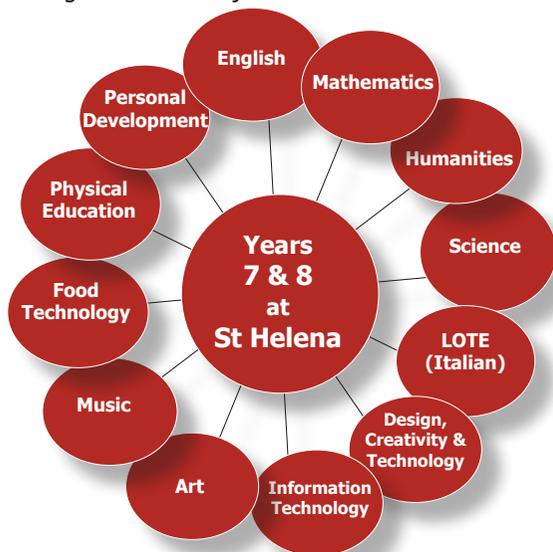


College Curriculum

Students at St Helena are provided with a comprehensive curriculum from Years 7-12 which delivers essential academic and skill based "core" subjects in conjunction with an extensive elective program that leads to an ever increasing number of pathways and options in the senior years. A focus throughout the college curriculum is Literacy, Numeracy and Curiosity and it is supported by the use of ICT to enhance the learning experience for our students and to support them in achieving their personal best.

Years 7 and 8

Students in Years 7 and 8 at St Helena work through a rigorous curriculum that includes subjects across all areas of the curriculum. This provides students with a broad knowledge and skill base before entering the Middle School where students begin to make subject choices.



Year 7... Transitions

The college recognises and understands that the change from primary to secondary school can be a challenge for students and parents. In addition to the Mini-School structure that creates a 'school within a school' for students at Year 7 and 8, a key focus during year 7 is the theme 'transitions'. The following programs are based around this theme and delivered to both complement the core curriculum and support a successful entry into secondary school life:

- Year 7 Form Group Teachers & Assistants (i.e. 2 form teachers per class).
- Year 7 Peer Support Program (Mentoring program involving specially trained Year 10 students).

- Year 7 Camp
- Year 7 Parents BBQ
- Parent information evenings
- Personal Development Program as part of the core curriculum
- Year 7 student leadership opportunities.

Year 8... New Experiences

In Year 8 the students have experienced their first year of secondary school and are ready to tackle some new experiences as they live the school motto 'Dare to be Excellent'. The theme for Year 8 is 'New Experiences' with a number of activities run to complement the core curriculum and challenge students to achieve their personal best. These include:

- Outdoor pursuits run on individual and/or consecutive days that enable students to challenge themselves physically and mentally.
- Student leadership opportunities in the Junior and wider school.
- Debating
- Writer's Camp

Year 9... Engagement

As students enter the Middle School we see the emergence of young adults who are ready to become more independent in their learning by making more choices in relation to this. By providing the students with greater choice in terms of both subject selection and their approach to learning we are focusing engaging them in their learning. Hence the theme of 'engagement'.

This is achieved by a diverse program that ensures learning is not confined to the classroom. Students are given the opportunity to choose from a diverse series of electives and complete a program called The Global Village. The Global Village takes education out of the classroom into the wider community for one week in every term.

This program aims to:

- create an engaging environment based on building constructive and caring relationships
- develop a culture of student participation through choice and relevance
- enable students to become resourceful, reflective, and resilient

All Year 9 students are able to apply to be part of a fantastic program called The Outer Edge (ToE). This is a voluntary program that students can apply to undertake Bronze in The Duke of Edinburgh Award and investigate volunteer services in our community such as CFA.

Year 10... Pathways

Year 10 is also an exciting time for the students at St Helena Secondary College as students focus turns to future pathways. The year 10 program is based around career pathways options. Providing students with a broader range of subject choice allows students to pursue their interests and build on their strengths while working to achieve their personal goals.

As students prepare for VCE and their future study and career paths, they are encouraged to take greater responsibility in completing work and managing their commitments.

The opportunity to undertake a VCE/VET subject is offered to year 10 students. Along with programs such as Work Experience and Peer Support, this allows students to gain further skills and confidence. Throughout Year 10, students are encouraged to broaden their horizons through programs such as The Pathways Discovery Week.

Both Year 9s and 10s are supported by a team of dedicated teachers regarding student wellbeing and learning support services.

Years 11 and 12...

Personal Best & Global Citizenship

St Helena offers a broad range of subjects in Years 11 and 12. The Senior School contains over 500 students and has excellent facilities in all curriculum areas. St Helena offers an extensive VCE and VET program which successfully prepares students for all areas of tertiary study and employment.

The College currently has courses in a wide range of subjects including English, Humanities, the Arts (both Visual and Performing), Business Studies, Mathematics, Science, Information Technology, Technology, Health and Human Development Studies and several VET (Vocational Education and Training) qualifications.

In 2012 the college is actively investigating the expansion of its Senior School program to create greater learning opportunities for its students. The focus of this investigation is to provide students with a learning program that extends them academically whilst ensuring this is complemented by the opportunity to develop the necessary 21st Century Skills to achieve their best post Year 12. We expect our students to be ready and able to contribute positively in an ever changing global community.

VCE

St Helena is very proud of its Senior School. A two year sequential Study Skills Program, regular Study Halls where the VCE Centre is open for students and teachers to work together until 8.00pm, the Year 12 Orientation Camp and Mentoring Program, all assist students to achieve their very best. St Helena's policy that all students will complete every piece of work to the best of their ability is emphasised firmly in the Senior School.

St Helena applauds students who achieve personal best and recognise the effort involved in completing 13 years of formal schooling at a Graduation Ceremony at the Melbourne Town Hall.

St Helena's VCE scores have increased steadily over the past five years.

The ACE Program

One Accelerated Curriculum and Enrichment Program (ACE) class is run at each level (see page 14 for details).

Pathways

The Careers Program at St Helena aims to equip students with the skills, knowledge and confidence to make informed and realistic choices in regard to their future careers. Students have access to a range of resources and activities including a Career's centre and Career's Advisor that support them in planning their pathway from Year 10, through VCE (or equivalent) and make successful transition to University, TAFE, Apprenticeship, Traineeships or the work force.

2010 and 2011 VCE Results

Average of 70% of ATAR scores above 50 and 11% over 90. Our past two Duxes have achieved ATAR scores of 99.7 and 97.5 respectively.

95% of students who chose to apply for tertiary entry in 2012 received a first round offer. 60% of these students chose University, 33% chose TAFE and 7% chose independent colleges. Many of the remaining students who did not apply for courses through VTAC gained entry into either pre-apprenticeship courses, apprenticeships, traineeships or employment.

