

Year 7 curriculum information for parents



2024

Developing safe, responsible and respectful learners in a stimulating and inclusive environment

Table of contents

Year 7 curriculum information for parents.....	1
Table of contents.....	2
English.....	3
Mathematics	5
Science	7
Human Society and its Environment	9
Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) Technology Mandatory	11
Creative and Performing Arts	13
Visual Arts	13
Music	14
Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE).....	15
Languages.....	17
Library	18
Year 7 requirements general guide.....	20

English

Teachers

Ms M Tetley (HT), Miss K Eslick, Ms A Hood, Mrs M Willetts, Mrs R Bennie, Ms E Osahor and Miss J Davidson.

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

Semester 1

- Biographical texts
- Multicultural voices
- Introduction to dramatic texts

Semester 2

- Continuation of introduction to dramatic texts
- Fictional worlds
- Close study of film

The sequence of these units will vary from class to class to allow for the best use of resources.

There will be mini writing workshops to demonstrate for them the process of improving writing skills in particular styles.

The main skills developed in these units are:

Listening - May be divided into a variety of situations:

- Auditory Perception - how it affects meaning and tone.
- Listening and observing - relate observation to listening, e.g., film.

Reading - This involves:

- The enjoyment of reading.
- Reading - how to approach words that you do not know.
- Fluency – reading at a reasonable speed with comprehension.
- Reading aloud with appropriate pronunciation and intonation.
- Developing the ability to read for a variety of purposes.
- Developing the ability to read efficiently from a wide range of materials.

Speaking - This involves:

- Communicating with confidence - person to person; person to group; person within a group.
- Developing expertise and artistry in speech.

Writing - This involves:

- Writing for a purpose, e.g., narrate, persuade, inform.
- Writing for an audience, e.g., how one writes to friends is different to how one writes to a stranger.
- Writing in various forms, e.g., poems, play scripts, letters, stories and essays.
- Sentence development, paragraphing and essay writing.
- Grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Viewing and representing – This involves:

- Critical viewing of media, including film.
- Responding creatively and analytically to media.

Homework expectations

Each unit will have an assessment task. In addition, class tasks not completed during class time will need to be completed at home.

Equipment required

Essential: 128-page A4 exercise book dedicated to English, blue pen, black pen, red pen, 30 cm rule, coloured pencils, a lead pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser and a set of highlighters.

Desirable: a mini (pencil case size) dictionary is helpful.

Extracurricular activities available to students

The opportunity to participate in public speaking and debating. English and writing competitions will also be coordinated through the faculty.

Tips for parents to help their child

- Encourage your child to read widely in many forms: novels, magazines, newspapers and brochures are all helpful.
- Encourage your child to watch reputable news broadcasts, documentaries and quality drama programs.
- Encourage your child to write, e.g., letters, shopping lists, notes, telephone messages, recipes, etc.
- Look at your child's work books at least a couple of times each term. They will also have some additional booklets focused on their units of work.

Mathematics

Teachers

Mrs J Cini (HT), Mrs T Best, Mrs C Bennett, Mr A Laurie, Mr G Lynn, Ms R Zhang and Mr R San.

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

The aim of the Year 7 course is to review essential skills learned in primary school, while extending these skills and introducing new concepts needed for studying Mathematics at high school.

In 2024, Mudgee High School will be implementing the new NESA Stage 4 Mathematics Syllabus. This covers the broad topic areas of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Space and Statistics and Probability.

Semester 1

Emphasis on basic number skills, computation with integers, fractions, decimals and percentages and algebraic techniques including expanding and factorising.

Semester 2

Focuses on harder number skills and uses these skills in measurement problems involving Mass, Perimeter and Area, more challenging algebraic techniques including indices and equations, data collection skills and angle relationships.

The Mathematics faculty has developed a flexible program for Year 7 where the order in which these concepts is studied in each semester is at the discretion of the teacher. Identified students will have access to extension activities and the opportunity to be involved in whole school projects.

Homework expectations

15-30 minutes per night based on classroom work.

Assessment: Class based from class tests, assignments etc.

There is a homework centre which operates every Monday afternoon for those students requiring assistance with their homework.

Equipment required

- A scientific calculator (can be purchased from the school office for \$20.00)

Note: The Abacus SX-II Matrix n is the preferred model.

If a child has access to an older scientific calculator a sibling or family member has used, most models are still quite acceptable to use.

- 240 page grid book (covered)
- blue *or* black pen
- red pen
- lead pencil
- rule (30cm with mm markings)
- geometrical instrument set consisting of protractor, set square and pair of compasses
- glue stick
- scissors
- eraser
- pencil sharpener

Extracurricular activities available to students

Maths Challenge and Mathematics Competitions.

Tips for parents to help their child

Ask your child about homework each night and ensure they get started.

Look at your child's workbook and make positive and/or constructive comments on what they are doing.

Be positive at home about Mathematics. Perhaps include your child in working on some of the calculations you do at home to reinforce the relevance of mathematics in everyday life, e.g., at tax time, considering interest rates, credit card use, purchasing on terms, average fuel consumption this month, newspaper articles, TV advertisements, etc.

Science

Teachers

Mr T Tomesek (HT), Mr G Hill, Mrs C Albee, Mrs C Laidlaw, Ms M Harries, Dr N Manwaring and Mr T Rae.

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

- Curiosity, Wonder and Questioning
- Classification
- Forces
- The Nature of Matter
- Earth's Resources
- Cells
- Mixtures
- Earth, Sun and Moon.

Year 7 will complete approximately 50% of the content required for the compulsory state-wide ESSA (Essential Secondary Science Assessment) examination that is undertaken at the conclusion of Year 8.

Homework expectations

- Completion of all bookwork.
- Insertion of all handouts.
- Consolidation exercises.
- Completion of all assignment work.

Equipment required

The following equipment is essential:

- Fully enclosed shoes (full leather or leather-like uppers).
- Hair tied back in science labs.
- An exercise book, approximately 164 pages per semester, stapled spine and must be covered with at least contact.
- Red, blue and black pens, pencils, 30 cm rule with mm graduations and an eraser.

Extracurricular activities available to students

Various activities will be offered during this year, including a state-wide science competition.

Tips for parents to help their child

- Students are given a Student Information Sheet at the beginning of each module. This is glued into their workbook and provides an outline of what will be covered in each module. Parents should look to become familiar with this sheet.
- All students are provided with an Assessment Schedule for each semester. Parents can view and help their child organise submitted work.

Human Society and its Environment

Teachers

Mrs K Lang (HT relieving), Mr R Kable, Ms E Love Mr K McHugh and Ms M Wade.

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

This course aims to introduce students to the study of geography with an emphasis on understanding the world around them, the impact of humans on that world and the need for sustainable management practices.

The main sections of the course are:

- Landscapes and Landforms
- Place and Liveability
- Water in the World
- Interconnections

A complete copy of the Stage 4 Geography Program is available to any student or parent on request.

Homework expectations

Students will receive a variety of small pieces of homework, which may range from finishing off a piece of class work to researching some information for an assignment. Two major assignments will be completed, one in Semester 1 and the other in Semester 2. Topic tests may require students revise class work at home as preparation. These tests will be completed during the semester.

Students are required to keep their workbook neat and up to date. This applies particularly to catching up on work missed as the result of absence.

Equipment required

It is essential that every period, each child brings their own basic equipment. This equipment includes:

- A notebook of at least 128 lined pages, which is covered and clearly shows the child's name and class.
- A red, black and blue pen, lead pencil, coloured pencils, 30cm rule, sharpener and eraser.
- All students are encouraged to utilise the Google Classroom platform for completion and submission of assignments.

Extracurricular activities available to students

Students will be provided the opportunity to participate in the Australian Geography Competition.

Tips for parents to help their child

All students in NSW are required to study Geography in Stages 4 and 5 (Years 7-10). Parents can help foster this program by displaying an active interest in their child's study of Geography in the following ways:

- Help them to complete their school-provided diary so that it records the due dates for tests, homework and assignments.
- Encourage an interest in current events via reputable news stories, magazine articles and documentaries.
- Encourage the use of an atlas at home. World maps on walls and desks are an ideal way to learn. *Google Maps* provides an effective online experience.
- Look for and talk about articles that relate to the topics set for study (listed above).
- Check through your child's notebook for neatness and blank spaces. Insist that any photocopied sheets be pasted in.
- Encourage revision of key terms. Quiz your child on definitions, places, etc. This will help them prepare for their assessment tasks.

Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) Technology Mandatory

Teachers

Mr T Vitnell (HT relieving), Mrs K Bailey, Mr A Couch, Mrs H Dziura, Miss A Honeysett, Mr D Rosolen, Mr P Smith, Mr W Barrett, and Mrs E Scales.

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

Technology encompasses a diverse range of knowledge, skills and processes that people use to satisfy their needs and to extend their capabilities. Technology Mandatory is a rich and complex subject that provides students with opportunities to become technologically literate individuals, capable of developing creative solutions to identified problems and situations. Students will design and produce projects such as bottle rockets, laser cut phone holders, work with timber and metal, and design and program an automatic alarm. Students will consider real-world problems, implement and evaluate digital solutions, design and produce nutritious food items, implement agricultural projects and design and produce textile items.

Technologies affect and enrich the lives of people and societies globally, and contribute to shaping preferred futures. Through the study of Technology Mandatory, students develop the capacity for action and critical appreciation of the processes through which technologies evolve and how they contribute to society.

The practical nature of Technology Mandatory engages students in design and production activities as they develop safe practices and refine skills working with varied materials and production technologies. These authentic learning experiences provide students with a sense of satisfaction and are the foundation for life-long learning.

The opportunity to investigate problems, generate ideas and produce sustainable solutions develops skills and attitudes that are valued in our society and are integral to Australia's economic future. The skills and capabilities developed by students through the study of a variety of technology contexts can be applied to further education, as well as career opportunities in design, technology, engineering, science, mathematics and related fields.

Areas of study in Years 7 and 8 include:

- Agriculture and food technologies
- Digital technologies
- Engineered systems
- Material technologies.

Homework expectations

The completion of portfolios as required.

Equipment required

Enclosed leather or leather-like footwear must be worn in practical lessons. This is a DoE and Safe Work NSW requirement.

Tips for parents to help their child

Teachers will explain any further requirements at the beginning of the course. Parents should look to keep an eye on their child's work and be prepared to ask them questions that require they reflect on what it is they have achieved.

Creative and Performing Arts

Visual Arts

Teachers

Mrs R Goldsmith (HT), Mrs H McLennan, Mrs C McNeill, Mrs J Blake, Mrs M Purcell and Ms A Peters.

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

Year 7 students will study the language of art and a range of themes that develop an appreciation for art. They will make artworks on paper, in clay, with paint, in print, etc., which reflect their responses to the themes studied. They will study the artworks of other artists, with a particular emphasis on Australian artists, and how these artists have treated issues in the art world.

Homework expectations

Students need to complete bookwork/projects and revise the subject-specific words that are used in class.

Equipment required

- A3 spiral-bound art book
- 2B pencil and eraser
- an overshirt for painting/clay may be useful, aprons are provided.

Extracurricular activities available to students

Visits to the Mudgee Art Precinct, set productions for our bi-annual musical, competitions as they arise, mini MAD and MAD concerts.

Tips for parents to help their child

Look in your child's art books when at home and ask the students to explain how their artworks reflect their understanding of other artists' works.

Discuss presentation of bookwork and ideas for improvement.

Music

Teachers

Mrs R Goldsmith (HT), Mr C Holleman and Mrs J Blake.

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

Students will participate in the reading and writing, listening, playing and composing of music. From their involvement in all of these areas, students will come to understand how musicians deal with their craft. They will sing and learn some playing skills on keyboard, guitar, percussion instruments and other musical technologies.

Homework expectations

- Regular spelling revision.
- Finish off class work, completing small assignments.
- Practise pieces!

Equipment required

- A 128 page exercise book.

Extracurricular activities available to students

When available, the opportunity to watch visiting performers.

Band, choir, Year 7 concert and MAD concerts, both mini and maxi. Be aware too that a musical is planned for 2025.

Tips for parents to help their student with the study of their subject

- Keep an eye on their spelling and sentence structure.
- Ask them to show you their completed bookwork and check that work for neatness of presentation.
- Encourage regular practice for students studying instruments.
- Help them to find information for projects and assignments.
- Listen critically to practice sessions and attend performances where possible.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

Teachers

Ms R McCann (HT), Mr T Dal Forno, Mrs K Gallen, Mr B Murphy and Mr M Trainor.

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

PDHPE provides opportunities for students to learn about and practice ways of adopting and maintaining a healthy, productive and active life. It also involves students learning through movement, experiences that are both challenging and enjoyable.

Students in Year 7 will be given an opportunity to develop a variety of skills in areas that include communicating, decision-making, problem-solving and moving. These skills will be developed through learning experiences related to the following concepts:

- growth and development
- personal awareness and relationships with others
- active lifestyle
- movement skill
- risk taking and minimising harm
- healthy food habits
- emotional wellbeing.

Homework expectations

Students will benefit from having access to current information on health issues via newspapers, magazines, TV programs and libraries.

All students will be given homework on a regular basis. Students are encouraged to use their school-provided diary to record homework and assignment work.

Equipment required

- Practical activities require a red school shirt and blue shorts (refer to the Uniform Policy). Uniforms are available from several outlets in Mudgee at reasonable prices.
- A 128 page exercise book.

Extracurricular activities available to students

To extend student experiences, it is common for students to be taken to external venues such as the pool, tennis courts and Walkers Oval. These facilities may incur a small fee

which will be communicated to students during the term. Bus travel is required at times at a cost of approximately \$2 per trip.

Students may nominate and trial for any number of school representative sporting teams. These are advertised on assembly, through daily announcements and during class time. Athletics, swimming and cross-country events are also conducted at various times during the school year. These activities are compulsory for Year 7 students with the aim of promoting positive participation in physical activity, not just competitive outcomes.

Tips for parents to help their child

- Encourage your child to read health related articles in newspapers and magazines. Lifestyle programs on TV can also be useful resources.
- Ensure your child has their sport uniform for practical classes.
- Take the time to listen to your child's comments regarding family health and lifestyle as they are most likely to have the most current and beneficial information for all.
- Encourage your child to discuss health related issues in an open way. This enables a child to develop vital skills that will promote resilience and coping strategies.

Languages

Teachers

Mrs C McNeill (HT), Ms M Date and Miss E Kenny

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

- Communication using simple terms in a variety of everyday situations.
- Study of various aspects of Japanese culture.
- Writing in Japanese script – Hiragana and simple Kanji.
- Hands-on cultural activities, including origami, calligraphy and mask making.
- Japanese pop culture – fashion, music, anime, manga, etc..

Homework expectations

- Nightly revision of work covered in that day's lesson.
- Bookwork up to date and handout sheets pasted in.
- Assignment work as requested.
- Preparation for tests.

Equipment required

A 128 page exercise book.

Extracurricular activities available to students

Become a host family for an inbound Japanese student and accompany Japanese students on cultural visits. Inbound visits from Japanese schools are an annual event.

Tips for parents to help their child

- Regularly check your child's bookwork.
- Sight information sheets intended for students and parents.
- Encourage your child to ask for help if they are having difficulty with work.
- Ensure your child revises daily work and completes set homework.

Library

Teacher

Mr P Proctor

Brief outline of the Year 7 course

Students at high school do not usually have separate "Library Lessons". Instead, information literacy skills are taught through units of work across all subject areas by both the class teacher and the teacher librarian working together.

Throughout the academic year, all students undertake resource and research-based units of work in a number of subject areas. These involve accessing and using information from a variety of sources including books, e-resources and the Internet. Students are encouraged to borrow from the wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books available.

While students are required to have their own reading material for roll call, they may borrow books from the library for this purpose.

NB. Students are fiscally responsible for resources they borrow. Items lost or returned damaged will require replacement at a cost.

Homework expectations

The Teacher Librarian is available to students during recess and lunch to assist them with their respective homework and/or assignment needs.

Printing/photocopying services are also provided free for all school-based work that needs printing for assignment submission.

Equipment required

The signing and returning of the MHS Acceptable Use of Technology Policy is necessary before students can use computers at school. Students need to present their student ID card to borrow books and other resources.

The use of library computers is for both academic and personal information use, however, preference will be given to students completing assigned work and research-based assessments.

Extracurricular activities available to students

The Teacher Librarian is available to assist students in developing advanced information literacy skills during breaks or at times approved by their respective teachers. All students

are encouraged to visit the library regularly during breaks to check out resources and activities on offer.

Tips for parents to help their child

Encourage your child to read widely and use the resources available to them for both school and personal purposes.

Students may borrow resources according to the year group guidelines:

- Year 7 – 3 items
- Year 8 – 4 items
- Year 9 – 5 items
- Year 10 – 5 items
- Year 11 – 10 items
- Year 12 – 10 items

All loans are for a 2 week period. Lost or not returned materials will be invoiced to the borrower for the full cost of replacement.

Year 7 requirements general guide

All textbooks need to be covered and clearly display the student's name and class.

Please check for specific requirements under the subject headings above.

192 page exercise book (English)	Pencil case
3 x 128 page exercise books (HSIE, Music and Languages)	Glue stick, scissors, eraser, pencil sharpener, 30cm rule with mm graduations
164 page exercise book (Science)	Geometrical instruments - protractor, set square and a pair of compasses
1 x 128 page exercise books, sport uniform (PDHPE)	Guitar pick
240 page grid book (Mathematics)	Dictionary (small)
A3 spiral bound art book (Visual Arts)	Over shirt for Visual Art (optional)
Blue, black and red pens	Covered shoes *
Lead pencil (2B) and coloured pencils	Scientific calculator **

* Technology classes require covered leather or vinyl shoes which must have a leather or vinyl tongue (no fabric material upper allowed).

** Scientific calculator (can be purchased from the school office for \$20.00)

Please note: We recommend the Abacus SX-II Matrix n. A calculator from an older sibling or family member, as noted above, is also acceptable.