YEAR 9 ELECTIVES 2016

The following electives will be offered at Nossal High School in 2016. Every year 9 student will study two electives each semester.

Selection Process

Selections are to be completed on the enclosed form. This form shows the tutorial group and language class each student has been allocated to. It is suggested that you make a copy of this form prior to returning it to Nossal High School for your records.

Whilst we endeavour to ensure students are able to study the electives of their choice, sometimes this is not possible due to timetabling restrictions.

All students will be required to select their electives in order of preference for each block in each semester. Students are encouraged to select electives that will provide breadth to their experiences at Nossal High School.

THE ELECTIVE SELECTION FORM IS DUE BACK TO NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL BY WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER. Late submissions may be allocated electives based on space rather than preference.

Electives 2016

- Architecture
- Art
- Big History
- Creative Writing
- Environmental Science
- Dance
- Digital Technology
- Foods From Around the World
- Media Studies
- Melbourne Food
- Music Performance
- Photography
- Robotics
- Sports Around the World
- Theatre Studies
- Visual Communication and Design
Elective Descriptions

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

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, practice sketching and painting.

Big History

Big History is the history of everything, from the Big Bang 13.8 billion years ago until deep into our future. Students will study of the origin of our universe, the formation of stars and planets, the beginning of life and evolution, agriculture and development of civilisations, the modern revolution and finally look into the future of what is to come. We use a range of videos, articles and other resources created by the Big History Project in class to examine history in numerous different ways. More information about Big History can be found at www.bighistoryproject.com/home.

Big History runs for an entire year, so it counts as 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.
Dance
Year 9 dance will introduce students to expressive movement skills both individually and collaboratively. It will be a practical class that also involves experimentation with:

- dance elements from a range of styles and contexts such as ballet, jazz, hip-hop, social dance, ballroom and contemporary
- cultural influences and themes influencing dance works and the choreographer

Digital Technology
This semester length course introduces students to the use of HTML and Flash games. Students will learn how to program using these platforms.

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

Foods from Around the world
Foods from around the world is a semester length course that is exciting and a multicultural culinary journey.

Students learn about different cuisines in different countries and demonstrate a vast array of cooking techniques.

Students experience tasting different flavours and ingredients and discuss and compare this to western cuisine.

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.
Melbourne Food

Melbourne Food is a semester length course that teaches students about local ingredients in and around Melbourne. Students learn how they can use local ingredients in many dishes and cuisines and discuss and analyse the sensory properties of the food items. Students experience tasting flavours they are not familiar with and have the opportunity to create a dish using local produce.

Music Performance

This year long elective is aimed at students who already have some instrumental music experience. The class involves solo and group music performances, composition and an exploration of the elements of music in a practical sense. Students create their own topic for investigation and present a performance based assignment in answer to this. This class presents a public performance at the end of each semester.

Photography

This semester length course provides a practical approach to photography. The students will:

- Learn how to use a digital SLR Camera
- Research contemporary photographers
- Experiment with photography techniques
- Learn how to compose a photographic composition
- Present a folio of images

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 playscripts and produce theatre. By reading and making scripts students gain an insight into playscript-based theatrical production and develop an understanding of the role and place of the scriptwriter. Students work with playscripts 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 new and creative drawing techniques
- Explore image related computer software