

Electives Years 7-9



Get excited because subject selection is your time to explore and experiment through electives!

How To Make Good Choices

Approach choosing your electives with an open mind and as an opportunity to discover new passions.

To make really wise elective choices, try this quick activity: Think about the feedback your teachers provide on your work and reports and of what you enjoy, are good at, and find challenging at school. This information will help you identify your interests and strengths which makes choosing subjects that suit you easier.

Before Year 11 most subjects won't require 'prerequisites', meaning subjects you must take first to ensure you have the right knowledge and skills. The exceptions to this can be LOTEs and practical subjects like music. So if you want to take a break from these, check if you'll be able to pick them up again, or if you need to continue.

Keep in mind that you'll be in the subjects you pick for some time, so if you're unsure whether you will enjoy one of your choices, talk it through with your family and teachers who can help you understand what the subject is about and if it will be a good match.

What If I make a 'Bad' Choice?

If you find yourself in a subject you don't love or aren't doing well in, use it as a chance to develop:

- Perseverance by giving it your best anyway.
- The attitude that you get out what you put in.
- Skills in something doesn't come naturally - this demonstrates maturity and self-discipline.
- A growth mindset by realising that learning what we don't like or what we're not good at helps us know ourselves better.

Use your new self-knowledge to inform your future decisions. For example, if you thought you'd love Food Tech but just found yourself in a mess, cross it off your list and confidently know careers in a kitchen aren't for you.

Your elective choices are a chance to work out what you like and are good at so when the time comes, your senior pathway, subjects, and plans for life beyond school are clearer.

To learn more about your senior school options log into the your careers website, dip into the Post School Options and Planning Journey and do the After Yr 10 What Are My Options? Activity and speak to your Careers Advisor.

Electives in Years 10-12



In Years 10-12 you get more options, but the stakes are higher than in Years 7-9, as your subject choices can broaden or narrow your post school pathways.

You may also have the option to choose a Vocational Education and Training (VET) subject and/or accelerate in a subject which are great opportunities but mean you have to think your subjects through with a longer-term plan in mind.

VET Subjects

A VET subject may be a good choice if you:

- Like hands-on learning.
- Have interest in a specific subject area.
- Think you might like to do an apprenticeship or traineeship one day.
- Might want to study VET after finishing school.

Acceleration

Acceleration means starting a Year 11 subject when you're in Year 10. If you're mature, academically capable, and well organised, accelerating can provide you with a:

- Chance to study a subject you're good at at a higher level.
- Taste of senior subjects so you know what to expect.
- Sixth or seventh subject which may contribute to your ATAR.

These tips will help ensure you make smart subject choices for your senior school years:

One: Select subjects you enjoy

You are more likely to put your full effort in if you like what you are learning. Simple, but true.

Two: Select subjects you're good at

When you give your best effort, you're more likely to do well. If you're choosing a subject because it's a prerequisite, reflect on whether your previous learning indicates you're likely to succeed.

Three: Select subjects to reach your goals

If you're unsure about your future pathway, choose subjects to keep your options open. If you have some idea of your direction, you need to know which school subjects are prerequisites or assumed knowledge for the VET and/or Higher Education courses you're interested in. Even if a subject isn't a prerequisite, consider how it could support your preferred pathway. For example, Biology isn't usually a prerequisite for Medicine or Nursing, however, what you learn in it will be an advantage if you want to study or work in a health-related field.

Your Careers Advisor or Tertiary Admission Centre are the best sources to learn more about prerequisites and assumed knowledge.

Make Smart Selections



Electives let you shape your school experience and help you stay motivated which is why they should reflect your interests and aspirations. While it's valuable to consider others' advice, your subject choices are a chance to exercise independence and take responsibility for your learning. These tips will help you choose your subjects confidently:

Know what you're signing up for

Speak to teachers who teach the subject, read the textbook, talk to students taking the class, read the subject selection handbook, and attend 'taster' lessons or subject selection information sessions so you really know what the subjects involve and if they're for you.

Seek guidance from your allies

Your teachers, coordinators, and Careers Advisor can help you develop a plan aligned with your aspirations. Ask them questions and listen to their advice, as they really are there to help you!

Keep your options open

If you're unsure about your pathway, keep your subject choices broad and diverse so you have flexibility in your future studies and career choices.

Value knowledge and skills

You're a budding entrepreneur, but your school doesn't offer an entrepreneurship subject? Think about how the subjects your school does offer connect to your interests and goals more broadly. In this case, business or economics electives will help you start your own business one day.

Balance your workload

Aim for a combination of subjects that challenges you without overwhelming you. For example, you may love art, design, and media but can you realistically do your best in three folio subjects?

Consider your pathway

Are you aiming for a high ATAR or developing practical skills for the workforce? Multiple options exist beyond school, including vocational training, apprenticeships, or university via ATAR or non-ATAR pathways, so choose subjects to support your pathway.

Remember the big picture

School isn't just about academics. Consider other opportunities such as extracurricular activities, sports, arts, or community service which provide valuable skills and learning, contribute to personal growth, and enhance your overall school experience.

Myths & Facts

Myth

Fact

You will enjoy your subjects more if your friends are in your classes.

There is no guarantee your timetables will align, and if you're prone to distractions, you may learn more independently.

It's a good idea to choose a subject because it has a reputation for being 'easy' or a 'bludge'.

All subjects require effort to do well, even if you're naturally talented in the area. You're better off choosing a subject you enjoy and will be engaged in rather than one that doesn't really interest you, but that you think will be easy.

You should choose a subject because a teacher you like will be taking it.

You shouldn't choose a subject because you don't like the teacher.

Subjects are allocated to teachers based on the demands on the timetable, and changes can be made at the last minute. This means you can't guarantee who your teacher will be.

Choosing 'hard', higher level subjects or ones that 'scale up' because they will lead to a high ATAR.

Thinking 'easy' subjects or subjects that 'scale down' will lead to a low ATAR.

Scaling ensures that you are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged based on the subjects you choose. Whether they scale up or down, you still need to do well in your subjects to get a high ATAR.