

KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL

We Aim High

YEAR 8

ELECTIVE CHOICES



2025

OVERVIEW YEAR 8 2025

This handbook outlines the Technology (Mandatory) and Elective Program for Year 8 in 2025. It has been prepared so that parents and students will be aware, not only of the variety of courses offered, but of the choice that is possible within subject areas. Our program relies heavily on student choice and a careful study of this handbook is needed.

If further advice is required, please contact any of the following staff.

Key contact	Email
Principal: Mr Mark Snedden	mark.snedden@det.nsw.edu.au
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Head Teacher ALPACA: Mr Jason Foy	jason.foy@det.nsw.edu.au
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Head Teacher TAS: Mrs Rebecca Murphy	rebecca.murphy@det.nsw.edu.au

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

Students in Year 8 2025 will follow the pattern of study indicated below:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science
4. HSIE
5. PDHPE
6. Japanese
6. Mentoring
7. Sport
8. Technology Mandatory
9. Two Electives – one for each Semester

This booklet provides information regarding the available options for students to satisfy requirements of points 8 and 9 above.

Parents and students are advised that:

- Each student will be emailed an individual access code to make their selections online at <https://spring.edval.education/login>.
- Kotara High School offers Year 8 students a choice of **two Elective Courses**. Descriptions of these courses are on pages 7 - 14 in this booklet. A summary of all elective courses can be found on page 6.
- Students are advised to choose their Elective courses carefully. The number of classes allocated to particular courses and staffing result from these choices. Changes to selections after the closing date cannot be guaranteed.
- Once selections are made, students will be enrolled in one elective course for Semester 1 and one elective course for Semester 2. This means that students who are currently in Year 7 **must choose two main preferences from those on offer in this booklet**. The nature of the selection process is such that we cannot guarantee that all the options will run in 2025. For this reason, we ask students to choose **two reserve options**.
- Whilst every attempt is made to give students their **first** preferences, in some cases, this is not possible. Some students may find that the structure of curriculum results in a clash of courses, with two or more of a student's choices being allocated to the same line of the timetable. In other cases, if insufficient students choose a particular course, the course may not run. Students involved will then be allocated their reserve selections in order of preference.

- Students will only be able to apply to change courses in the last two weeks of this school year or the first two weeks of next year. In applying to change courses, **students should not assume that the application will be granted.** Any change will depend upon vacancies in the course to which the student wishes to change, whether the change will result in a course clash and whether the student's course pattern still complies with NESA requirements. Changes will only be considered if an application is made after completing a form available from the foyer of the administration building or the Deputy Principal.
- Parents and students are advised that **some** elective courses **involve a cost.** Where applicable, these costs are indicated at the course descriptions from page 7 - 14 of this booklet. Parents are requested **to meet these costs as early as possible in the semester.** If there is difficulty in meeting the contribution, **assistance** is available through the Student Assistance Scheme. Application forms are available from the school office.

MAKING SELECTIONS

Opens: **Monday 24th June 2024 (Week 9, Term 2) at 9.00am**

Closes: **Friday 19th July 2024 (Week 1, Term 3) at 3.00pm**

Instructions

1. Visit the website <https://spring.edval.education/login>
2. Use your unique access code to login and make your selections.
3. Choose 2 courses from the Electives group.
4. You will also choose two reserve preferences from the Electives group.
5. Please note that Technology Mandatory courses in 2025 will be determined by which class students are in next year and there is no choice in these subjects as all students are to complete all areas of **Agriculture and Food Technologies, Digital Technologies, Engineered Systems and Material Technologies**
6. NO subject can appear twice in your selections.
7. If a subject is important for you, then select it before any less important subjects.
8. The number of classes to be run in a subject will depend upon the number of students who select that subject in their preferences.
9. If the school decides not to run a subject that you have selected, then it may be replaced by one of your reserve subjects.
10. Consult with Mr Fellas or Mr McCord if necessary for any concerns.

OVERVIEW OF COURSES 2025

FACULTY	COURSE	CONTRIBUTION	PAGE
MANDATORY			
TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES (TAS)			
Mandatory Courses (Fee \$65 per year- Covers all subjects listed below)			
	Agriculture & Food Technologies	\$65	7
	Digital Technologies		
	Engineered Systems		
	Material Technologies		
	MATHEMATICS TEXTBOOK	\$25	
	JAPANESE WORKBOOK	approx. \$30	
ELECTIVES			
ART, LANGUAGE, PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS (ALPACA)			
	Beginning Photography	\$30	8
	Creative Clay	\$30	8
	Drama	\$5	8
	Music Technology	\$5	9
	Film Making	\$5	9
	Rock Band	\$5	10
	Visual Arts	\$30	10
HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT (HSIE)			
	Minecraft Machinations	\$10	11
	Ocean Tech	\$10	11
PD/HEALTH/PE			
	Technology & Sport	NIL	11
	Sports Studies	NIL	12
TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES (TAS)			
	Interior Design	\$30	12
	Future Foods	\$50	12
	Engineering	\$20	13
	Metal Technology	\$35	13
	Timber Fundamentals	\$35	13
SCIENCE			
	Forensic Science	\$20	14
ENGLISH			
	Creative Writing	NIL	14

TECHNOLOGY MANDATORY 2025 - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Technology Mandatory engages students in design and production activities as they develop solutions to identified needs and opportunities. Through the practical application of knowledge and understanding they learn about:

- **Agriculture and Food Technologies**
- **Digital Technologies**
- **Engineered Systems**
- **Material Technologies**

The syllabus identifies the knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes that students are expected to develop in the Technology learning area. Students are required to study Technology Mandatory for 200 hours. This is achieved in years 7 and 8.

Course Description

Technology Mandatory engages students in design and production activities as they develop solutions to identified needs and opportunities.

What will students learn?

Students develop knowledge and understanding of the four Technology contexts through the Design and Production of solutions to meet identified needs or opportunities.

In Agriculture and Food Technologies students learn about the processes of food and fibre production and investigate the innovative and sustainable supply of agriculturally produced raw materials. Students are provided with opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding about food selection and preparation, food safety and how to make informed choices when experimenting with and preparing nutritious food.

The Digital Technologies context encourages students to develop an empowered attitude towards digital technologies, use abstractions to represent and deconstruct real-world problems, and implement and evaluate digital solutions. Students have the opportunity to become innovative creators of digital technologies in addition to effective users of digital systems and critical consumers of the information they convey. Students are provided with opportunities to develop fluency in a general-purpose programming language and use these skills to solve information problems and to automate repetitive tasks.

The Engineered Systems context focuses on how force, motion and energy can be used in systems, machines and structures. Students are provided with opportunities to experiment and develop prototypes to test their solutions. They are lead to understand how forces and the properties of materials affect the behaviour and performance of engineered systems, machines and structures. Knowledge of these principles and systems enables the design and production of sustainable, engineered solutions.

The Material Technologies context focuses on the application of specialist skills and techniques to a broad range of traditional, contemporary and advancing materials. Students develop knowledge and understanding of the characteristics and properties of a range of materials through research, experimentation and practical investigation. These are applied when they produce products to satisfy identified needs and opportunities.

FROM THE ALPACA FACULTY

BEGINNING PHOTOGRAPHY

Explore the world of photography. In this Year 8 Beginning Photography elective, you will discover how to use a camera to capture beautiful images, learn about different techniques to compose stunning shots, and experiment with light, color, and perspective. We also open up the darkroom for experimenting with the magic of photographic chemistry. You'll create a portfolio of amazing photographs that you can be proud of.



Contribution - \$30 (includes portfolio and your artworks)

CREATIVE CLAY



Get your hands messy and unleash your creativity with our Creative Clay elective for Year 8 students! In this elective course, you will learn how to mold clay into beautiful and unique artworks. From pinch pots to sculptures, you'll discover a variety of techniques to create functional and decorative objects that reflect your personal style. You'll also learn how to glaze and fire your pieces, giving them a professional finish. This elective is the perfect opportunity to let your imagination soar and create something truly special.

Contribution - \$30 (take home your artworks)

Requirements: Visual Arts Diary (A4 size)

DRAMA



In this course, fun and games will combine to work out ways of exploring your hidden talents. The course involves participation in all aspects of theatrical skills (warm-ups, improvisation, mime, play- building, and workshops), leading to a performance.

The aim of the course is that students will acquire an understanding of the nature of dramatic arts and its forms. Students will be involved in workshops where dramatic themes and forms are explored through active participation. This includes acting, directing, stage management, designing, costuming, lighting, make-up, sound effects and projections.

Contribution - \$5

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY

This interest elective has been designed for students who wish to develop their music-making skills using digital technologies. Students will not study music in Year 8 unless it is chosen as an elective.

Students will learn to:

- edit and rearrange existing loops and stems from popular songs
- create and record original works of their own
- use appropriate microphones and recording techniques
- basic operations of a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

Students may have the opportunity be involved in events inside and outside the school, involving tasks such as:

- live sound engineering
- event setup, & management
- digital lighting



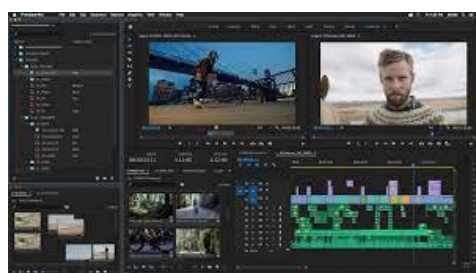
Requirements: BYOD laptop to install and run free software.
Contribution - \$5



FILM MAKING

This elective is a practical course for students interested in film making. As part of this course students will watch and analyse select movies to assist in their understanding about how techniques are used to create awesome films.

Students will learn about storytelling devices used by filmmakers, camera shots and techniques, how to use a drone and editing software to enhance film's purpose. The combination of the theoretical study of films, the practical knowledge of filming and using editing software will be combined when students produce their own short films.



The course is about being creative and developing technical expertise in camera work to produce your own film.

Study in this area leads to the development of skills essential for senior film work in Drama, Year 12 Extension 2 English film project and Photography, Video and Digital Media.

Contribution: \$5

ROCK BAND



The Rock Band course is entirely practical and will begin by extending on students' skills developed in Year 7 Music, where students can choose to focus exclusively on a rock band instrument of their choice, typically being bass guitar, drum kit, guitar, keyboard and voice.



The course will also cater for students who already have skills on other instruments, as well as those that are starting from scratch.

Students will not study music in Year 8 unless it is chosen as an elective.

Contribution: \$5

VISUAL ARTS

In this course, you will explore a range of forms, including painting, drawing, printmaking, mixed media, and graphic design. You'll learn about colour theory, composition, and various techniques to create striking artworks that express your unique vision and style. In addition, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with your classmates, share your ideas, and receive feedback on your work.

This elective course is an excellent foundation for the Visual Arts course in Stage 5 and caters for beginner artists as well as offers enrichment to more confident artists.

Students will not study Visual Arts in Year 8 unless it is chosen as an elective.

Contribution: \$30

Requirements: A4 Visual Arts Diary



FROM THE HSIE FACULTY

MINECRAFT MACHINATIONS MEETS SPHERO CIRCLE WORK

Ever dreamed of immersing yourself in a world of your own creation, battling foes near and far, then this is the course to for you. Through project based HSIE centered lessons, students will build critical 21st century skills like collaboration, creative problem solving and digital citizenship. After you have mastered your world learn to code in Minecraft with Codebuilder and you will then be introduced to Sphero where you will continue your coding journey compliments of C and Javascript.

Contribution - \$10

OCEAN TECH

Students will be immersed in the wonders of the ocean. Project based learning tasks will provide students with opportunities to solve issues relating to the marine environment such as designing shark deterrents and designing their own species-specific fishing lures. Through a range of research, design and create opportunities students will work collaboratively to problem solve and investigate marine based topics.

Our Ocean Tech classroom has aquariums housing both freshwater and saltwater species from around the world which students will be responsible for using current technology and water testing procedures.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in several excursions and interactive activities such as:

- Design, create and fish with self-made fishing lures.
- Research, design and create a shark deterrent.
- Aquarium maintenance and development

Contribution - \$10

FROM THE PD/H/PE FACULTY

TECHNOLOGY & SPORT

The growth of technology and how it is improving sports performance is big business. From wearable technology that tracks your performance and fitness to fabrics and sporting equipment designed to help not just performance but recovery as well. Research the history of Technology in Sport and the myriad of jobs related to technology and science.

Students will engage with information and communication technologies (ICT) to explore and develop strategies to solve problems, collaborate online and communicate information and ideas.

Where possible there will be some time for practical applications to analyse physical fitness and movement skill, design training programs and generate feedback to improve performance.

An excursion to the Australian Institute of Sport or similar could be organised to allow students to experience hands on technology applications in sport.

Contribution - Nil



SPORTS STUDIES

Sports Studies is an exciting, educational, and enjoyable course which is an extension of the Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Physical Activity & Sport Studies syllabuses. It is a movement-based course and uses a variety of sports as the focus for practical and theory units. Students are given the opportunity to increase their awareness of issues relating to fitness, movement skill development, coaching, strategies and techniques, event management and career opportunities. Teams, games, competitions, skills, and techniques will be used to provide examples that will provide knowledge and skill of selected sports as well, as providing an opportunity for students to transfer this knowledge to other forms of physical activity and sport. Students need no prior experience of sport but do need a willingness to participate enthusiastically in practical lessons and an organised approach to theory lessons.



Contribution – Nil

FROM THE TAS FACULTY

INTERIOR DESIGN

Students will design and make fashionable clothing and interior items and learn about the technology of colour in dyeing and printing fabrics and explore production techniques using both machine and hand methods of construction. Individual designs will also incorporate elements of E-textiles technology.

E-textiles incorporates the use of soft circuits as a system that can be applied to interior and clothing items.

Contribution: \$30

FUTURE FOODS

With the world's population expected to reach almost 10 billion people by 2050, the production and provision of sufficient, nutritious food is a global challenge.

This food practical course explores food product development, healthy food choices and the impact of agriculture on climate change.

Student will explore food selections and what effects this has on changing food cultures and how to make better choices in food consumption and monitor healthy eating through digital health guides.

Further opportunities will investigate how technological advances are changing the food system and explore solutions for enabling changes.

Contribution: \$50

ENGINEERING

The Engineering elective provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, understanding and communication skills in relation to engineering and its associated industries.

Practical projects allow students to develop knowledge and skills in the use of a range of materials, tools, and manufacturing techniques.

Students may have the opportunity to study a range of topics such as race car design, robotics and control technology, mechanical toys, and war machines (catapults).

This course will give the students the opportunity to develop skills in problem solving, communication and the chance to apply mathematics and science into real life experiences.

Contribution: \$20

Metal Technology

The Metal 1 elective develops knowledge and skills in the use of tools, materials and techniques related to general metalwork. These are enhanced and further developed through the study of specialist modules in Metal Machining and Fabrication.

Practical projects reflect the nature of the Metal focus area and provide opportunities for students to develop specific knowledge, understanding and skills associated with metal-related technologies. These may include:

- Fabricated projects
- Sheet metal products

Requirements: DoE Mandatory footwear requirements and long hair tied back

Contributions: \$35

Timber Fundamentals

Woodworking Fundamentals / Timber Skills

Learning to design and construct items are essential skills used in our built environment.

Students will focus on the development of skills when working with the timber resources, equipment and machinery. These skills will provide students with an introduction to the workshop and an opportunity to pursue further studies and specialisations in Stage 5 and 6 and possible professional endeavours in the future.

Students will focus on fundamental skills in the use of a range of materials, tools and manufacturing techniques used in the timber industry which will enable them to create individual and useful projects.

Requirements: DoE Mandatory footwear requirements and long hair tied back

Contributions: \$35

FROM THE SCIENCE FACULTY

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Welcome to the amazing and magical world of forensic science. It is an ever exciting and changing field - new technology is popping up faster than we can keep track! But in a way that's good news, because new types of crimes are popping up everywhere too. Students will learn how the field developed and investigate some of the techniques used.

Students will investigate areas such as:

Crime scene and eyewitness basics
Physical evidence
Fingerprinting
Impression evidence
Hairs and fibers
Chromatography
Blood analysis
DNA analysis
Accident reconstruction analysing collisions.
A Crime Scene Investigation adventure using their skills.

Contribution - \$20

FROM THE ENGLISH FACULTY

CREATIVE WRITING

In Creative Writing students will craft new worlds, create interesting characters and compose suspenseful stories. Students will explore writing craft through 'Writing Warmups', set exciting personal writing goals and enter polished in a number of writing competitions.

Students will have the opportunity to:

- Study our favourite authors, unlocking tips and tricks to improve writing
- Use Project Based Learning to compose an engaging piece of writing for an independent project
- Share work within the community
- Explore text types including narrative, picture books and poetry

This elective gives enthusiastic writers the time, space and guidance to take their writing to the next level. Students may have the opportunity to attend writing workshops and events.

Contribution - NIL