



YEAR 7 & 8 COURSE HANDBOOK 2026

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An introduction to Years 7 and 8 at UHS

To our students and families,

Years 7 and 8 at University High School are regarded as the foundational years of secondary education. These years provide students with the opportunity to establish strong habits of learning, develop key knowledge and skills, and begin to experience the breadth of subjects that form the basis of a rich and balanced education. Our aim is to ensure that all students feel supported, challenged, and engaged as they transition into high school and prepare for the more specialised opportunities that become available from Year 9 onwards.

The curriculum at this level is deliberately broad, giving students the chance to explore a wide range of disciplines. Students study **English** and **Mathematics**, which are central to all future learning, alongside **History** and **Geography**, which develop their understanding of societies, cultures, and the world around them. **Science** provides opportunities for curiosity, experimentation, and critical thinking, while **Music**, **Art**, and **Technology** encourage creativity and innovation. Students also learn a language, with the choice of **French or German**, which strengthens communication skills and broadens cultural awareness.

In Year 8, the program is further enriched with **Drama**, where students build confidence and collaborative skills, and **Food Technology**, where they develop practical life skills and an understanding of nutrition and healthy living. **Physical Education** and **Health** are studied throughout, supporting the development of fitness, teamwork, and wellbeing.

A distinctive feature of the Years 7 and 8 program is the subject **Connect**. Connect is designed to provide structured opportunities for social and emotional learning, careers education, and the development of learning habits and study skills. It supports students to understand themselves as learners, to set goals, and to build resilience.

All programs are closely aligned with the **Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0**, which underpins high-quality practice across Victorian schools. This ensures that students experience a consistent, evidence-based approach to teaching and learning that promotes growth for all learners.

The Years 7 and 8 curriculum is an exciting and dynamic program. It builds a strong foundation of knowledge and skills that students will continue to develop as they move into the senior years of schooling. From Year 9 onwards, students will have the chance to branch out into more specific areas of interest, supported by the confidence and capabilities established during these important early years.

Kind regards,

Fred-Ole Sandt - Assistant Principal



UNIVERSITY
HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 7 & 8

CURRICULUM PROGRAM



Year 7

Year 8

CONNECT, SELF AND OTHERS

ART

TECHNOLOGY

FOOD

ENGLISH/ EAL

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

FRENCH/ GERMAN

MATHEMATICS

PE & HEALTH

MUSIC

DRAMA

SCIENCE



Cross Curriculum

Connect, Self and Others

What's it all about?

Connect is our pastoral care program that focuses on social and emotional learning. Students will build their social skills, develop regulation strategies, learn about emotions and understand relationships. The program is also used for students to become more organised for their learning, develop their awareness of career pathways, and celebrate their successes. The topics are covered in a range of ways over the course of two years, often revisiting areas multiple times.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Years 7 & 8	Organisational skills and learning habits • Goal setting • Google Suite setup • Homework and study habits • Academic honesty	Respectful Relationships • Stereotypes and gender norms • Online behaviour • Body image issues and awareness • Bullying, harassment and other incidents
	Careers education • Future jobs • Exploring industries • Career Action Plan	Positive behaviour and celebrating learning • Fortnightly focus behaviours • Celebration assemblies • Values awards

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will learn through a range of classroom activities, as well as cohort and sub-school assemblies, and incursions with external providers.

Victorian Curriculum

Personal and Social Capability	Self-Awareness and Management Social Awareness and Management
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What else do I need to know?

Whilst Connect is covered by curriculum, this program is not part of the reporting system. This is due to the nature of the program being for social and emotional learning, rather than academics.



Art, Design and Technology

Art

What's it all about?

Students will be introduced to practical skills, processes and art making techniques. A diversity of inspiration will be used when developing both two and three-dimensional art forms. They will explore the exhibition of art works. Observation, imagination, personal experience and research will be used to develop art works. Units of study will include drawing, painting, printmaking, photoshop, sculpture and mixed media. The formal elements and principles of design will continue to be emphasized throughout the practical course. Skills in art criticism and aesthetics will be introduced concurrently with practical tasks. Students will research, discuss and write about their own and others' art works, including indigenous Australian artists. They will identify and analyse selected styles, historical contexts and media, using appropriate terminology.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 • Art Elements & Principles • One Point Perspective • Australian Impressionism	Semester 2 • Ways of seeing - Western Eyes • Ways of seeing- Indigenous Perspectives • Photoshop
Year 8	Semester 1 • Two Point Perspective • Pop Art Theory & Culture • Pop Art Painting	Semester 2 • Pop Art Sculpture • Post Pop & Contemporary Australian Art • Advanced Photoshop

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will be assessed across a range of practical and theoretical tasks. Practical assessed tasks will include skill building across a range of art making techniques.

Victorian Curriculum

Visual Arts	Exploring Developing Practices Creating Presenting
Critical and Creative Thinking	Questions and Possibilities Reasoning Metacognition.

What else do I need to know?

Students are advised to wear closed toe shoes in Art rooms.



Art, Design and Technology Technology

What's it all about?

Technology gives students the knowledge and skills to produce quality products that address human and environmental needs. Students are introduced to the design process and the technical, social, economic, legal, environmental and ecological considerations aligned to their designs. They manipulate materials including wood, fibres or fabrics and plastics to make innovative and original products. Students use workshop classrooms that have been specifically designed to provide a healthy and safe working environment. They experience a wide range of tools and equipment in the making of their products and a variety of production techniques, including digital media processes and production techniques.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 - Textiles - Printing and Production - Woodwork - Automotons	Semester 2 Digital Manufacturing
Year 8	Semester outline (single semester subject) - Woodwork - Textiles	

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will produce design solutions in response to defined design problems that include a stencil for textiles printing, simple mechanism design and production and three dimensional designs for a motor driven mode and digitally printing forms.

Victorian Curriculum

Design and Technology	Technologies and Society Technologies Contexts Creating Designed Solutions
Critical and Creative Thinking	Questions and Possibilities Reasoning Metacognition.

What else do I need to know?

Students must wear closed toe shoes at all times in Technology classes.



Art, Design and Technology

Food Technology

What's it all about?

Students will be learning a wide range of information that equips students with theoretical and practical knowledge about food. This subject prepares students for hands-on experience with food that can be transferred into everyday life skills. This course will also investigate food sources, harvesting, food security and wastage in the world we live in. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by using a range of resources and get exposure to indigenous foods and international cuisine. Students will also be completing a design brief used in foods to make better informed health choices using the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating.

What will I learn in 8?

Year 8	Semester outline (single semester subject) • Safety in a commercial kitchen • How to use a variety of kitchen tools and equipment • Weights and measurements • Food handling • Techniques for cooking food • Food wastage and the effects on the environment • Design Brief in recipe creation
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What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will be learning life skills in cookery. This subject will combine theory and practical lessons. Students will be given a workbook that has a range of activities from creating safety posters, learning about healthy eating, nutrition and environmental issues. Students will complete a range of assessments in theory and practical such as knife skills, investigating environmental issues such as creating solutions to food wastage and ethical standards.

Victorian Curriculum

Design and Technology	Technologies and Society Technologies Contexts Creating Designed Solutions
Critical and Creative Thinking	Questions and Possibilities Reasoning Metacognition

What else do I need to know?

Students are required to wear closed in shoes, wear a hair tie if applicable and bring a container to all practical classes.



English & EAL English

What's it all about?

In English, students will respond to, create, analyse and evaluate a range of written, spoken, visual and multimodal texts. Students will select appropriate language choices, text structures and visual features to help convey ideas and information for different purposes and audiences. Additionally, students will refine their work through drafting, editing and reflecting on feedback, building cohesion through the application of grammar, punctuation and vocabulary choices.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 • Short stories • Text analysis (novel study) • Parts of speech • Reading fluency & comprehension	Semester 2 • Text analysis (poetry, film & novel) • Creative writing • Sentences & punctuation • Reading fluency & comprehension
Year 8	Semester 1 • Dystopian texts • Text analysis (novel) • Writing for audience • Influencing others	Semester 2 • Comedic texts • Analytical writing • Film making • Sentence structures

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a range of different ways including; short answer questions, class discussions, analytical paragraphs, essays, short stories, poems, films, presentations, posters, written explanations, group tasks, tests and quizzes.

Victorian Curriculum

English	Language Literature Literacy
Critical and Creative Thinking	Questions and Possibilities Reasoning Metacognition

What else do I need to know?

Students are expected to maintain a reading routine at home of at least 20 minutes each night. As students' reading levels may vary, some students may require the support of a parent/guardian or assistive technologies when practising their reading at home.



English & EAL

English as an Additional Language

What's it all about?

In English as an Additional Language, students will enhance their knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to spoken and written English. When speaking they will focus on pronunciation, stress and intonation in order to extend their oral skills. Students will explore a wide range of print and digital texts and learn to deduce the meanings of unfamiliar words, and identify the main structures and ideas. In their writing, students will plan, create and edit a range of texts. Students will also learn to organise their ideas and use simple sentence structures, incorporating basic punctuation into their writing to increase the fluency of their texts.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 • Personal stories • Text analysis (film) • Parts of speech • Vocabulary development • Reading strategies	Semester 2 • Text analysis (short stories) • Analytical writing • Modal verbs and sentences • Persuading others (advertising) • Reading strategies
Year 8	Semester 1 • Text analysis (film) • Text analysis (myths and fairytales) • Vocabulary development • Reading strategies	Semester 2 • Short stories • Creative writing • Persuading others (podcasts) • Parts of speech

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a range of different ways including; short answer questions, class discussions, analytical paragraphs, essays, short stories, poems, films, presentations, posters, written explanations, group tasks, tests and quizzes.

Victorian Curriculum

English as an Additional Language	Speaking and Listening Reading and Viewing Writing
Critical and Creative Thinking	Questions and Possibilities Reasoning Metacognition

What else do I need to know?

EAL students are encouraged to purchase and use a bilingual dictionary throughout their learning in every subject at UHS. It is important that students continue to actively use their first language. It is also important that students spend at least an hour a day, outside of school hours, engaging with the English language through reading, viewing, speaking and listening. For reporting, EAL students will progress along the EAL pathway from levels C1 (beginner), and move through C2, C3, and C4. Students' starting C levels will vary depending on their previous learning of English.



Humanities

History/Geography

What's it all about?

Students will learn about the history of our world from Ancient Civilizations and the Medieval world through to the continuous culture of Indigenous Australians. They are introduced to new skills such as analysing images and text to gain a better understanding of the historical world. Moreover, students explore the physical and human world around them through the study of Geography. Each year, students undertake theoretical classwork as well as practical fieldwork to better engage with their growing understanding of our people and our planet.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1: History • Intro to Historical Skills • Australia's First Peoples • Ancient China • Ancient Rome	Semester 2: Geography • Intro to Geographic Skills • Water in the World • Fieldwork & Mapping • Liveability
Year 8	Semester 1: History • Revision of Historical Skills • Medieval Europe • The Renaissance • Shogunate Japan	Semester 2: Geography • Revision of Geographic Skills • Changing Nations & Migration • Urbanisation • Landscapes & Landforms

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

In History, students will learn new skills such as source analysis and continue to develop their written skills with extended paragraphs. They will also develop their ability to ask critical historical questions. In Geography, students are introduced to the skill of mapping and using scale and will use data to formulate a question for inquiry. They also complete an extensive outdoor fieldwork task using the concepts learned in class.

Victorian Curriculum

History	Historical Knowledge and Understanding Historical Concepts and Skills
Geography	Geographical Knowledge and Understanding Geographical Skills
Critical and Creative Thinking	Questions and Possibilities Reasoning Metacognition

What else do I need to know?

Bring a best positive attitude and sense of curiosity!



Languages

French

What's it all about?

In Year 7 and 8 French, students will begin their journey into learning a new language and exploring French-speaking cultures. They will develop foundational skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through engaging, real-world topics. Students will learn to talk about themselves, friends, family, school life, hobbies, and food, and will discover cultural aspects of life in France and other French-speaking regions. The course aims to build confidence, curiosity, and global awareness while developing the skills to communicate in everyday situations in French.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 - Introducing myself and others - Family and relationships	Semester 2 - Describing People and Interests - Celebrations and French-speaking cultures
Year 8	Semester 1 - Talking about school - Learning about the daily routine	Semester 2 - Learning about the house, the city and the directions - French-speaking cultures

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will engage in role-plays, games, group presentations, listening tasks, and written reflections. Assessments include short conversations, listening and reading comprehension tests, and written pieces such as emails, diary entries, or posters. Students also complete intercultural tasks and projects.

Victorian Curriculum

French	Communicating Meaning in French Understanding Language and Culture
Intercultural Capability	Culture, Identity and Belonging Cultural Diversity

What else do I need to know?

No prior French knowledge is needed!

Students are encouraged to bring enthusiasm and a willingness to speak.



YEAR 7 & 8 SUBJECTS

Languages

German

What's it all about?

In Year 7 and 8 German, students will begin their journey into learning a new language and culture. They will develop foundational skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing through engaging, real-world topics. Students will learn to talk about themselves, friends, family, school life, hobbies, and food, and explore cultural aspects of life in German-speaking countries. The course aims to build confidence, curiosity, and global awareness while developing the skills to communicate in everyday situations in German.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 - Introducing yourself (Where are you from?) - Birthday - The Family - School	Semester 2 - Free time and hobbies - Where do you live?
Year 8	Semester 1 - Enjoy your meal! - My home	Semester 2 - Fashion capital Berlin! - Appearance and body parts - Visiting Germany - Snow White Performance

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will engage in role-plays, games, group presentations, listening tasks, and written reflections. Assessments include short conversations, listening and reading comprehension tests, and written pieces such as emails, diary entries, or posters. Students also complete intercultural tasks and projects.

Victorian Curriculum

German	Communicating Meaning in German Understanding Language and Culture
Intercultural Capability	Culture, Identity and Belonging Cultural Diversity.

What else do I need to know?

No prior German knowledge is needed!

Students are encouraged to bring enthusiasm and a willingness to speak.



Mathematics

Mathematics

What's it all about?

Mathematics provides students with fundamental knowledge, skills, and procedures in number, algebra, measurement, space, statistics, and probability. Mathematics has its own value and aesthetic emphasising abstract reasoning, clarity of expression, curiosity, and problem solving. The skills students learn in Mathematics are also essential in numerous other fields and disciplines. Students will work on their understanding of key concepts, their fluency and accuracy with Mathematical procedures, their abstract reasoning, their ability to communicate ideas using Mathematical notation such as algebra, and their problem solving and computational thinking skills.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 • Natural Numbers • Indices and Square Roots • Polygons • Fractions • Algebra	Semester 2 • Equations • Decimals and Percentages • Number Patterns & The Cartesian Plane • Measurement • Statistics • Transformations
Year 8	Semester 1 • Integers • Fractions • Geometry • Algebra • Equations	Semester 2 • Decimals and Percentages • Measurements • Sets & Probability • Ratio & Rates • Congruence & Similar Figures

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will participate in a range of activities in class including; exercises, homework sheets, problem solving, projects, tests and exams.

Victorian Curriculum

Mathematics	Number Algebra Measurement Space Statistics Probability
Critical and Creative Thinking	Questions and Possibilities Reasoning Metacognition

What else do I need to know?

Practice is essential to develop fluency and understanding and to make links between ideas. Mathematics students practice their skills regularly both at home and in class. Annual Maths Extension activities are available such as the Australian Mathematics Competition.



PE & Health

Health

What's it all about?

Students will reflect on factors that influence their perception of themselves, their values and character strengths. Students will learn about the physical, social and emotional development that takes place during adolescence and explore conception. They will investigate nutrition and learn how to fuel their bodies with food that benefits them. Students will explore a range of ways to protect themselves from harm, including vaping and road safety. Junior Health facilitates an environment to continue culminating key aspects and subject specific terminology. Ultimately, this will lead to exploring a range of ways society chooses to express or identify themselves. This includes but is not limited to gender and sexuality, correct use of pronouns and different forms of communication. Students will be equipped with the right strategies and language to use when giving consent and approaching relationships with respect and care.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 • Identity • Development during Adolescence	Semester 2 • Nutrition • Safety
Year 8	Semester 1 • Emotional & Social Wellbeing • Alcohol & Drugs	Semester 2 • Relationships & Sexuality • Nutrition

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will participate in a range of activities in class both individually and in groups. Activities may include class discussions, worksheets, games, quizzes and educational videos. Assessment tasks may include group or individual projects, written tests and investigative tasks analysing real-world scenarios.

Victorian Curriculum

Health and Physical Education	Personal, Social and Community Health – Health Education
Personal and Social	Self-Awareness and Management Social Awareness and Management

What else do I need to know?

Students will learn to collaborate with others and work in teams. Students will also learn skills and knowledge in Health that they will use throughout their entire lives!



PE & Health

PE

What's it all about?

Students will acquire and practise physical, social, psychological and cognitive skills through movement. Students will learn how to perform a range of fundamental movement skills and adapt these to a range of games and sports. Students will also learn tactical skills and develop game sense.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 • Athletics & Minor Games • Net & Wall Sports	Semester 2 • Territory Games • Gymnastics • Dance & Rhythm
Year 8	Semester 1 • Striking & Fielding • Territory Games	Semester 2 • Net & Wall Sports • SEPEP (Sport Education in Physical Education Program)

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will participate in a thematic approach to the PE curriculum, exploring sports and games as themes or ideas rather than a specific sport focus. Each term a rubric will be presented and key teaching concepts of the theme will be introduced. Assessment of this style of PE will be through a rubric completed by a teacher at the end of each term. It will focus on skill progression, game sense and participation.

Victorian Curriculum

Health and Physical Education	Movement and Physical Activity – Physical Education
Personal and Social	Self-Awareness and Management Social Awareness and Management

What else do I need to know?

Students are required to wear a PE uniform (Green UHS polo top and black shorts/tracksuit pants) and sports runners. Students will learn to collaborate with others and work in teams.



Performing Arts Music

What's it all about?

With a holistic approach to music education, in this subject students engage with music from a broad range of styles and cultural contexts through performance, composition, aural, theory and listening analysis. Through this study, students will gain an understanding of how music can be used for different purposes, and how the elements of music can be manipulated to create different effects, as well as a deeper understanding of the links between music and the wider social contexts in which it is created. Students will also learn foundational musicianship skills including how to read and write written music notation, use written language to describe music, and how to perform technical exercises and repertoire for both singing and keyboard.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 • Instruments of the Orchestra • World Music • Musicianship, Aural & Practical	Semester 2 • Musical Theatre • Western Art Music • Musicianship, Aural & Practical
Year 8	Semester outline (single semester subject) • Film Music • History of Rock Music • Musicianship & Aural	

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will participate in a range of activities in class including; singing & keyboard performance, listening analysis, theory and aural activities, research tasks and discussions.

Victorian Curriculum

Music	Exploring Developing Practices Creating Presenting
Personal and Social	Self-Awareness and Management Social Awareness and Management

What else do I need to know?

Students who would like to enrich their musical education beyond the classroom program outlined above, are encouraged to enrol in the Instrumental Music Program. Here students can learn everything from voice, to trumpet, to double bass, and everything in between! Please note that Instrumental Music is an opt-in, fee-paying program, separate to Performing Arts - Music.



Performing Arts

Drama

What's it all about?

In this subject, students will learn about improvisation techniques, acting skills, character analysis and how to interpret scripts for an audience. Students will watch a recorded performance of a theatre production, analysing the characters and acting skills in the interpretation, and will contribute to the development of a group interpretation and performance of a script.

What will I learn in Year 8?

Year 8	Semester outline (single semester subject) • Improvisation • Script Work
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What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will participate in a range of activities in class including: group performances, production viewing, performance analysis and critique, drama games and class discussion.

Victorian Curriculum

Drama	Explore Developing Practices Creating Presenting
Personal and Social	Self-Awareness and Management Social Awareness and Management



Science Science

What's it all about?

Students will learn how to develop safe and responsible practices in scientific investigations, use equipment accurately, and apply the scientific method to plan, conduct, and communicate experiments. Students will explore physical sciences, biological sciences, chemical sciences, and Earth and space sciences. They will analyse and interpret data, use scientific language, and evaluate evidence to explain phenomena, fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and an understanding of science's role in society and the environment.

What will I learn in Year 7 and 8?

Year 7	Semester 1 • Working Scientifically • Forces • Properties of Substances	Semester 2 • Classifications • Ecosystems • Mixtures • Astronomy
Year 8	Semester 1 • Scientific Data • Substances • Physical and Chemical Change • Energy	Semester 2 • Cells • Body Systems • Electricity • Rocks and Mining

What kinds of classroom activities and assessments will I do?

Students will participate in a range of activities in class including; worksheets, games, quizzes and educational videos. Assessment tasks may include group and individual research projects, written reports and tests.

Victorian Curriculum

Science	Science as a Human Endeavour Science Understanding Science Inquiry
Critical and Creative Thinking	Questions and Possibilities Reasoning Metacognition

What else do I need to know?

In Science, students will learn about the world we are living in from the miniature to the gargantuan. Be curious, and never stop asking questions!