

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this booklet is to provide information about the Curriculum offerings at Geraldton Senior College for 2009. It covers the compulsory courses and the electives that students can choose from.

### Changes to Year 11/12 Courses for 2009

The new system will ...

- combine the three types of current subjects into approximately 50 new courses of study, all of which count towards selection for courses offered by university, TAFE and other providers
- be a flexible system that will cater for the different interests, learning needs and pathways of all students
- have up-to-date content that will be challenging and engaging for students, and will prepare them for future study and/or work
- define achievement standards at different levels to make clear to students what is expected of them

Further information can be obtained from

<http://www.curriculum.wa.edu.au/pages/student/wace.html>

#### **COMPULSORY COURSES** which all students study are from the learning areas of

- English
- Mathematics
- Physical & Health Education
- Science
- Society & Environment
- Technology and Enterprise (choice within contexts)
- The Arts (choice within contexts)

These are described in **SECTION 1** of the handbook.

#### **ELECTIVE COURSES** which students choose to study are from the following learning areas:

- The Arts
- Technology and Enterprise
- Physical and Health Education
- Languages Other than English
- Science

These are described in **SECTION 2** of the handbook.

Students will do **two electives** per semester.

#### **DECISIONS**

When student choices are known the College decides which courses have viable numbers. If the College is unable to accommodate a student's request, they will be offered other viable choices and be re-counselled as necessary.

# CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The Curriculum Framework is used to describe students' performance, report this performance and plan for improvement.

The Curriculum Framework applies to all Western Australian Schools.

The Curriculum Framework describes what students need to learn in order to lead successful and rewarding lives in the twenty first century. It focuses on clearly defined **OUTCOMES** that students achieve – that is, what students understand, value and can do as a result of their schooling.

The Curriculum Framework consists of:

- A set of core shared **VALUES** integrated into learning and teaching programs:
  1. *Pursuit of knowledge and a commitment to achievement of potential.*
  2. *Self acceptance and respect of self.*
  3. *Respect and concern for others and their rights.*
  4. *Social and civic responsibility.*
  5. *Environmental responsibility.*
- **EIGHT LEARNING AREA STATEMENTS**, which set out the main student outcomes in each learning area: *The Arts, English, Mathematics, Science, Society and Environment, Technology and Enterprise, Languages Other Than English, Health and Physical Education.*
- Thirteen **OVERARCHING STATEMENTS** which describe learning outcomes that are important across all learning areas:
  1. Students use language to understand, develop and communicate ideas and information and interact with others.
  2. Students select, integrate and apply numerical and spatial concepts and techniques.
  3. Students recognise when and what information is needed, locate and obtain it from a range of sources and evaluate, use and share it with others.
  4. Students select, use and adapt technologies.
  5. Students describe and reason about patterns, structures and relationships in order to understand, interpret, justify and make predictions.
  6. Students visualise consequences, think laterally, recognise opportunity and potential and are prepared to test options.
  7. Students understand and appreciate the physical, biological and technological world and have the knowledge and skills to make decisions in relation to it.
  8. Students understand their cultural, geographic and historical contexts and have the knowledge, skills and values necessary for active participation in life in Australia.
  9. Students interact with people and cultures other than their own and are equipped to contribute to the global community.
  10. Students participate in creative activity of their own and understand and engage with the artistic, cultural and intellectual work of others.
  11. Students value and implement practices that promote personal growth and well being.
  12. Students are self motivated and confident in their approach to learning and are able to work individually and collaboratively.
  13. Students recognise that everyone has the right to feel valued and be safe, and, in this regard, understand their rights and obligations and behave responsibly.

# CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHARGES FOR 2009

**Government funding is provided to schools for the operating costs associated with the education of students.** These costs include salaries of teaching and support staff, student support services, school buildings, furniture and equipment, school maintenance, school security and operational costs.

**Parents are responsible for the cost of certain materials, services and facilities directly used or consumed by students.** This can include textbooks and the provision of text materials, specialist materials used in practical subjects (including Art and Craft, Photography, Design and Technology and Home Economics), excursion costs, hire of specialist equipment and venues etc.

**Parents are also responsible for the provision of student's personal items** - for example pens, pencils, paper, files, notebooks, calculators, etc and will receive a contributions and charges sheet outlining costs for your son/daughter's chosen courses.

**CONTRIBUTIONS** - Each high school in WA can request a contribution of up to \$235 per student per year in Years 8, 9 and 10. Of this \$235, the government provides each student with a \$100 subsidy. The balance is requested from parents as a contribution towards the cost of providing an education program that meets the requirements of the Curriculum Framework. It includes hire of textbooks and provision of text materials, course materials etc. This contribution is voluntary, however, the government has stated that parents who can afford to do so are expected and encouraged to pay the contribution costs.

**CHARGES** - Some high cost electives in Year 10 have a charge and a contribution. Charges are compulsory and must be paid.

The **estimated** contribution and charges for courses offered at GSC in 2009 for students in Year 10 are indicated in this booklet. The GSC Council will determine final contributions and charges later in the year. Parents will then be advised of actual course costs for 2009. The Contributions and Charges invoice for 2009 will be mailed to parents in December.

Geraldton Senior College provides a range of optional activities and services, which may include camps, social activities, etc. When students elect to take part in these, payment of the associated charge is compulsory.

Over many years GSC has built up an excellent range of resources and students have been able to participate in a wide range of educational experiences. We hope that we will be able to continue to rely on the support of parents. Your support through payment of contributions and charges will help us ensure the continued provision of excellent facilities and services.

More detailed information regarding the payment of contributions and charges will be provided to all parents during Term 4. In the meantime if you have any queries regarding contributions and charges please contact either the Business Manager or Principal.