



*Pymble Ladies' College*



# Courses of Study Commencing 2015 Years 7–10





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# Introduction

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The purpose of this booklet is to:

- give a brief outline of the pattern of study mandated by the Board of Studies for students to complete successfully all Stage 5 requirements.
- provide an outline of the subjects offered at Pymble in Years 7-10.
- provide information and advice to assist students and parents when making elective subject choices.

# Pattern of study

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The pattern of courses undertaken by students proceeding to Stage 5 in Year 10 is governed by regulations set down by the Board of Studies. This pattern of courses involves a mandatory core curriculum which occupies about 60% of available teaching time. Schools are free to program the remaining time by offering additional courses of study.

The Pymble curriculum program involves two main areas:

## 1. The Mandatory Core Curriculum

(as determined by the Board of Studies)

**English**

**Mathematics**

**Science**

**Human Society and its Environment** (History and Geography)

In 2015, girls will study Mandatory Geography in Years 7 and 9 and Mandatory History in Years 8 and 9. For students who have not met the requirements of the course prior to Year 10, the Mandatory course is offered again in Year 10 in lieu of elective study.

**Technology** undertaken in Years 7 and 8.

**Creative Arts** is undertaken in Year 7 with the study of Visual Arts and Music.

**Personal Development, Health and Physical Education** undertaken in Years 7 – 10.

**Languages** undertaken in Year 7 with students choosing one of the following: French, German, Japanese, Chinese Beginners.

**Religious Education** undertaken in Years 7-12.

## 2. The Electives

Girls entering YEAR 8 select two elective subjects. There is a wide range of subjects available which allows for a variety of student interests and abilities. The elective subjects offered for Year 8 are:

**Financial Literacy**

**Latin**

**Chinese Beginners**

**Visual Arts**

**Literacy and Learning I**

This course is a one-year course (by invitation only).

In Year 9 these students will choose a second elective.

**French**

**German**

**Japanese**

**Music**

Girls entering YEAR 9 may continue with one or both of their elective subjects, or they may choose two new electives from an expanded list. New elective subjects offered in Year 9 include:

**Agriculture**

**Drama**

**Contemporary Music Studies**

**Food Technology**

**Textiles Technology**

**Commerce**

**Classical Greek\***

**Elective Music**

(A new elective if not chosen for Year 8)

**Physical Activity and  
Sports Studies (PASS)**

**Visual Arts**

(A new elective if not chosen for Year 8)

It is important to remember that if a girl wishes to study a language, she must choose it in Year 8. There will be no beginner's language starting in Year 9.

\*Classical Greek is studied as an optional third elective and lessons are conducted outside of the regular timetable. In Year 10, Classical Greek is continued within the timetable in place of one of the new electives (see below).

Girls entering YEAR 10 continue with both of their electives commenced in Year 9. In addition, they may choose two more electives from the following\*:

**Aboriginal Studies**

**Dance**

**Marine & Aquaculture Technology**

**English as a Second Language (ESL)**

(by invitation only)

**Elective History**

**Elective Geography**

**Photographic & Digital Media**

**Literacy and Learning II**

(by invitation only)

\*Students must complete mandatory courses in History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship by the end of Year 9 in order to be able to choose these electives.

# Mandatory Subjects

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## English

This course aims to assist students to grow as language users and to increase their enjoyment of language. This is achieved through the study of a wide variety of literary and non-literary texts involving the activities of reading and writing, speaking and listening, viewing and representing. In each year all classes follow the same program although there is some variation in the texts used by different classes.

## Mathematics

In Year 8 the syllabus followed in Mathematics is the same for all girls. In Years 9 and 10 there are two courses in Mathematics offered at Pymble: 5.1 – 5.3 Pathway and 5.1 – 5.2 Pathway. Girls are placed into the appropriate course according to their ability and performance.

## Science

The study of Science enables students to develop knowledge, understanding of and skills in applying the processes of Working Scientifically. They will develop an appreciation of the contribution of science to finding solutions to personal, social and global issues relevant to their lives now and in the future and develop a willingness to use evidence and reason to engage with and respond to scientific and technological ideas as informed, reflective citizens. They will develop knowledge of the Physical World, Earth and Space, Living World and Chemical World, and understanding about the nature, development, use and influence of science .

## Geography

Geographic education prepares students for effective participation in society. They learn to develop informed opinions on local and global issues changing environments and issues faced in the future world. The Year 9 to 10 course includes studies of natural and human environments under stress, their management and future. Geographic fieldwork is a vital element of studies in Geography. By the conclusion of this course students will have developed a knowledge and appreciation of the world and its people. Civics and citizenship education is incorporated into the Syllabus.

## History

History gives a sense of perspective and offers us an insight into the past and into the world in which we live. In our information rich age it teaches how to critically assess and evaluate sources of information. It aims to build in our students a sense of social justice and the responsibilities of global citizenship.



From 2014 the Mandatory History course will be based on the Australian Curriculum which has adopted the approach of “Big History”; that is it aims to give students an understanding of the broad sweep of world history with time allocated for the study of certain periods in-depth. This course taught in Years 8 and 9 involves the study of World, Australian and Asian History from prehistoric times until the present day providing a basic foundational tool upon which other subjects rest.

## Technology

This is a practical course designed to develop an understanding of a range of technological activities and their applications to the personal, commercial, industrial and global domains. A problem-solving approach will be undertaken so that students will learn how to use various forms of technology to address design briefs. This will involve processes of researching, designing, making, evaluating, communicating, marketing and managing a range of projects. Year 8 builds on the concepts covered in Year 7. Three different areas of study will be addressed and new computing skills developed.

## Personal Development, Health And Physical Education

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) contributes significantly to the cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of students. It provides opportunities for students to learn about, and practice ways of adopting and maintaining a healthy, productive and active life. It also involves students learning through movement experiences that are both challenging and enjoyable, and improving their capacity to move with skill and confidence in a variety of contexts. PDHPE promotes the value of physical activity in students' lives.

## Religious Education

As a school of the Uniting Church in Australia, Pymble Ladies' College provides for the religious education of its students. It does this through a study of Christianity focusing on the person of Jesus the Christ, the importance of the Bible and God's message of love and reconciliation. In line with the inclusive nature of the Uniting Church and its commitment to interfaith dialogue, Religious Education also provides for the study and comparison of other faith traditions.

Religious Education at Pymble Ladies' College aims to help students:

- develop an understanding of the beliefs of Christianity and other religions
- reflect upon their own beliefs
- examine the impact of beliefs in the world
- develop tolerance, respect, understanding and compassion towards others.

# Elective Subjects In Year 8

(of which two should be selected)

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## Latin

The principal aim in studying Latin is to acquire a first-hand acquaintance with some of the greatest literature ever written, but there are other practical benefits to be gained as well.

As more than half the words in the English language are derived from Latin, students will gain a greater insight into the meaning, spelling and origin of English words, and will readily understand the specialist terminology of science, law and medicine. Latin also provides an excellent basis for the study of those modern languages descended from it, such as French, Italian and Spanish. In learning a Classical language, students will develop skills in analytical thinking, attention to detail, systematic memorisation and clarity of expression - skills which can be applied in many different fields.

In Years 8 to 10 students will learn the basic grammar and structures of the language and at the same time will explore various aspects of Roman history, culture and mythology. Before the end of Year 10 students will be able to begin reading original Latin.

A number of activities are offered to enrich the study of Latin, such as a weekend camp in Year 8, and inter-school competitions in general knowledge, art and design and solo and choral recitation. A cultural tour of famous classical sites in Greece and Italy is offered every third year to students completing Years 9, 10 and 11.

## French

French is one of the major languages in the world. It is spoken in parts of Europe, Canada, North America, the Middle East, the West Indies, the Indian Ocean and South Pacific regions. It is a language of international affairs, trade and diplomacy.

In Years 8 to 10, the main aim is to use French as a means of communication. French is used as much as possible in class, group and pair-work activities. The textbooks used "Tapis Volant 1" (in Year 8) and "Tapis Volant 2" (in Years 9 and 10) are attractive, accessible and caters for the tastes and interests of teenagers through a wide array of authentic materials: workbooks, tapes, CDs and Internet websites.

Topic areas studied in Years 8 to 10 deal principally with the everyday life of the learner and her peers in French-speaking countries: hobbies, home life, food, sport, entertainment, health, weather, clothes, shopping and travel.

Through the learning of French, students will also learn to understand and appreciate the culture of France and French-speaking countries. Documentary and feature films, mostly in French, are used to present these aspects of French life. Student exchanges to France in Year 10, including Homestay and attending school, present students with lifelong experiences and opportunities for personal contact and lessons in international understanding. A study trip to France may also be offered and is another opportunity in Years 9 and 10 to appreciate French language and culture. A range of excursions and workshops is also offered to students to supplement what they learn in class. Students will also subscribe to a language learning website to extend their vocabulary and comprehension skills.

## German

The German syllabus aims to motivate students to high levels of competence in the four language skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking – by the end of Year 10, enabling them by this stage to communicate with German speakers in day-to-day situations.

Students find the lively, entertaining approach of their course “Genau” particularly enjoyable. This learner-centred course represents a refreshingly imaginative response to the needs of learners. Topics in “Genau” are selected for their relevance to the experiences of teenagers. Beginning with a cartoon story, each chapter successfully and enjoyably integrates the communicative approach with a thoroughly planned program for the teaching of German grammar. Through familiar characters, the learning experience is enhanced while also providing information on the culture and lifestyle of the German people. Lessons also make regular use of video tapes and there is the opportunity to use the Internet facility for extension work and further communication. Frequent visits from exchange students provide extra enrichment in the classroom and students are encouraged to participate in one of the many exchange programs to Germany that are on offer each year.

German and English are based on the same linguistic roots and principles and share a common core of concepts and vocabulary. The focus is on similarity rather than difference. With Germany's prominence as a major world industrial nation, the study of German has relevance in the pursuit of many future careers.

## Japanese

Japanese is a culturally interesting and practical language study relevant to Australia's developing role in South-East Asia. It is the language of our largest trading partner, spoken by about 123 million people.

The lively and colourful course which students follow is called "ii tomo". Based on the concept of language as communication, it offers interesting activities to support and reinforce the structures to be learned. A variety of role-play situations provides the opportunity for developing the skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing to a high degree.

Students begin immediately to learn the Japanese writing system, starting with Hiragana in Year 8, to which Katakana and Kanji are added in Year 9 and 10. Japanese culture plays an important role and is integrated with language learning. Students participate in tea ceremony, ikebana, kimono dressing and cooking Japanese food, as they learn about Japan's customs and beliefs. Cultural assignments are prepared on laptops, and students are aware when seasons and festivals are taking place in Japan.

Students have many opportunities to interact with Japanese students and families. A Study Tour to Japan is arranged on a regular basis, to allow students to use their language in a totally Japanese environment and to reinforce their cultural knowledge and awareness. There is also an opportunity to host an exchange student from Japan. In Year 10, student exchanges to our sister- school in Nagoya are very popular.

## Chinese

Chinese is the language of communication of approximately one quarter of the world's population. It is one of the official languages of the United Nations. Amongst the many spoken varieties of the language, Mandarin is pre-eminent. Chinese is also recognised as one of the fastest growing languages in New South Wales and has one of the largest groups of non-English background speakers in Australia. In Year 8, the main aim is to continue to use Chinese as a method of communication with growing confidence in everyday situations within and beyond the classroom. Students find the lively entertaining approach of their textbook "Jinbu" particularly enjoyable. Topic areas studied in Year 8 will include school life, food and drinks, Chinese cuisine and restaurants. In Year 9 and 10, students will continue their learning of Chinese using the textbook "Jinbu 2".

Topic areas will include daily life, descriptions of oneself and others, accommodation, city life and country life, holidays and festivals etc...Chinese traditional and contemporary culture plays an important role and is integrated with language learning. For example, out excursions will expose the students to the Chinese Arts.

The relationship with our two sister schools in Beijing will continue through electronic sharing of class work and face to face interaction whenever possible. Study trips to China are arranged regularly to include visits to our sister schools and to allow our students to interact with Chinese students and families. In Year 10, student exchanges to our sister schools in Beijing may be possible.

## Financial Literacy

This course provides an introduction to the knowledge, skills, understanding and values which are essential for a young person to successfully participate in the commercial world. It provides a unique opportunity to gain the financial skills and information that will be required of an educated and responsible individual in modern society, no matter what career path they follow.

Students complete much of the course through engaging in on-line state and nationwide competitions and learning activities, and have the opportunity to showcase their IT skills and cross curricular learning.

### Topics:

- Setting Financial Goals
- Financial Management (through budgeting, saving and managing credit)
- Investing (including ASX Share Market Game) for future wealth
- Buying and managing a mobile phone
- Insurance
- Wills, Inheritance and Philanthropy
- Travel (planning for travel and solving travel problems).

## Music

The study of Music in Stage 5 continues to explore the six musical concepts through development of the three core disciplines of Performance, Composition and Listening.

Each unit of work is an engaging exploration into a variety of musical genres ranging from the medieval period through to contemporary popular music.

Activities in the course include:

- Singing or playing their chosen instruments as a class ensemble. These group performances will comprise the bulk of performance activities. There will also be ample opportunity to experience playing other instruments and to use various technological resources as performance tools. Students will also be given the chance to perform as a soloist.
- Composing in various styles for different combinations of performing media using the latest software and equipment.
- Developing listening skills that promote aural awareness, musical appreciation and analytical techniques.

## Literacy And Learning I (by invitation only)

This course is offered as an elective for Year 8. It is designed for students who need additional assistance in the development and consolidation of literacy and learning skills. The program offered would suit students who require additional support across the curriculum.

### Aims

This course aims to give students the opportunity to improve and consolidate their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. This course also offers opportunities for academic support, linking with the broader curriculum and the individual needs of students.

### Course Outcomes

- In a small group situation students will develop skills necessary to access learning across the curriculum
- Students will learn and use scaffolds for writing text types
- Students will improve their understanding of the forms, features, structures and functions of language
- Students will learn and use a range of strategies to comprehend and interpret texts
- Students will enhance their skills in responding to and composing a range of texts that they will encounter across the curriculum
- Students will develop a variety of review techniques and learning strategies, including the development of time management and planning skills
- Students will have opportunities to review and consolidate classroom learning
- Students will increase their ability to work independently
- Students will work on individual programs

### Assessment

Assessment will be continuous and classroom based. There are no formal exams.

## Visual Arts

Elective Visual Arts is an intensive course involving artmaking and the study of images and objects. Art History and Criticism classes. The artmaking classes allow all girls to develop their creative talents using a diversity of media and equipment. In artmaking, the course provides for a range of art forms: drawing, painting, digital media, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture. During Years 9 and 10 girls have the opportunity to work in several of these areas. Towards the end of Year 10 girls are encouraged to further their interest in an area of their choice. A wide range of historical and contemporary artworks from different cultures is studied during the Year 8 to Year 10 course.

- Year 8 girls study artworks thematically,
- Year 9 girls study Australian art including Aboriginal Art
- Year 10 girls study the development of 20th Century painting.

# Additional Elective Subjects In Year 9

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## Agriculture

Agriculture is by nature a practical subject hence there will be emphasis on practical work throughout the course. Practical tasks are carried out at the School Agriculture plot as well as on excursions. Excursions involve farm visits and hands-on practical work with animals.

The course will involve the study of:

- Farm animal enterprises with emphasis on management, nutrition, health and productivity.
- Plant production including vegetable, crop and pasture plants. Methods to maximize plant growth and plant products in a sustainable farming manner.
- The relationships between soils, microbes, management style and climate and their influence on animal and plant production.
- Farm management including farming as a business and the selling and marketing of farm products.

## Classical Greek

Classical Greek is the language of the “golden age” of ancient Greece, a period which saw the beginnings of Western culture as we know it, including developments in democracy, drama, science, art and architecture, athletics and oratory. In Year 9 students learn to read and write the distinctive Greek script (still used to write Modern Greek), and then proceed to read simple stories about daily life and the major features of classical Athens. They explore aspects of history, mythology and society, and learn about the origins of many aspects of life today. Greek classes are arranged off-timetable, so that gifted linguists have the opportunity to do an additional language course. In Year 10, the subject continues within the timetable in place of one of the additional electives.

## Commerce

There are no pre-requisites for Commerce in Year 9. Commerce provides the knowledge, skills, understanding and values that form the foundation from which young people make sound decisions on consumer, financial, business, legal and employment issues. (BOS Commerce Years 7-10 Syllabus June 2003 p8).

The syllabus is designed to allow students to develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of consumer, financial, business, legal and employment matters
- Skills in decision-making and problem-solving in relation to consumer, financial, business, legal and employment issues
- Skills in effective research and communication
- Skills in working independently and collaboratively

**Year 9 topics include:**

Core Part 1 Consumer Choice and Personal Finance

and; Options:      Running a Business  
                         Promoting and Selling  
                         Global Links

**Year 10 topics include:**

Core Part 2 Law and Society and Employment Issues

and; Options:      Political Involvement  
                         Our Economy  
                         Towards Independence

## Drama

Drama in Stage 5 engages and challenges students to maximise their dramatic abilities and enjoyment of drama and theatre through learning experientially.

The syllabus is designed to allow students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills, individually and collaboratively, through:

- Making drama that explores a range of imagined and created situations in a collaborative drama and theatre environment, with an emphasis on creating belief, clarity and tension in character, role, situation and action
- Performing devised and scripted drama using a variety of performance techniques, dramatic forms and theatrical conventions to engage an audience
- Appreciating the meaning and function of drama and theatre in reflecting the personal, social, cultural, aesthetic and political aspects of the human experience
- Designing for the theatre – set, costume, lighting, promotional copy
- Reflecting on the process of skill development through the maintenance of a log book
- Attending a range of theatrical experiences and participating in workshops.



## Food Technology

The study of Food Technology provides students with a broad knowledge and understanding of aspects of the Australian food industry, food properties, ethical issues related to food, nutrition and the factors that impact on consumption patterns. The course addresses the importance of hygiene, safe work practices and legislation in the production of food.

Students spend at least two periods a cycle involved in practical work in our specialised Food Technology kitchen. In these lessons they develop practical skills in preparing and presenting food that will enable them to select and use appropriate ingredients, methods and equipment. There will be a charge at the end of each term to cover food costs.

## Music

The Elective Music course is designed for those students who have had and are currently having tuition either as a singer or on their chosen instrument and have undertaken studies in musicianship at a level necessary to match their performance capabilities.

As with all Stage 5 Music study there will be aspects of Performance, Composition and Listening combined with an exploration of a variety of Musical Genres and topics ranging from the classic to the contemporary.

Technology and the role it plays in the Composition, Performance, recording and consumption of contemporary music will also be studied.

- Performance activities will involve solo works, class performances and a focus on chamber music
- Composition activities will look at the melodic, harmonic and structural conventions of specific genre based styles and cultivate the creative process
- Listening activities will develop the ability to critically evaluate Musical works with or without a score. Dictation and sight singing skills will also be developed.

This course lays the foundation for the skills required in the study of HSC Music should a student wish to continue their studies beyond Year 10. Students may swap to the Contemporary Music Studies Course after Term 1 in Year 9 if the timetable allows.

## Contemporary Music Studies

The contemporary Music Studies Course is designed for those students who have a keen interest in, and an appreciation of Music. Students are not required to be taking private tuition on an instrument and there will be extensive opportunities for students to experience playing a variety of instruments such as keyboard, guitar, drums and percussion as well as singing.

As with all Stage 5 Music study there will be aspects of Performance

Composition and Listening combined with an exploration of a variety of Music Genres predominantly from the late 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Genres studied in this course will include Jazz, rock, pop and Music for Film and Television to name a few.

Technology and the role it plays in the Composition, Performance, recording and consumption of contemporary music will be a key focus area of this course.

- Although there will be occasions where solo performance may be required, the bulk of performances will be group based and involve various combinations of instruments, singers and technology
- Composition tasks will focus on song writing and composing for Film, Television and Multi Media
- Listening tasks will develop skills in aural analysis of Musical works using the Concepts of Music.

This course provides the skills required to study the HSC Music 1 course should a student decide to do so. Students may swap to the Elective Music Course after Term 1 in Year 9 if the timetable allows.

## Physical Activity And Sports Studies (PASS)

The aim of PASS is to enhance students' ability to participate effectively in physical activity and sport, leading to improved quality of life for themselves and others. PASS is a combination of practical and theory activities which involve a comprehensive study of physical activity and sport in society. Students will investigate the way of the body functions and how to prepare to move efficiently in a variety of contexts. The course has a strong focus on learning through movement, offering students a variety of challenging practical experiences.

The course contains three areas of study which are:

- Foundations of Physical Activity
- Physical Activity and Sport in Society
- Enhancing Participation and Performance

Within these areas of study include modules such as:

- Body systems and energy for physical activity
- Nutrition and physical activity
- Sport coaching
- Enhancing performance – strategies and techniques
- Technology, participation and performance
- Event management
- Issues in sport

## Textiles Technology

The study of Textiles Technology provides students with a broad knowledge of properties, performance and uses of textiles. Students will be encouraged to develop creativity and individuality by researching the work of textile designers. Project work is developed through investigation and experimentation, with students documenting and communicating their design ideas. The completion of practical projects enables students to develop skills and confidence in the use of a range of textile materials, equipment and techniques. Students spend at least three lessons per cycle working on their practical projects. There will be a charge at the end of each semester to cover costs of basic materials.

## Visual Arts

Visual Arts is an intensive course involving the artmaking and the study of images and objects. Art History and Criticism classes and the artmaking classes allow all girls to develop their creative talents. In the practical areas, Pymble has a policy of providing experience in specialist areas including Drawing, Digital Media, Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, Photography and Ceramics during Years 9 and 10 girls have the opportunity to work in several of these areas. Towards the end of Year 10 girls are encouraged to further their interest in an area of their choice. A wide range of historical and contemporary artworks from different cultures is studied

- Year 9 girls study Australian Art including Aboriginal Art
- Year 10 girls study the development of 20th Century painting.

# Additional Elective Subjects In Year 10

In Year 10 the students will continue with their two elective subjects, chosen at the beginning of Year 9. In addition, they will be able to choose two more elective courses, subject to the requirements as listed:

- Completion of the mandatory courses in Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship by the end of Year 9 is a prerequisite for all new electives in Year 10.
- Students who have not completed these courses must undertake them in the new elective lines, in order to complete the mandatory Stage 5 requirements.
- The new elective subjects are offered as 100 hour terminating courses only, and will not be offered as HSC courses, with the exception of Dance.
- Students should choose one new elective from each group.
- New elective courses will only proceed if the numbers are sufficient to form an appropriately sized class.
- Students who have taken Classical Greek in Year 9 continue with the subject as an additional Year 10 elective in timetabled periods.

New Electives In Year 10	
Group 1	Group 2
Aboriginal Studies	Geography History Mandatory History
Dance	
English as a Second Language (ESL)	
Geography	
Mandatory Geography	
History	
Marine & Aquaculture Technology	
Literacy and Learning II	
Photographic & Digital Media	

## Aboriginal Studies

The course aims to develop an appreciation of the unique value of Aboriginal peoples and their cultures to Australian identity. Students gain knowledge and contemporary issues affecting Aboriginal communities across Australia.

Students develop recognition of the fundamental importance of land and spirituality to all Aboriginal peoples, as well as an understanding of the importance of autonomy and self-determination to the future of Aboriginal people within Australian society.

The course is made up of a Core Study based on Aboriginal identities, in which students explore the diversity of Aboriginal cultures and a short study of Aboriginal autonomy focusing on human rights, with an emphasis on the self-determination of aboriginal people historically. In addition, students undertake three or more Case Studies chosen from options such as Aboriginal Visual arts or Performing arts, Aboriginal Peoples and the Media, Aboriginal Film and Television and Aboriginal Peoples and Sport. Students will come to a greater understanding and appreciation of the unique contribution made by indigenous peoples to Australian society.

## Dance

The 100 hour Dance course is a Board of Studies Board Developed Course. All students, irrespective of previous dance experience, study the essential content. This involves an integrated study of the practices of performance, composition and appreciation together with the elements of dance within the context of dance as an artform. Students learn through their own dances, the dances of others and dances as works of art in the public domain, allowing them to develop new ways of expressing their own experiences.

Experience with the elements and language of dance enables students to communicate physically, verbally and in written form. They also learn about the development of cultural meanings and artistic traditions.

Throughout the course, equal emphasis is placed on the processes of experience and end-products. Students learn movement principles and a variety of dance styles. The development of creativity, imagination and individuality are taught along with a theoretical and practical knowledge of Dance. The students are given several opportunities to perform for the general public at College events.

## English As A Second Language (ESL)

This course is offered as an elective for targeted students in Year 10 whose second or third language is English. It is designed for those who need additional assistance in the development and consolidation of their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. The particular focus is on the improvement of these skills as well as making the individual aware of the processes in learning a language so they can develop into more independent language learners.

The course also aims to provide students with cultural knowledge to assist them in their future studies of the Stage 6 curriculum in an Australian academic environment. This course necessitates a flexible approach in order to address individual student learning needs and provide opportunities for cross-curricular, academic support.

## Marine And Aquaculture Technology

The 100 hour Marine and Aquaculture Technology course is a Board of Studies Content Endorsed Course. The course does not continue into Stage 6 (Years 11 and 12), but relates to a variety of Stage 6 courses offered at Pymble including Agriculture, Biology, Earth and Environmental Science, Personal Development, Health & Physical Education and Food Technology.

### **The course contains a Core Unit and five Option Modules**

The Core Unit, Introduction to Marine and Aquaculture Technology, is divided into 5 sections which include an Introduction to Marine and Aquaculture Technology, Water Safety, General First Aid related to Marine Activities, Maintenance of Equipment used in water and The Marine Environment.

The majority of the course deals with five Option Modules which will be selected by the class in consultation with their teacher from areas including Biology, Ecology, Leisure, Aquaculture, Employment, Management and General Interest.

### **The optional Modules which have been selected and taught to date have included:**

- Construction and Maintenance of an Aquarium
- Basic Snorkelling
- Open Water Snorkelling leading to an excursion to a Sydney beach.
- Dangerous Marine Creatures identifying these creatures and the first aid required if a person is injured by them.
- Marine Mammals, the study of dolphins and whales.
- The Abyss which is the depths of the ocean where it is extremely cold and dark so the fish have weird and wonderful adaptations to survive and feed in that environment.
- Biology of Native Crayfish including growing Yabbies

## Literacy And Learning II (by invitation only)

This course is designed for students who need additional assistance in the development and consolidation of literacy and learning skills. The program offered would suit students who require additional support across the curriculum. The course aims to give students the opportunity to improve and consolidate their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. This course also offers opportunities for academic support, linking with the broader curriculum and the individual needs of students.

In a small group situation students will:

- Develop skills necessary to access learning across the curriculum
- Learn and use scaffolds for writing text types
- Improve their understanding of the forms, features, structures and functions of language
- Learn and use a range of strategies to comprehend and interpret texts.
- Enhance their skills in responding to and composing a range of texts that they will encounter across the curriculum
- Develop a variety of review techniques and learning strategies, including the development of time management and planning skills
- Have opportunities to review and consolidate classroom learning
- Increase their ability to work independently
- Work on individual programs

Assessment will be continuous and classroom based. There are no formal exams. The course will help students in preparing for the challenges of Senior School studies.

## Photographic & Digital Media

Students will undertake an in-depth study of still, interactive and/or moving digital media that will enable them to apply their understanding of making, appreciating and interpreting imagery to all areas of study across the curriculum.

- To engage students in the media of their generation and culture.
- To encourage art practice that is playful, creative and confident.

### **Content**

In making photographic and digital media artworks, students:

- Investigate practice, the conceptual framework and the frames and a range of ideas and interests in areas of still and moving forms.
- Investigate computer-based technologies
- Use a Visual Arts Process Diary to record explorations of ideas, storyboards, interests, experiments techniques and technologies.
- Build a body of work using a range of photographic, digital media and moving forms equipment and technologies.

In critical and historical interpretations, students:

- Use the conceptual framework and the frames to understand photographic, digital media and moving forms.
- Investigate relevant events, photographers, artists, video artists, animators, designers.
- Develop a critical understanding of photographic, digital media and moving forms practice.

## Year 10 Geography Elective

Elective Geography in Year 10 explores contemporary geographic issues that confront an ever-changing world. A student's geographic knowledge will be broadened to give her the skills to analyse issues which are current, relevant and which will impact on their lives. Geographic issues which may be presented include:

- the changing role and status of women around the world;
- the geography of fashion;
- global variations in the level of development and associated impacts on quality of life;
- the geography of disease;
- environmental management issues;
- migration patterns on Sydney.

There will be further development in research and analytical skills which will allow students to discover and understand issues in depth. Fieldwork to Cabramatta also forms part of this course. Elective Geography aims to encourage students to take a more active role as global citizens and to foster an appreciation of different cultures, environments and perspectives.

## Year 10 Geography Mandatory

The aim of Mandatory Geography is to stimulate a student's enjoyment of and interest in the interaction of the physical and human environments. Through a study of Mandatory Geography, a student's knowledge, understanding, skills, values and attitudes are developed to ensure that she is able to interpret and understand contemporary issues that she may face.

Topics will include changing Australian communities, urban decline and renewal and natural hazards. As part of a student's study she will be engaged in fieldwork which will bring to life her classroom learning.



## Year 10 History Elective

Elective History in Year 10 allows and encourages students to explore the effect of human actions on the world around them. It seeks to help them develop an understanding of motivation, causation, consequence and empathy.

This course builds upon the skills and knowledge taught in Years 8 and 9 through a number of in-depth case studies. These include an introductory unit on the Cold War, the origin of a crisis / conflict in the Modern World and the study of modern historical events and issues such as the 1979 Invasion of Afghanistan, the Iranian Revolution and the conflict in the Middle East, through an interpretation of contemporary sources. Throughout the course students develop skills in independent learning, research and critical thinking. The Elective History course aims to develop in students an understanding of the world around them, both past and present, and to give students the skills and knowledge essential for their future roles in an ever changing society.

## Year 10 History Mandatory

The aim of Mandatory History is to ensure that students have the skills to develop a critical understanding of Australian and World History and enable them to participate in Australian society as active, informed and responsible citizens. The content of the Mandatory course includes four topics listed below, within which there is internal choice and the integration of a site study.

Topic 1: Depth Study – “Making a better World? The movement of Peoples”

Topic 2: Core Study – Australians at War

Topic 3: School developed study – “Willing Participants or reluctant Followers?”  
Techniques of control of Nazi Youth 1933 – 1939.

Topic 4: Depth Study – Rights and Freedoms (1945 to the present)

# Advice On Making Elective Choices For Years 8 To 10

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The electives offered provide opportunities for students to develop and extend their capabilities in a range of areas.

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There are five main aspects to consider when making these elective choices:

- Choices should meet the individual needs of students in terms of their academic capabilities and interest, by providing challenging opportunities which extend their breadth of experiences and encourage them to reach their potential. It is ideal to choose subjects which provide these challenges.
- Girls should choose subjects which interest them and which they will enjoy studying.
- Subjects should be chosen in line with their level of ability. Most of the electives offered are suitable for all levels of academic ability. However, for Languages girls need to have demonstrated, in their Year 7 work, the interest in and ability to study a foreign language.
- The only Years 11 and 12 subjects for which the equivalent Year 8 to 10 courses are a prerequisite are the Higher School Certificate continuing language courses. At present Pymble offers these HSC courses in French, German, Japanese, Latin and Classical Greek. There is, however, another Year 11 and 12 course called Italian Beginners which can be studied in Years 11 and 12 only.
- Girls and parents should NOT be concerned about HSC results or the scaling procedures applied to HSC subjects. This is quite irrelevant at the Year 8 to 10 level.

If girls experience difficulty in making subject choices or if they have additional questions to ask, they should contact the Director of Studies or the Head of Department.

This is an overview of the choice of elective subjects you will have from Year 8 to Year 10. You will be able to choose two elective subjects each year. This grid will enable you to see your elective choices over the next three years.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS ON OFFER	INFORMATION TO GUIDE YOUR DECISION
<b>YEAR 8 (choose in Year 7, Term 3)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French</li> <li>• German</li> <li>• Japanese</li> <li>• Latin</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Chinese Beginners</li> <li>• Visual Arts</li> <li>• Financial Literacy</li> <li>• Literacy and Learning I (a one year course by invitation only)</li> </ul>	<p>You choose 2 electives to study for Year 8 - one from each group. Keep these points in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you do not choose a language elective for Year 8, they will not be offered again. This is your opportunity to try them.</li> <li>• At the end of Year 8, you will be able to change one or both of your electives if you wish for Year 9. Because of this consider being adventurous in your choice of electives – challenge yourself!</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 9 (choose in Year 8, Term 3)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visual Arts</li> <li>• Drama</li> <li>• Elective Music</li> <li>• Contemporary Music Studies</li> <li>• Commerce</li> <li>• Food Technology</li> <li>• Textiles Technology</li> <li>• Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS)</li> <li>• Agricultural Technology</li> <li>• Classical Greek</li> </ul>	<p>For Year 9 you can either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with both the electives you chose in Year 8 (Financial Literacy becomes Commerce).</li> <li>• Drop one or both of your Year 8 electives, and choose new elective(s) from the above list.</li> <li>• Remember: the two electives you choose for Year 9 must be studied for two years (Years 9 and 10).</li> </ul>
<b>YEAR 10 (choose in Year 9, Term 3)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aboriginal Studies</li> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• History</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• Marine &amp; Aquaculture Technology</li> <li>• Mandatory Geography</li> <li>• Mandatory History</li> <li>• Photographic &amp; Digital Media</li> <li>• English as a Second Language (a one year course by invitation only)</li> <li>• Literacy and Learning II (a one year course by invitation only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of the mandatory courses in Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship by the end of Year 9 is a prerequisite for all new electives in Year 10.</li> <li>• Students who have not completed these courses must undertake them in the new elective lines, in order to complete the mandatory Stage 5 requirements.</li> </ul>



*Pymble Ladies' College*

Pymble Ladies' College  
Avon Road, PO Box 137  
Pymble NSW 2073  
Australia

Tel +61 2 9855 7799  
Fax +61 2 9855 7766  
Web [www.pymblelc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.pymblelc.nsw.edu.au)  
*'All' Ultimo Lavoro' - Strive for the Highest*