determines that a student is in danger of not completing a course satisfactorily, the student and/or their parents will be advised in writing in time for the student to correct the problem and satisfactorily complete the course.</p>

<b>Do students have a right of appeal against an “N” award determination?</b>	Yes. Appeals should be lodged with the Head of College, who will advise the student of any closing date by which appeals must be submitted.
<b>Can a student take action if they are unhappy with the school’s resolution of an appeal of an “N” award?</b>	Yes. Students, dissatisfied with the result of a school review of an appeal should advise the Head of College that they wish the appeal to be referred to the Board of Studies.
<b>How are Grades for the School Certificate awarded?</b>	<p>The Board of Studies has developed a set of grades based on student performance. The Board has identified 5 levels of student performance that teachers use to allocate the grade. Each course has a set of specific <i>performance descriptors</i> for each teacher to use. Teachers compare the student’s performance against these descriptors to determine the most appropriate grade for each student.</p> <p>The School Certificate grades are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A. Excellent Achievement</b></li> <li><b>B. High Achievement</b></li> <li><b>C. Substantial Achievement</b></li> <li><b>D. Satisfactory Achievement</b></li> <li><b>E. Elementary Achievement.</b></li> <li><b>N. Unsatisfactory Completion.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Are there external School Certificate Examinations?</b>	<p>Yes. The Board of Studies conducts examinations in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• English-literacy</li> <li>• Mathematics</li> <li>• Science</li> <li>• Geography, History, Civics &amp; Citizenship</li> <li>• Computing Skills.</li> </ul> <p>The Geography, History, Civics &amp; Citizenship are sat at one examination time slot.</p>
<b>When are the external School Certificate examinations held?</b>	The School Certificate examinations are scheduled on 2 consecutive days towards the end of the Higher School Certificate. In addition to this, the Computing Skills test is held in a period of 2-3 days and is conducted online.
<b>How do students get their School Certificate results?</b>	The results of the examinations are advised on the School Certificate Record of Achievement as a separate mark from the grade awarded by the school. This means that the student gets both a mark and a grade in those subjects with an external examination.
<b>When do students get their School Certificate Results?</b>	The school receives this information from the Board of Studies for presentation at the end of the school year. Students who are not present will have to collect their School Certificate from the school at the beginning of the next school year.
<b>Where can a student/parent get more advice?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Curriculum – Mr De Martin</li> <li>• Head of Departments &amp; Subject Teachers</li> <li>• Board of Studies web site: <a href="http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au">www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au</a></li> </ul>

## **Courses for Selection in Year 9, 2009**

The elective courses that you may choose from to study in Years 9 and 10 are listed below:

- 1. Arabic**
  - 2. Commerce**
  - 3. Design and Technology (Food, Jewellery and one other focus area to be studied)**
  - 4. Drama**
  - 5. French**
  - 6. Graphics Technology**
  - 7. Industrial Technology (Timber & Polymers)**
  - 8. Information & Software Technology**
  - 9. Music**
  - 10. Physical Activity and Sport Studies**
  - 11. Visual Arts**
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### ***Course Outlines***

#### **Arabic**

*Subject Fee: \$10 per Term*

This syllabus is designed for students beginning the study of Arabic at Junior Secondary level, but also provides the opportunity for those who already have some knowledge of Arabic to extend and develop their language skills and to learn more about their, or another, cultural heritage.

Current practice, based on research into language acquisition, favours a communicative approach to the teaching and learning of languages, based on authentic situations. The Arabic elective adopts this approach.

Integrated activities are used to develop skills within the three Strands of Communication (Oral Interaction, Reading and Responding, and Writing), in the broader context of Socio-cultural Understandings and Understanding of the language as a system.

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# Commerce

*Subject Fee: \$5 per Term*

The study of Commerce aims to guide students towards personal competence and responsible participation in the changing commercial environment. In doing this it provides a distinctive and significant contribution to the total school curriculum and thereby the general education of students.

While Commerce is a separate and distinct course, the complexity of the commercial environment means that a course in Commerce will have links across the school curriculum. Accordingly, it may be seen as playing a complementary and interdependent role within the total curriculum, drawing upon and contributing towards other subject areas.

The study of Commerce is related to the experiences, expectations and needs of students in the context of the commercial environment. Given this focus, Commerce may be seen to be relevant for all students.

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## **Design and Technology (Food, Jewellery and one other focus area to be studied)**

*Subject Fee: \$50 per Term*

The Technological and Applied Studies Key Learning Area (TASKLA) brings together a diverse set of disciplines with different histories and traditions, all sharing an interest in effective design and practical experience in the use of technology. The Design and Technology Years 7–10 syllabus is the foundation course for the Technological and Applied Studies Key Learning Area. It consists of a mandatory course for all students and an additional elective course. It is concerned with learning about a broad range of technologies through design and involves practical experiences of designing, making, evaluating, using computers, communicating, marketing and managing.

Students at St. Mark's will have completed the Mandatory course at the end of Year 8. The additional course is being offered as an elective in Years 9-10.

The course is programmed into three units of work, this being Food, Jewellery and one other focus area chosen by students. Each Unit of Work involves students completing a Design Project. Students experience and investigate a range of simple to sophisticated technologies within the one Design Project and work with a diverse range of materials. Emphasis is given to the role of technology as an agent for social and economic change.

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# Drama

*Subject Fee: \$5 per Term*

Drama is a form of action in which some aspect of human experience is portrayed: it is an exploration of experiences and situations through enactment. In Drama, students learn about themselves and others by creating characters and situations. Drama provides a powerful means of exploring the way people react and respond to different situations, issues and ideas. In junior secondary years Drama provides a particularly valuable means of increasing self-confidence and social awareness. Students are involved physically as well as emotionally and intellectually: the students learn through doing. Drama is, moreover, a co-operative process through which students develop their ability to share and communicate.

Drama has a body of knowledge: facts, conventions, history, skills, and methods of working. The study of Drama is valuable for secondary students because it is an important form of expression and communication in almost every known culture, including those that make up Australian society.

In one way or another, Drama touches every life. It can be a source of learning and entertainment, a point of contact with others, an abiding interest, a career or an outlet for creative energies.

The aim of Drama in the junior secondary school is to provide the students with experiences in which the intellect, the emotions, the imagination and the body are all involved and developed through expression, performance, observation and reflection. Currently, Drama is not offered at the Senior Year 11 and 12 levels at the school.

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# French

*Subject Fee: \$10 per Term*

This syllabus is designed for students beginning the study of French at the Secondary level, but also provides the opportunity for those who already have some knowledge of French to extend and develop their language skills and to learn more about their, or another, cultural heritage.

Current practice, based on research into language acquisition, favours a communicative approach to the teaching and learning of languages, based on authentic situations. The French elective adopts this approach.

Integrated activities are used to develop skills within the three Strands of Communication (Oral Interaction, Reading and Responding, and Writing), in the broader context of Socio-cultural Understandings and Understanding of the language as a system.

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# Graphics Technology

*Subject Fee: \$15 per Term*

Graphics Technology enables students to engage in both manual and computer-based forms of image generation and manipulation in a variety of contexts. It develops students' technical and visual literacy, equipping them for participation in a technological world.

The use of graphical images to communicate information overcomes the barriers of time and linguistic, cultural and social differences. In an age of globalised industry and rapid technological development, where computer-aided design (CAD), computer-aided manufacture (CAM), interactive graphic design (IGD) and multimedia applications are widely used, the study of Graphics Technology is particularly relevant.

The aim of the Graphics Technology Years 7–10 Syllabus is to develop in students the ability to think creatively, devise solutions and communicate information to a range of audiences using a variety of graphical techniques and media.

All modules provide essential content related to the four key areas of:

- graphics principles and techniques
- design in graphics
- planning and construction
- presentation

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## Industrial Technology (Timber & Polymers)

*Subject Fee: \$40 per Term*

Industrial Technology (Timber & Polymers) is an elective course in Years 9-10 that builds on the knowledge, skills and experiences developed in the Technology (Mandatory) Years 7-8 Syllabus. The major emphasis of the course is on students being actively involved in the planning, development and construction of quality practical timber and polymer projects.

Students are provided with a range of theoretical and practical experiences to develop knowledge and skills in the focus areas of timber and polymers. A project portfolio is required for each practical work completed and will form part of the overall assessment of each module.

The course develops in students an understanding of related work environments and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) matters, while developing a range of skills that will equip them for future leisure and lifestyle activities, potential vocational pathways or future learning in the technology field.

The skills, knowledge and attitudes developed will enable students to make positive contributions to Australian industry and society, to express valued opinions and to make considered judgements as contributing members of society.

Individual modules provide specific content related to timber and polymers, which will be developed in the key areas of:

- Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)
  - Materials, Tools and Techniques
  - Design
  - Links to Industry
  - Workplace Communication
  - Societal and Environmental Impact
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## **Information and Software Technology (IST)**

*Subject Fee: \$25 per Term*

IST is designed to assist students to learn about computers and computing so that they gain a greater understanding of the effects that computer and information technologies will have on them and society. By completing this course they will be better equipped for continuing education, for employment, for leisure and for participation in an increasingly technological world.

IST in the junior secondary years is a study of the functioning and applications of computers. At the centre of this study is the computer equipment — hardware — and the computer programs which run on it — software. These two elements provide the unique nature of the course.

The intrinsic interest of these elements provides the motivation for many students to undertake the course. The presentation of the content of the syllabus is that of a systems perspective, which emphasises how the computer scientist investigates and the computer professional applies, this technology.

The true essence of the course is the study of how people, operating in an environment and using computer systems, which include applications formed from hardware and software, proceed to solve problems of relevance to them.

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## **Music**

*Subject Fee: To be advised*

This Music Syllabus 7–10 contains two courses: the Mandatory Course and the Additional Study Course. Practical and Theoretical Components are embedded throughout this course.

Mandatory Course

The Mandatory Course is designed to provide a core experience in music for all students in Years 7–10. The Mandatory Course is designed as the foundation course of this syllabus and is taught in Years 7-8 at St. Mark's. The Additional Study Course develops sequentially from this course.

Additional Study Course

The Additional Study Course is designed for students in Years 9–10 seeking to extend their experience in music. The knowledge and skills gained provide the foundation for students electing to study music in Years 11 and 12. The course is organised under the headings:

**Concepts** (Duration, Pitch, Dynamics and Expressive Techniques, Tone, Colour, Structure)

**Learning Experiences** (Performing, Composing, Listening)

**Contexts** (Styles, Periods, Genres)

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## Physical Activity and Sport Studies (PASS)

*Subject Fee: \$15 per Term*

PASS is an exciting and popular elective which will be offered for the first time at St Marks College, for those students who have an interest in the sporting and physical activity domains. This course provides students with an in depth analysis into specific areas such as the science of sport, looking at areas such as body systems, nutrition, energy and its relationship to performance, as well as fundamentals of movement, looking into areas such as Biomechanics, physical fitness. This course also allows students to gain insight into specific careers within sport including coaching, sport psychology and physiology, health promotion, sports marketing and event management. Specific issues within sport are also looked at, including drugs and racism in sport, the history of sports development throughout Australia and the world, and the world of money in sport. Elements of study will involve both theoretical and practical concepts, with specific field trips such as the human body excursion included in order to enhance student knowledge. Overall, this course will allow students to develop knowledge into the specific sporting industries and careers within sport, and also provides an excellent stepping stone into senior PDHPE study.

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## Visual Arts

*Subject Fee: \$50 per Term*

This syllabus provides for the study of Visual Arts in Years 7–10. At St. Mark's the mandatory part of the curriculum is covered in Years 7-8. Visual Arts makes a significant contribution to the curriculum through learning opportunities and experiences which enable students to share, negotiate, challenge, understand and contribute to the meanings embodied in the arts in contemporary society. Visual Arts provides students with opportunities to develop their perceptual, conceptual, and evaluative abilities in making images and objects, and in understanding more about the nature and meaning of works in contemporary society.

The Visual Arts elective course builds on the Mandatory course and provides further extension and depth of study in the Visual Arts. It is designed for students in Years 9–10 seeking to extend their experience of the Visual Arts. The knowledge, skills and values developed in this course provide a sound foundation for students electing to study Visual Arts in Years 11–12.

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## Course Selections Year 9 – 2009 & Year 10 - 2010

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Coptic Orthodox Studies & English are all compulsory.*

Some students may have difficulty choosing their favoured subjects where two subjects that they particularly want to study are placed on the same line. Please indicate if there are any subjects that you would have liked to have done, but are unable to, because they are on the same line. You should still list these subjects as your second preference on the lines on which these clashes occur.

Line: \_\_\_\_ Subjects involved: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Line: \_\_\_\_ Subjects involved: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_