



Years 9 and 10
Elective Courses
Information Booklet



Semester 2 2015



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

At Gold Creek School, we are pleased to be able to offer the wide range of elective choices displayed in this booklet, for selection in Semester 2, 2015. Each course is of a high standard, in both a practical and academic sense, and we are sure your child will enjoy and appreciate the range available to them.

Students have 8 lines or classes. Their studies consist of a number of core curriculum areas these include: English, Mathematics, Science, Physical Education and Health, Humanities and three elective classes per semester.

Students are encouraged to study a language and must do a semester of Geography/Economics over years 9 and 10, and at least one Arts and one Technology subject each semester.

Please help your child to make their selections carefully, based on their academic pathways and special areas of interest. There will be very little room for change during the semester as class numbers are fixed and we also expect new enrolments. All classes have a limit to the number of students that can enrol, however every effort will be made for students to get their choices. Careful Elective choices can help lead your child to making informed, happier and healthier life choices, further study at the end of Year 10, CIT or work placements.

Finally, it is important that you understand that these courses can only be offered if we include a modest charge for the materials and resources students will use. Each course clearly states what the associated cost will be for that course and if we are unable to recoup these costs, we may only be able to offer theoretical classes, not practical, hands-on courses which the students truly enjoy. Course costs will be invoiced at the beginning of Semester 2, 2015.

Current Gold Creek students will be asked to complete their choices in classes on Tuesday – Wednesday of week 10 or can complete these online at any time following the link on the school website. Students new to the school are required to select their choices directly online by following the link on www.goldcreek.act.edu.au.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Regards

Priscilla Wray

Associate Principal

The Arts

Year 9/10 School Production

Cost: \$20 + (an additional cost related to costumes and props)

Acting & Technical as one Unit

This elective offers students the opportunity to take the major part in the 2015 school production at Gold Creek – GRIMM STORIES. In a supportive learning environment, students audition for and play their own acting part or technical role in the production. Detailed coaching will be given in performing roles, voice, decoding language and using physical humour to play out the nuances of complicated text. Detailed industry-specific knowledge and skills will be provided to technical support personnel.

- 15 actors
- 5 key backstage technical roles
- Up to 5 key musicians/ minstrels.

Year 9/10 Production Costume Design

Cost: \$20 + (an additional cost related to costumes and props)

This elective offers students the opportunity to take a major creative part in the 2015 school production at Gold Creek School – GRIMM STORIES. In a supportive learning environment, students will be expected to design and create both the costumes and props for the school production in tandem with the appropriate lighting designs developed in the production strand.

Year 9/10 Music

Cost: \$20

This elective focuses on providing students with opportunities to perform in a group and solo setting and develop skills and experiences on a chosen instrument. It involves the practical application of theoretical and musicianship concepts to the music that they are creating, learning and performing. Students will spend their practical class time rehearsing a wide range of music from different genres such as Heavy Metal, Classical Music and Pop.

Year 9/10 Photography

Cost: \$20

In Digital Photography students are introduced to the digital camera, the principles associated with digital photography and the history of how digital photography came to be. Students explored landscape, portrait, candid, action, macro, architecture and food photography among others and how to achieve a clear focal point. They look at using and applying different rules, perspectives, lines and textures in their photographs. Students also use Photoshop to enhance, alter and apply different effects to their photographs. They learn colour theory and how use Photoshop to create eye catching posters and advertisements. Students also have an excursion which takes them to several key locations in Canberra where they get the opportunity to practice their skills in a variety of settings. On completion of this course, students are able to create professional quality images for print and multimedia.

Year 9 Dance

Cost: \$20

This unit will explore the key world dance styles of the Middle-East, Asia, Europe and the Americas and their influence on Australian dance styles. Students will build their repertoire of performance skills through a combination of theory, practice and performance opportunities including the school production 2015. Students will choreograph an original performance under the guidance of an industry professional.

Year 9/10 Sculpture

Cost: \$20

This unit allows students to learn and develop specific skills and language necessary to create and explain three-dimensional art works. Through practical projects and theoretical studies of Australian and international artists, students will build critical, cultural and symbolic understanding of their own and others' artworks.

Year 9 Visual Arts

Cost: \$20

This unit allows students to realise their creative potential through the exploration and manipulation of the world of visual expression. Students will be introduced to the elements and principles of design. Students will gain knowledge of art through both practical projects and theoretical studies of Australian and international artists. Students will build critical capacities in creating a sense of meaning and connectedness with oneself, others and the environment.

Enrolment in further semesters will provide opportunities for students to extend their creativity and abilities through individual major projects and portfolios.

The Humanities

Year 9/10 Introduction to Sociology

Cost: \$10

Introduction to Sociology provides a broad view of the field of Sociology with an emphasis on society and how it functions. This elective will explore the role of the individual in society and the impact of social institutions on society. Students will explore the development of societies, the impact of social institutions on the individual, and the function of social order, conflict, and deviance within our daily lives. Outside resources such as current events, case studies, and experiments will be used to enhance this course.

Year 10 Introduction to Theory of Knowledge

Cost: \$10

This unit presents students with the opportunity to participate in philosophical discussion and to develop reasoning and enquiry skills. Students will investigate theories of knowledge and thinking through ethical, epistemology, metaphysics and aesthetic strands of philosophy. The investigation involves students exploring how they think about thinking (meta-cognition) can assist them to make meaning of their world. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate both their knowledge and their skills throughout the semester in a variety of mediums.

Year. 10 Geography / Economics (B)

Cost: \$10 plus field trip expenses

In this course, students study the significance, interconnections and characteristics of places and spaces and environments at a range of scales. Students study two sequences of topics: Environmental Challenges and Geography and Global Well-Being. During the course, students experience a variety of classroom activities and fieldwork, students develop skills in comparing the significance, interconnections and characteristics of places and spaces and environments. The content provides students with the opportunity to develop a geographical understanding through key concepts, including location, distribution and pattern.

Year 9/10 Psychology

Cost: \$20

This unit is offered as a pre-college taster for future study. Students will examine a range of topics (through both guided and independent study) including, but not limited to:

- Psychological theorists and theory
- Structures and functions of the human brain
- Social psychology
- Comparative studies
- Child psychology and development
- Abnormal psychology
- Ethics of psychological research

Course content includes a combination of theory and limited practical research and experiments.

Science

Y9/10 Laboratory Research Skills

Cost \$20

Practical work is where science really happens. It is how we test our hypotheses. In this unit you will learn how to accurately take measurements, determine what measurements to take, and how to use different laboratory equipment for different purposes. Students will conduct and report on their own experimental research project as a CREST Award project.

Technology

Year 9/10 Food Technology

Cost: \$20

Students have the opportunity to develop and apply knowledge of a range of foods, techniques and skills in class practical and theory lessons. Theory classes provide opportunity for creative practical lessons once you have learned to apply the design process including identifying, planning and producing their own dishes in response to set design challenges, as well as evaluating their performance.

Course costs cover the ingredients for the core recipes every student is required to cook. Students will need to bring their own ingredients for the major assignments which they will design and cost themselves.

Year 9 Digital Technology

Cost: \$10

Students will develop their individual Digital Technology skills through the development and presentation of a digital portfolio. They will undertake a variety of programming tasks including (but not limited to); the development and maintenance of webpages, animation through programming, and various video and audio tasks. They will be working in a real world online environment, taking into consideration the privacy and security needs of the real world.

Year 10 Information, Digital Media and Technology (working towards a Certificate 1)

Cost - \$10

Year 10 students could receive a Certificate 1 in Information, Digital Media and Technology at the completion of the unit. If all criteria for the Certificate 1 is not met in the timeline, students will receive a statement of attainment outlining what criteria they have achieved.

This subject aims to provide students with the following:

- A qualification in Information Technology (if all criteria is met)
- An understanding of VET training packages and competency based assessment
- The opportunity to consolidate and develop their practical Information Technology skills
- Assisting students in preparing for college, career or study pathways
- An option for students in line with their pathways planning

Students will have the opportunity to complete the following competencies:

- Operate a Personal Computer
- Operate a Word Processor
- Use, communicate and search securely on the Internet
- Use digital devices
- Operate a spreadsheet applications
- Use digital literacy skills to access the Internet

Year 10 Wood/Metal Design

Cost: \$20

This course is predominantly a 'hands on' unit focusing on developing and extending the individual skills, knowledge and experiences of student wishing to work and explore their abilities and interests in Wood/Metal Technology. Students will have the opportunity, through a number of practical exercises and safety tests, to work with tools (both handheld and fixed), materials and a range of processes to gain experience and produce artifacts from wood and metal. Classes are diverse environments with all students welcome and individually catered for according to their abilities and experiences.

Students who have previously completed a Wood/Metal Design course will have the opportunity to build on their experiences and to design, create and assess their own projects with staff direction and supervision. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their abilities to research and safely produce quality products.

Year 9/10 Robotics

Cost: \$20

This course is aimed at introducing students to programming challenges using the LEGO Mindstorms RCX robotics kit. Working in groups, students should learn to build various robots and program them with a computer to move, react and make sounds in order to solve challenges. Students who excel in this unit should be able to demonstrate either originality or elegance in construction and programming. A research aspect will also be incorporated into this unit which will examine employment possibilities in careers related to robotics as well as the global developments in robotics in recent times.

Year 9/10 Sustainable Garden Landscapes

Cost: \$20

This elective will suit you if you want an introduction to horticulture, sustainable gardening or landscape construction. This is a good stepping stone to help you if you are thinking about a job in these areas or to move onto further study.

This elective comprises a wide range of units, all of which have large practical components. Examples of units may include but are not limited to: care for a planted area, preparation of soil and applying mulch, preparation and planting a hanging basket or vertical garden, identification of weeds, planting out container grown specimens, preparation of ground for sowing or planting, watering an area of plants in containers (pots) or garden beds through irrigation, developing and understanding of the basic principles of plant science, establishing and maintaining plants outdoors, introduction to plant selection, organic horticulture, participation in propagation techniques and all of this in an outdoor classroom which you will help to create. Included projects this year will be the development and construction of an Aboriginal Bush Tucker Garden and also a Sustainable Garden Area incorporating worm farms and possibly poultry. If you want more information about this elective please see Mr Dawson in the Arts/Tech staffroom.

Health & Physical Education

Year 9/10 Boys/Girls Boot Camp

Cost: \$15

This course is designed to develop the student's mental and physical capacity for challenge and extreme physical fitness. Students will participate in individual and group fitness exercises designed to increase leadership skills and overall fitness to a high level. Only students who want to be pushed to their limits should apply to do this course. It will be extremely physically demanding.

Year 9/10 Sports Leadership

Cost: \$15

This course is designed for those students wishing to develop skills in leadership. The course will focus on developing skills in the area of sports leadership and coaching across a variety of different sports. They will learn to develop programs and how to break down skills into teachable components. A key component of the course will be working closely with peers and teaching skills to younger students, for example at the Primary Site. Communication skills will be a large focus of the course. There will be the opportunity to participate in sports development and coaching courses

Year 9/10 Outdoor Education

Cost: \$15 + camp costs

This learning sequence focuses on students who want to partake in the basic components of outdoor education. The unit will cover activities such as team building, indoor rock climbing, basic caving, adventure bushwalking, camping, orienteering, camping and bush cooking. The course will follow the 'leave no trace' philosophy of outdoor education and students will learn how to co-exist, work and enjoy the outdoors with minimal impact. There will be the opportunity to participate in two major trips as part of the unit. The first will be a beach camp at the South Coast, where the students will participate in surfing, snorkelling and outdoor climbing. The second camp will be a bush camp at Wee Jasper, where the students will participate in caving, rock climbing, abseiling and bush cooking.

Year 10 Advanced Outdoor Education

Cost: \$15 + camp costs

Year 10 Advanced Outdoor Education works on extending the students roping, camping and bushcraft skills that they previously have learned during standard Outdoor Education in Year 9. The unit will also introduce the students to the alpine environment through both, theory during class, and a Cross Country skiing trip to Perisher Blue in Term 3. During Term 4, students will participate in a hiking trip to the Budawang where they will be self-sufficient and carry their own food, clothes and camping equipment for three days.

This unit is for Year 10 students who have previously studied Outdoor Education, either last Semester, or last year.

English

Year 9/10 Journalism 2

Cost: \$10

Students who have completed Journalism 1 may choose to continue their studies in Journalism 2. Those students will be extended from the work of Journalism 1 with a greater focus on the production of major publications through building skills in desktop publishing. These students will also build presentation skills including the artistic requirements of publications.

Students who have not previously participated in Journalism 1, will be provided with opportunities to develop their understanding of, and ability to implement and practise, the skills required in the creation and publication of printed media texts. Students will explore a variety of writing styles, techniques, text types and printed media publications. They will develop skills in using resources effectively, writing and editing texts, meeting reader expectations, and desktop publishing. This course is suited to students who love both creative and formal writing and who are organised and able to work to deadlines. Students in Journalism will be responsible for the publication of major school publications such as the school newsletter, school magazine, Year 10 Farewell book and other initiatives.

Year 9/10 English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EALD) (this is an annual unit)

Cost: \$10

EAL/D is for students, new to living within an English speaking culture, to develop competence in the English language. It includes speaking, listening, reading, writing, grammar and viewing activities. Students develop skills in writing for a variety of purposes such as journals, letters, film, book reviews, reports, essays as well as creative and analytical responses. They improve in critical thinking, understanding and vocabulary in their reading and viewing. Students develop confidence in oral presentations and interviews and will gain an appreciation of Australian culture and history.

Year 9/10 American Literature

Cost: \$10

Students will engage with American culture through a variety of text types created by Americans. Through the study of these texts, students will gain an understanding about the American experience across a range of historical and cultural perspectives. They will listen to, read, view, interpret, evaluate and perform a range of spoken, written, visual and multimodal texts. Students will create a range of imaginative, reflective and analytical texts demonstrating an understanding of the American experience as explored in the texts studied, as well as contrasting this experience with Australia at the same time periods. The course also includes a public speaking component in informal and more formal contexts, such as debates to demonstrate understanding.

Year 10 Extension English

Cost: \$10

This unit has been developed in consultation with Gungahlin College. Students will engage in a learning programme that prepares them for Tertiary English Literature at college. The units of work and assessment tasks are based on the Year 11 curriculum. Through responding to and creating texts, students will consider how language, structure and conventions operate in a variety of imaginative, interpretive and persuasive texts. They will be able to respond to texts in a variety of ways, creating their own texts and reflecting on their own learning. Students will participate in a number of seminars at Gungahlin College run by Gungahlin College teachers to support their transition to college. Gungahlin College teachers will also moderate two of the assessment tasks to provide students with a greater understanding of the expectations and levels expected in college.

Languages

Students selecting a language in Year 9 and 10 are required to select that language in both semesters. Learning to speak a Language Other Than English is increasingly important for effective participation in a globalised world. As the language courses grow, students might be given an opportunity to visit the countries to experience the real culture and to use their language skills.

Year 9/10 Japanese (this is an annual unit)

Cost: \$10

This learning sequence focuses on providing opportunities to immerse both traditional and modern Japanese culture and to develop communication skills in this language through a variety of activities. Speaking Japanese and understanding the culture can give you the advantage as a job skill and it is of benefit to the country especially in the areas of business and tourism. Through learning Japanese language, students will develop their cultural understanding of a unique culture and different lifestyle including traditional arts, historical heritage, martial arts, anime, delicious Japanese food, cool Japanese fashions and advanced technology. There is so much to learn about this fascinating country. Possible excursion venues would be Japanese Embassy, Japanese restaurants and the immersion language centre in Sydney.

Year 9/10 French (this is an annual unit)

Cost: \$10

The French pathway will provide further opportunities for students to engage with French language. Students will focus on developing and improving their oral and written fluency through studies of the various aspects of French culture alongside the programs offered through the Alliance Francaise and French Network.

Year 9/10 Indonesian (this is an annual unit)

Cost: \$10

The Indonesian pathway will provide further opportunities for students to engage with Indonesian language and culture. Students will focus on developing their oral and written fluency in the language. Students will be given opportunities to undertake language learning in practical and real life situations, including opportunities to communicate with students living in Indonesia.

Student Support

Year 9/10 Study Skills

Cost: Nil

Entry into this course is by application to the Associate Principal.

Year 9/10 Student Leadership

Cost: \$15

Entry into this course is by application to the Associate Principal.

This elective is for the 2015 School Captains and Vice Captains plus responsible students wishing to contribute to the development of the school. This group will form the 2015 Student Council. Councillors will be required to be involved in a variety of activities that allow them to practice leadership styles and functions within the school community. These skills involve planning, reflecting on procedures, designing and managing activities and reviewing all of these within the Middle Years Programme and the global context of the broader school community.

Students will be required to:

- work successfully as part of a team.
- develop effective decision-making processes
- contribute in a meaningful way to leadership within the broader school community.
- manage often complex social and community projects.
- act as positive role models within the school community.

Students wishing to join the class in Semester 2, should write a half page application for entry that addresses the 5 points above and submit to Ms Wray prior to choosing this option.

Please note that these courses can only run if enough students are enrolled.

**Some practical courses have smaller class sizes, according to
Occupational Health and Safety recommendations.**