



# Keira High School Subject Selection Stage 5 Handbook Years 9–10, 2024



## Keira High School

*Great traditions, a confident future.*

3 Lysaght Street  
Fairy Meadow NSW 2519

Phone: 4229 4644  
Email: [keira-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:keira-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Website: [www.keira-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.keira-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)



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# Introduction

Welcome to the Subject Selection Stage 5 Handbook, your guide to making decisions about your electives in 2024. The selection of elective subjects for Years 9 and 10 is a very important decision time for students and parents. It represents a time of decision making and planning for the future, as well as a time for asking questions and seeking advice from others. Parents are urged to discuss the subject offerings with their child. Students should choose courses in which they are interested, and which will provide them with a sound preparation for the future.

Students should select subjects they like and have an interest in and believe they will do well in for the Record of School Achievement (RoSA). It is important for students to select their most enjoyable subjects, as this will give them a positive attitude to all aspects of their studies and this positive attitude will then be carried on into the very important Years 11 and 12.

It is important to know too, that students need not limit their elective choices in Years 9 and 10 to areas which they think they might wish to pursue in senior years. Almost all subjects studied in Years 11 and 12 need not have been taken in the junior school. It is far wiser to choose a range of subjects that will maximise your final results and allow you to develop a set of generic skills that give you flexibility when applying for jobs or seeking further study.

In my experience, it is not sensible to be overly interested in what your friends are choosing. The reasons for this include:

- Each person has different interests, different skills and different goals.
- To choose a subject based on friendship, often leads to at least one of the friends being misplaced and unhappy in a subject. Indeed, you may change your friendship groups during Years 9 and 10 but you will not be able to change your subjects.
- Similarly, try not to anticipate which teachers will be teaching or not teaching a particular subject. The allocation of teaching staff to particular classes will change from year to year.

## **Please note that:**

- These course expectations are set by the NSW Education Standards Authority and the Department of Education.
- Students should ensure that they choose carefully and wisely as there will be little or no opportunity to make changes to selections.
- Some electives have associated fees to pay for materials. These elective costs are compulsory, as there is no government funding provided to schools to run these courses.
- Year 9 Students will choose electives again in 2025 for their Year 10 elective subjects.
- We cannot guarantee that all elective subjects listed will actually run as this is dependent on sufficient students wanting to study a particular subject.

I urge all students to talk to a range of staff, to visit the NSW Educational Standards Authority (NESA) website for subject specific information and to involve parents/caregivers in the process. I wish all students the very best for Years 9 and 10 and hope that they successfully meet the challenges that they will encounter.

Mr S Frazier  
Principal

## Selection of Year 9 and 10 Electives

In addition to study in the compulsory core subjects of Mathematics, English, Science, Geography and History and P.D.H.P.E., students have the opportunity to select an additional pattern of subjects that best suits their needs and interests. These general elective subjects are offered in 200-hour modules that run for 4 periods per week for two years. Over the two year period all students will complete two 200-hour modules.

The way these modules are combined to form a course of study depends on individual needs and interests. Most subjects are offered as module A and module B, each requiring 100 hours of class time. Subjects may be studied once for 100 hours or for a longer period by combining a module A and a module B from the same subject to form a 200 hour course. The second module for a 200-hour course would normally be studied in Year 10. The modular system allows for flexibility in the patterns of study that students can select.

### Example:

Student A may decide to study two different 100 hour modules and one 200 hour module to give a broad based pattern of study. Student B combines four 100 hour modules in two subjects to get two 200 hour courses thus also completing four modules but gaining more depth of study. The selection patterns of these two students might appear as follows:

Student A	Student B
1 x PASS (100 hours)	2 x Music (200 hours)
1 x Visual Arts (100 hours)	2 x Elective History(200 hours)
2 x Food Technology (200 hours)	

A number of course combinations are therefore possible depending on student preference i.e.

- Two 100 hour courses and one 200 hour course
- Two 200 hour courses

The following subjects will be offered during 2024. However, subject availability will depend on sufficient numbers of students choosing a subject to enable the school to staff it.

Aboriginal Studies	Industrial Technology – Wood \$80 course fee
Child Studies \$30 course fee	Japanese
Commerce	Marine and Aquaculture Technology \$10 course fee
Drama \$10 course fee	Music \$10 course fee
EAL/D Literacy Elective	Photography and Digital Media \$60 course fee
Elective History	Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) \$40 course fee
Engineering Technology \$80 course fee	<b>Textiles and Design \$80 course fee</b>
Film Making \$40 course fee	Visual Arts \$50 course fee
Food Technology \$120 course fee	
Graphics Technology \$10 course fee	

## Creative and Performing Arts KLA

### DRAMA

Drama is a dynamic course which involves both performance and theory about dramatic processes. It prepares students for effective and responsible participation in society, taking into account moral, ethical and spiritual considerations. Drama students are challenged through imaginative dramatic experiences created in cooperation with others.

This course uses contemporary drama and theatre practices of making, performing and appreciating drama. Students work with others to grow in self-confidence and self-esteem as they experiment and reflect on ideas and performances. They learn about the work of actors, directors, playwrights, designers and technicians in productions. They learn to manipulate traditional, electronic and digital applications used during performances.

Students will make drama that explores a range of situations, perform devised and scripted drama using a variety of techniques and conventions and learn to appreciate the meaning and function of drama and theatre.

There will be performances in front of audiences which will be part of the assessment procedure. Students will be assessed on their ability to perform the duty they have been assigned; it will not always be acting. Other aspects of assessment will involve keeping a log and writing about performances, there may be reports and essays to complete.

**NB: The fee for this course is \$10 which covers purchase and copying of scripts, lighting, makeup, costumes and materials used in mask making.**

## FILM MAKING

Students in this course are given the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how films are made, and the roles and responsibilities of all people on a film set. Working in teams, students develop, create and produce short films, with the possibility of entering them into competition.

Students complete four projects during this course:

- Claymation film made in a full day workshop
- Stop motion film
- Commercial/advertisement
- Short film based on Tropfest model

Work is assessed during the year by presenting storyboards, scenery, scripts, shooting schedules, editing ideas and finished product. Formal written assessments provide students with opportunities to demonstrate understanding of film as an art form.

**NB: Students are provided with cameras for shooting, but must bring their own laptop or tablet with editing software such as Imovie or MovieMaker installed. The fee for this course is \$40, which covers the cost of camera maintenance, batteries, SD cards, USBs and other resources.**

## MUSIC

The Music course gives students the opportunity to perform in both large and small ensembles. Students will also develop an understanding of music from other cultures and in a variety of styles.

Participation in this course involves performance, composition and listening components.

Students who wish to participate in this course do not need previous musical experience but **do** need a genuine interest in at least one of the following:

<b>KEYBOARD</b>	- Piano, Electric Piano or Synthesiser
<b>BRASS</b>	- Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium/Tuba
<b>WOODWIND</b>	- Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone
<b>STRINGS</b>	- Violin, Cello, Double Bass, Guitar, Bass Guitar
<b>PERCUSSION</b>	- Drum Kit, Percussion
<b>VOCAL</b>	- Solo and backing vocals

School instruments will be available for hire throughout this course.

**NB: The fee for this course is \$10, which covers the cost of replacing such things as guitar strings, reeds and copying of scores and other music needs.**

## PHOTOGRAPHIC AND DIGITAL MEDIA

This course offers students the opportunity to explore and gain expertise in traditional and contemporary photographic practices through experiences in wet photography, video and digital media. Within themes, and with instruction in both studio and field trip experiences, students will use a choice of media to create and develop skills in creating imagery.

The course is designed to enable students gain independence and accomplishment in media by developing knowledge, skills and understanding through the making of photographs and/or digital media and/or video.

Critical and historical investigations will inform student practice in their chosen media and enable them to develop their own ideas and techniques.

**NB: The fee for this course is \$60 per year, which covers chemicals, film, photographic paper and printing inks, SD cards and camera maintenance.**

## VISUAL ARTS

Stage 5 Visual Arts is divided into two separate courses, taught in alternate years. Students experience the world of two-dimensional art-drawing, printmaking and painting in one year (even years such as 2020), and the world of three-dimensional art-ceramics, sculpture and environmental art in the other (odd years such as 2019).

This enables students to deeply explore each aspect of art to gain an understanding of the many expressive forms available to artists.

This course is academically rigorous and practical learning is supported by critical and historical studies, allowing students to develop insights into the work of artists, and effectively review and critique their own and others' work.

The faculty believes that experience of real artworks in their context is essential, and excursions to art galleries and significant exhibitions are a regular part of learning in Visual Arts.

**NB: The fee for this course is \$50 per year, which covers the use of consumables such as paper, paint, clay and inks.**

# Human Society and its Environment KLA

## ABORIGINAL STUDIES

The aim of the Stage 5 *Aboriginal Studies* course is to develop an understanding of Aboriginal Peoples, cultures and lifestyles and their contributions to Australian society. This will enable students to be active and informed advocates for a just and inclusive society. It will also build on their learning experiences in Stage 4 and offer students the opportunity to engage with subject matter at a deeper level.

### CORE:

- Aboriginal Identities
- Aboriginal Autonomy

### OPTIONS:

- Aboriginal enterprises and organisations
- Aboriginal visual arts
- Aboriginal performing arts
- Aboriginal film and television
- Aboriginal oral and written expression
- Aboriginal peoples and sport
- Aboriginal technologies and the environment

## COMMERCE

Commerce prepares you to take an active role in the wider commercial environment. Commerce affects every aspect of your life – earning an income, saving, investing, budgeting, buying a bike/car, being a wise consumer, preparing for employment as well as understanding the law as it applies to you. Excursions, visits and guest speakers are integral to this course.

Two highlights of the course are:

- Running a Business. A hands-on experience for small groups to run their own enterprise.
- Investing - \$50,000 to invest on the Australian Stock Exchange. An interactive Internet based game run by the ASX.

This is an excellent course for students planning on studying Business Studies or Legal Studies in Years 11 and 12.

Topics covered in this course include:

- Investing
- Promoting
- e-commerce
- Global Links
- Towards independence
- Political Involvement
- Travel
- Law in Action
- Our Economy
- Community Participation
- Running a Business



- Scholl Developed Option

## ELECTIVE HISTORY

If you love history and you are interested in looking at the world throughout time, this is your opportunity to study those aspects of history you don't normally get to look at in class.

Students will value and appreciate history as a study of human experience and have the opportunity to develop a life-long interest and enthusiasm for history. They will also examine the nature of history as reflecting differing perspectives and viewpoints. Students also gain the opportunity to contribute to a just society through informed citizenship and the contribution of past and present peoples to our shared heritage.

Students will also learn about identity and past mistakes so that they are not repeated. This course will allow students to become independent learners, independent thinkers, open minded individuals and problem solvers. They will learn to think and argue and pick the essential from the trivial.

Are you inquisitive and do you like to discover why things happen?

Are you prepared to investigate and find things out for yourself?

Do you like to form your own opinion and do you often debate with your peers?

Do you like to have fun or enjoy a challenge?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then this subject is for you!

Students have to study 3 topics by looking at a selection of the options below.

**Topic 1 Constructing History** allows students to study history through options such as: biography, family history, Film as History, Historical fiction, Heritage and Conservation, History and the Media, local history, museum and/or archives studies, oral history, historical reconstructions, a history website.

**Topic 2 Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Societies** allows students to study history through options such as: Archaeology of the Ancient World, Literature of the Ancient World, Medieval and Early Modern Europe, The Ottoman Empire, An Asian Study, The Americas, The Pacific Africa, a 19th century study, a 20th century study.

**Topic 3 Thematic Studies** allows students to study history through options such as: Children in History, Heroes and Villains, Religious Beliefs and Rituals through the Ages, Sport and Recreation in History, War and Peace, World Myths and Legends, Crime and Punishment, Music through History, Slavery, Terrorism, Women in History.

This is an excellent course for students who are thinking of selecting Ancient or Modern History in Years 11 and 12.

## Languages other than English (LOTE) KLA

### JAPANESE

High quality education in languages enables students to respond positively to the opportunities and challenges of their rapidly changing world.

The study of Japanese provides access to the language and culture of one of the global community's most technologically advanced societies and economies. It also introduces students to an important part of the rich cultural tradition of East Asia. Through experience of the Japanese language system and cultural history, students gain valuable perspectives on art, music, customs, beliefs and the ways of thinking of Japanese people.

This course provides an authentic experience of the four modes of language learning; speaking, listening, reading and writing. It also offers opportunities for students to become more accepting of diversity, more respectful of others and more aware of their place in the international community. Excursions, visits and guest speakers are integral to this course.

Japanese has been identified as one of the priority languages in the Asia-Pacific region to be taught in Australian schools. There are sister city agreements between the two governments, providing Australian students with opportunities to host Japanese students, and to visit Japan. Travelling the world becomes more rewarding when you are able to communicate with people in their own language.

Students may be given the opportunity to be involved in an excursion to Japan.

# Personal Development, Health & Physical Education KLA

## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & SPORT STUDIES

Sport plays a major role in the lives of many Australians. It can provide personal satisfaction, active leisure, a source of employment and a subject for tertiary study.

The Physical Activity & Sport Studies course is suited to any student for whom sport is important in their lives. The course aims to provide opportunities for students to enhance their knowledge and skills in the many different facets of sport. Excursions, visits and guest speakers are integral to this course.

Physical Activity & Sport Studies has theory and practical components. The classroom sessions explore the functions of the body and how they relate to sport, sport injuries and associated rehabilitation, ways of training and improving performance. Later the course moves on to examine social issues related to sport such as the origins of sport and sport psychology. Practical sessions are designed to improve physical skills, interpersonal skills and knowledge of a wide range of activities, many of which are not included in the core Physical Education program.

In practical sessions students will be given the opportunity to examine how to improve their own and other student's performance. Example activities would be squash, games from other cultures, badminton, orienteering, swimming and fitness methods.

Many of the practical activities are completed outside the school at public venues. Use of these facilities will involve additional costs to course participants.

**NB: There is a cost of \$40 per year which covers the use of consumables in the course.**

# Technology and Applied Studies KLA

## CHILD STUDIES

The increasing need for childcare within our community has sparked major interest amongst students towards gaining an understanding of the growth and development of the child, and the necessity for child care workers. This course aims to provide students with an overview of child growth and development and an opportunity to consider this on an individual, family and community level.

Aspects of study include: prenatal development, the birth process, growth and development of children, food for infants and toddlers, safety at home, toys and clothing, how children learn, the importance of play, multicultural influences, being a parent and services available to assist parents. Investigations will be into employment in the childcare field.

Activities will include research assignments, depth studies, development and making toys, games and activities suitable for children, planning meals, safety surveys, desktop publishing, story writing and study of the childcare field with a view to employment.

This is an exciting and rewarding course, which has the potential to provide interesting study and an avenue for future employment.

This course will provide an excellent transition into the Stage 6 Community & Family Studies course offered in Years 11 & 12.

**NB: There is a fee of \$30 per year for this course.**

## ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

This elective that has been designed to allow students to discover the world of engineering. Using metal, timber, alternative energy and a variety of engineered structures, students will develop knowledge and skills related to the following topics:

- Alternative Energy
- Small structures eg: Bridges & Trebuchet's
- Robotics- programming
- Electronics and mechanical control systems
- Aeronautics and racing cars.
- Graphical Communication – CAD and 3D graphics
- 3D Printing and laser engraving

This course will provide an excellent transition into the Stage 6 Engineering Studies course and Design & Technology course, offered in Years 11 & 12.

**NB: There is a fee of \$80 per year, which covers the use of consumables in this course.**

## FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This is an exciting course, which provides an outlet for those who have an interest in the food area both from a recreational point of view and also from a career perspective. Study in year 9 & 10 forms a sound basis for future study in Years 11 & 12 and for career training in the food and hospitality industry.

Students will learn through practical experiences how to design, produce and evaluate foods.

Students will develop good food preparation skills and will enjoy learning about a variety of food and nutrition issues.

Topics covered in this course include:

- Food service and catering
- Food for special occasions
- Food preparation and processing
- Nutrition and consumption
- Food trends

This course will provide an excellent transition into the Stage 6 Food Technology course and DVET Hospitality course, offered in Years 11 & 12.

**NB: There is a fee of \$120 per year, which covers preparation and consumables for this course.**

## GRAPHICS TECHNOLOGY

Graphics is a language used worldwide in industry, business and at home. This new course allows students to learn and develop techniques used in product illustration, home architecture, interior design and the communication of technical information. Students develop technical drawing skills related to both 2D and 3D forms using industry standards to develop images, models and pictures. They will also be converting the 3D drawings into a model using the 3D printers.

Students will utilise CAD design and modelling software including Solid Edge, Archicad and Sketchup Pro to design and produce professional quality drawings. This course allows students to develop skills that can be used in the future beyond school, including trade courses, architecture, drafting and engineering.

The skills developed also provide an excellent basis for students who wish to undertake the Stage 6 Engineering Studies, Industrial Technology and Design & Technology courses.

**NB: There is a fee of \$10 per year, which covers the use of consumables in this course.**

## INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY – WOOD

This is a very popular subject and comprises cabinetwork, woodcrafts and wood machining. Students make a series of timber projects.

All students design and construct major projects of their own choice such as cabinets, computer desks, chairs, large wooden bowls, lamp stands, coffee tables and outdoor furniture. Every opportunity is given to encourage freedom of expression in designing such projects and many students include other materials such as acrylics, glass, metal fittings and fabrics. An extensive range of theoretical concepts are covered to support the practical component of the course to ensure a broad understanding is developed.

Students are taught to safely use a wide variety of woodworking machines such as the lathes, band saws and various portable power tools.

**NB: There is a fee of \$80 per year, which covers the use of consumables in this course.**

## TEXTILES AND DESIGN

This course has been designed to encourage students to be creative through investigating textiles and their many uses. Project and practical work forms a major part of the course and this allows students to become competent using textile technology, which is employed to make a wide range of items.

Students will become confident in design as they learn to apply design principles to all practical projects, which are tailored to suit their own individual interests. As well as design, students will develop skills in fabric selection and pattern and garment construction where a clothing item, of the student's choice, is to be completed. Cultural considerations are also investigated where a project is to be completed involving the study of textiles from another culture.

This course allows students to develop and display their creativity and individuality by allowing them to follow their ideas and interests.

**NB: There is a fee of \$80 per year, which covers the use of consumables in this course.**

## BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION

For students interested in trade experiences such as carpentry this course provides opportunities for students exploring the use of hand tools, machinery, and equipment in the building and associated industries.

Students learn about the properties and applications of materials associated Building and Construction. Students develop knowledge and understanding of materials and processes in a range of technologies. They investigate a range of tools, machines and processes in both industrial and domestic settings for working with selected materials. Students plan and construct quality practical projects and learn about safe practices for practical work environments.

The Building and Construction course allows students to develop their skills in drawing, manufacturing, and producing products through the completion of set projects that will add value to a future in the Construction Industry.

**NB: There is a fee of \$80 per year, which covers the use of consumables in this course.**

# Science KLA

## MARINE AND AQUACULTURE TECHNOLOGY

This course is designed for students with recreational and / or future vocational interest in the ocean. It allows students interested in environmental issues to further this interest.

There are compulsory core modules and optional modules.

The first compulsory core module involves water safety and first aid. It involves specified water skills including swimming 200m in still water.

Other core modules include topics such as:

- Marine plants
- Marine disasters
- Mangroves and estuaries
- Marine mammals
- Dangerous marine creatures
- Antarctica's marine ecology
- Shipwrecks and salvage
- The abyss

There are forty eight optional modules that allow students to further develop particular skills and interests.

Course work is supported by relevant practical and fieldwork. Fieldwork often involves excursions to appropriate venues.

**NB: There is a fee of \$10, which covers the use of consumables in this course.**

EAL/D



## **ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE OR DIALECT (EAL/D) Literacy Elective**

The aim of EAL/D (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) Literacy Elective is to strengthen EAL/D students' language skills. The course particularly focuses on academic language to support student's engagement with their learning in Stage 5 and to prepare for the rigour of study in Stage 6.

It targets fundamental literacy skills while also consolidating oral language. The elective is skills-based, working with texts from a variety of subject areas. Writing skills are prioritised. These capabilities will allow EAL/D students to confidently approach the academic rigours of senior secondary schooling and beyond.