YEAR 9 ELECTIVES 2015

The following electives will be offered at Nossal High School in 2015. Every year 9 student will study two electives each semester.

Electives 2015
- Architecture
- Art/Printmaking
- Big History
- Creative Writing
- Environmental Science
- Information Technology
- Maths Whiz
- Media Studies
- Music (MNOP only)
- Nossal Bakehouse
- Concert Band (QRST only)
- Photography
- Robotics
- Sports Around the World
- Theatre Studies
- Visual Communication and Design

Architecture
This semester length course will provide an introduction to the study of architecture and will use the building of Nossal High School as the practical example which will be unpacked. Some of the following areas will be examined:
- Role of the architect
- Project design/design options
- Site plans
- Furniture and equipment layouts
- Floor plans
- Elevations
- Occupational Health and Safety
- Ecological sustainability plans
Art/Printmaking
This semester length course will provide a basic introduction into the elements and principles of design and the application of these in various art forms. Students will learn about the use of colour, perspective and practice sketching and painting.

Big History
Originally taught as a university course, Big History covers the whole history of our universe from the Big Bang to the present! Nossal is one of only a handful of schools in Australia who will be offering the course in 2014 as part of a world first pilot program. Students will have the opportunity to be part of this innovative new course, which will be supported by an interactive website full of resources, videos and animations, all of which have been produced and presented by leader in their respective academic fields.

Students will learn about:
- The Big Bang and the origin of our universe
- How the universe took shape and how chemical elements are formed
- The lifecycle of stars
- How our own Earth formed
- The origin of life
- The evolution of life on Earth
- Human evolution
- Human history – from the Ancient World to the present!

Big History runs for the entire year and will count for TWO elective choices. Students who select this in semester one will automatically be placed in this class for semester two.

Creative Writing
Ever wanted to learn how to make fictional characters jump off the page? Creative Writing provides students with the opportunity to develop their writing skills, through targeted activities on crucial topics such as narrative structure, how to write dialogue convincingly, and the use of pace in building suspense. A central focus of the course is the sharing and workshopping of ideas, in order to build creativity and confidence. While students write in a variety of styles across the semester, they are able to choose their favourite pieces to perfect and submit in their writing folio.

Environmental Science
This subject will comprise a mixture of environmental theory and practical work that will give the students the skills and ability to understand the natural and man-made environments of the world in a more comprehensive way. Students will explore the following:
- Concepts of the environment, ecosystem and the sun as a source of energy
- Biogeochemical cycles
- Causes and effects of human-induced environmental changes
- Conservation and remediation of the environment

Information Technology
This semester length course introduces students to the use of HTML and Flash games. Students will learn how to program using these platforms.
**Maths Whiz**
This semester length course will be a creative approach to Mathematics. It will provide students who are willing to be challenged an opportunity to delve deep into the following:
- Problem solving
- Computer software such as Maths300, Graphmatica, FXDraw, FXGraph and Excel

**Media Studies**
How does the media inform, communicate with and connect people? Does the media influence the way people spend their time? Does the audience affect the creation of media texts?
Students in Media Studies examine and create a range of media products such as audio and audio-visual media, print-based media, digital and interactive media technologies and film. They consider questions like “What is the creative expression needed? How are ideas creative? What specific symbolic languages are used?” They will consider media texts from various perspectives, considering aspects of their structure and features in order to create their own.

**Music**
This semester length course will provide a basic introduction into various styles of music, through theory, performance and technology. This course will encourage students to develop their creativity, imagination, inventiveness and the cultivation of aesthetic considerations for music. Students will develop an understanding in the following areas:
- Musical theory and musicianship
- Music performance
- Music technology
- Musical genres

**Nossal Bakehouse**
This semester length course will teach students the foundation of preparing and making pastries, breads and dough. Students will experience life as a pastry chef and learn new skills and techniques that they can then utilise at home. This course is made of mostly production classes which include a small amount of required theory.

**Orchestra**
Year 9 ‘Orchestra’ gives students the opportunity to rehearse intensively on concert band repertoire. At least 3 works will be rehearsed and performed each term at formal concerts including the Nossal Music Night, House Choral Night and Speech Night. Students will also participate in various school concert band festivals and master classes.

All students enrolled in Orchestra are required to take instrumental music lessons at Nossal. The class will only run if there is a balanced spread of instruments.

**Orchestra will run for the whole year and will therefore count for TWO elective choices.** Once you have selected this elective you **CANNOT** change your mind.

**NOTE:** Some students will have this elective already showing on their elective selection form. These students have already indicated they wish to be involved in this elective. These students will not need to select electives in these blocks.
Photography
This semester length course provides a practical approach to photography. The students will study:

- Presentation formats and present a portfolio of images
- Research contemporary photographers
- Photography techniques
- Subject matter

Robotics
Robotics is the branch of technology that deals with the design, construction and operation of robots. In robotics students will build robots from design through to construction. They will use a variety of methods to test their robots.

Theatre Studies
In Theatre Studies students interpret play scripts and produce theatre. By reading and making scripts students gain an insight into play script-based theatrical production and develop an understanding of the role and place of the scriptwriter. Students work with play scripts in both their written form and in performance, studying various areas of stagecraft by looking at the stage directions and dialogue to understand the role of tone and body language in performance. Students will learn through practical experiences such as role play.

Sports Around the World
In Sport Around the World students study and play a range of unique sports from around the world. These sports have a special cultural flavour and are not considered ‘main stream’. They tend to be played only within particular cultures. We study the cultures from which they originate and look at some of the factors that have limited their spread/appeal. We also investigate what are some of the key characteristics that distinguish these sports from others, as well as learning and applying some of the skills.

Visual Communication and Design
This semester length course aims to provide a basic introduction to graphic design for packaging, posters, advertising and brochures. The students will:

- Generate and refine design ideas
- Use creative and conventional drawing techniques
- Represent information about form, space and relationships
- Explore the creative computer software