



# Student HANDBOOK

Woodleigh School  
Years 7-8 2025





# Welcome to Years 7-8

This booklet outlines the subjects and key educational experiences that will be offered to students undertaking Years 7 and 8 at Woodleigh School in 2025. Students will study a combination of core subjects and electives that draw from the Victorian Curriculum and are scaffolded by the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme curriculum framework.

## CONTENTS

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) .....	4
The IB Learner Profile .....	4
MYP Global Contexts .....	5
Inquiry Learning .....	5
Year 7-8 Key Experiences .....	6
Year 7-8 Course Overview .....	7
Mathematics .....	8

To prepare for the year ahead, please visit our **New Student Portal**. Once you have commenced here at Woodleigh, you will be invited to register with our App, the one-stop shop for all you need to know during the year.

- Dates & timetable
- Subject guides and booklists
- Maps & bus details
- Key contacts
- Instrumental music lessons



We acknowledge that we work, play and learn on the land of the Boon Wurrung and Bunurong People, the traditional landowners of this area.

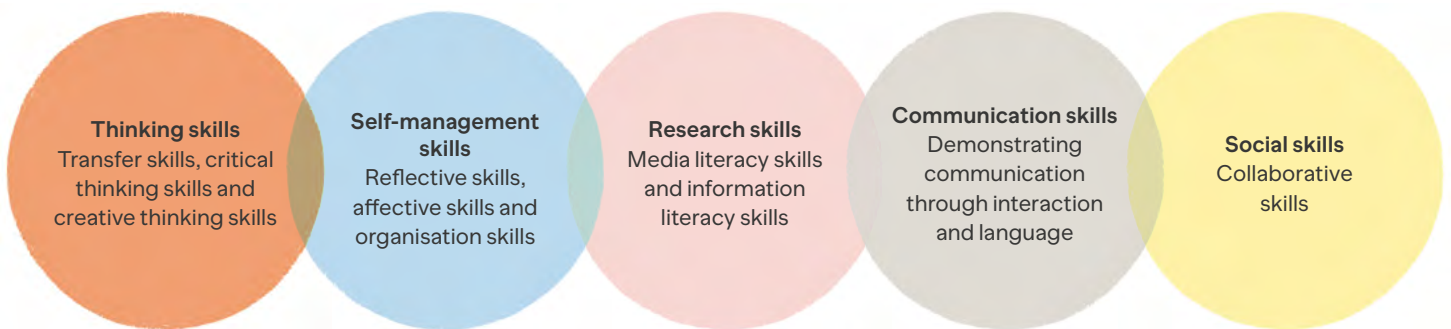
We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, recognising that like us; they have taught and continue to teach children about the world, sharing their knowledge and ideas in the hope of giving them a fulfilling and rich life.

First Peoples' perspectives are embedded in our educational program and are an important aspect of the way we engage with our environment. As we strive to help children build connections with the land, it is essential that we also offer them an opportunity to develop an understanding of our cultural heritage.

# THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE® (IB) MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME (MYP)



The Middle Years Programme (MYP) is an internationally accredited framework that cultivates a rigorous and engaging syllabus based on big thinking and authentic learning experiences. The MYP promotes a shift from content-driven curriculum to conceptual learning informed by the explicit teaching of proficiencies; the Approaches to Learning (ATLs) and the IB Learner Profile attributes, to develop internationally minded lifelong learners. The philosophy of the International Baccalaureate (IB) aligns strongly with that of Woodleigh and encourages a balanced development of the whole young person.



## The IB Learner Profile

At Woodleigh School, we are committed to developing learners who, by recognising their shared humanity and stewardship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. We aim to work together as a community to nurture the development of the attributes of the IB Learner Profile. We aim to develop the capacity and ability of our community of learners to be:

### Inquirers

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

### Knowledgeable

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

### Thinkers

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

### Communicators

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

### Principled

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

### Open-minded

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

### Caring

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

### Risk-takers

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

### Balanced

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognise our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

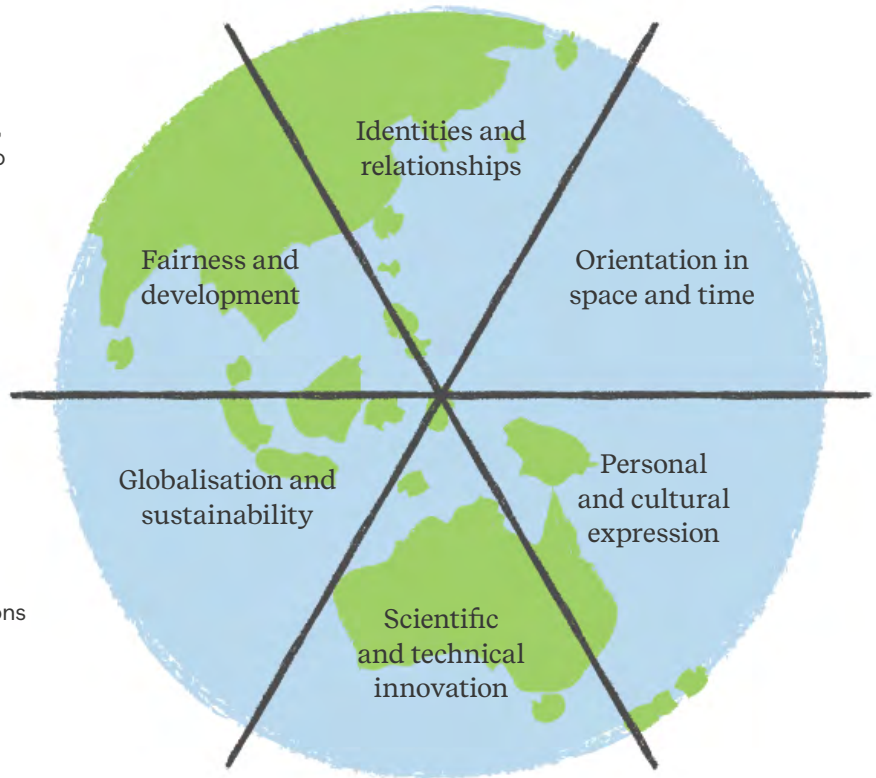
### Reflective

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experiences. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

## MYP Global Contexts

Woodleigh is committed to delivering an education that equips young people with the knowledge, skills, capabilities, confidence, and purpose they require to shape their future and the future of others. Through the MYP young people are encouraged to be more than just globally aware, rather; the IB embodies the notion of being internationally minded, where our students develop an innate sense of responsibility and take positive action to create a better world.

The MYP provides a design structure that supports the teaching and learning of the Victorian Curriculum content, while emphasising an inquiry-based approach, and offers an inclusive educational experience for all students. The use of Global Contexts in the MYP framework further enhances learning by situating inquiries within relevant global themes, promoting critical thinking and helping students to make meaningful connections between their studies and real-world issues.



## Inquiry Learning

Inquiry learning encourages students to explore concepts deeply through questions and investigations, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Inquiry learning involves guidance, support and structure, but is student-driven, allowing learners to pursue their interests and make connections between subjects, and apply their learning to real-world contexts. This approach nurtures curiosity, independence, and a lifelong love of learning.

### TYPES OF STUDENT INQUIRY AT WOODLEIGH

#### Structured Inquiry

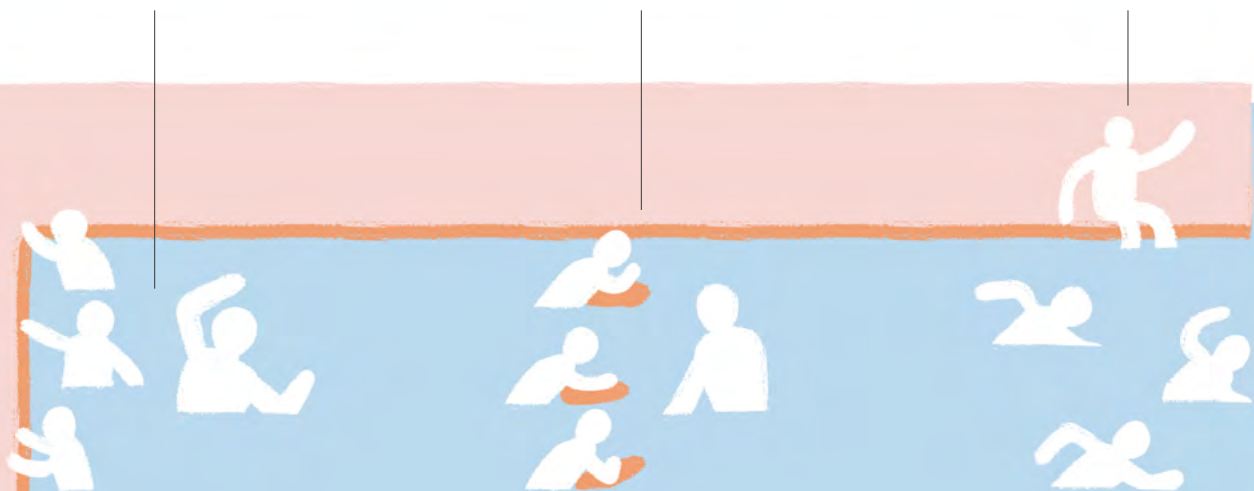
Students follow the lead of the teacher as the entire class engages in one inquiry together.

#### Controlled Inquiry

Teacher chooses topics and identifies the resources students will use to answer questions.

#### Guided Inquiry

Teacher chooses topics and questions, and students design product or solution.



# Key Year 7-8 Experiences

## Homestead Camp

Years 7-8

Homestead Camps are held in Term 1, and aim to foster community and teamwork among Year 7 and 8 students. These camps develop outdoor leisure skills, and feature activities like sea kayaking, bike riding, bushwalking, surfing and camping. Each Homestead heads to a coastal location, and staff work alongside outdoor experts to provide challenging, skill-building experiences for their students, helping them connect with their peers and gain confidence in various outdoor environments.

## Activities Camps

Years 7-8

In Semester 2, during Activities Week, Years 7-11 students ballot for and head off on a variety of five-day, cross-age programs. On these activities, students pursue new skills or deepen existing ones with like-minded peers. Past camps have included surfing at Anglesea and Phillip Island, horse riding in the Victorian high country, rock climbing at Mt Arapiles, a photography camp in the city, and on-campus camps such as leatherwork, screen printing, and production.



## Tiny Houses

Year 7

Students design and plan tiny homes to meet the needs of a client and micro-community. After conceptualising floor plans, they move to an open space to physically map out their designs, experiencing firsthand the relationship between space and function. This hands-on, collaborative project demonstrates how the MYP encourages students to apply their knowledge creatively while developing problem-solving and teamwork skills in real-world settings.

## Mt Baw Baw Camp

Year 8

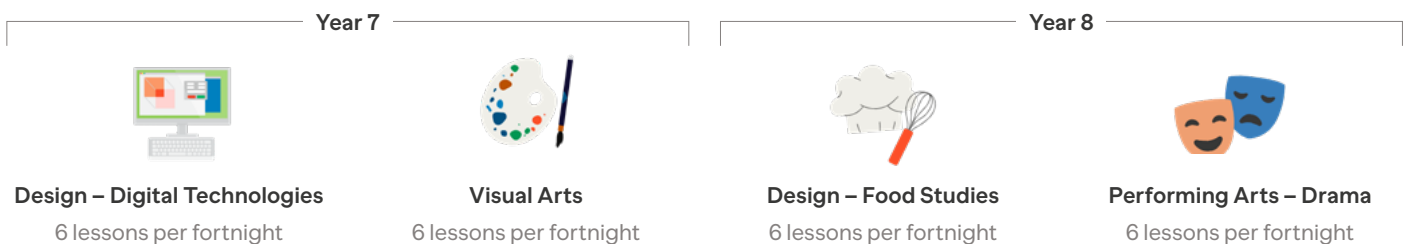
Year 8 students take part in a Bushwalking and Lightweight Camping Program in Term 4. This is the first step in preparing for the Year 9 Outward Bound journey and Hattah expedition, which culminates the compulsory aspect of the Woodleigh Outdoor Education program, in Year 10. The experience helps students develop essential skills for outdoor adventures, such as navigation, teamwork, and resilience, while also fostering a deeper connection to nature.

# Year 7-8 Course Overview

In Years 7-8 students will study nine year-long core subjects:



Students will also study a different Art & Design subject each semester:



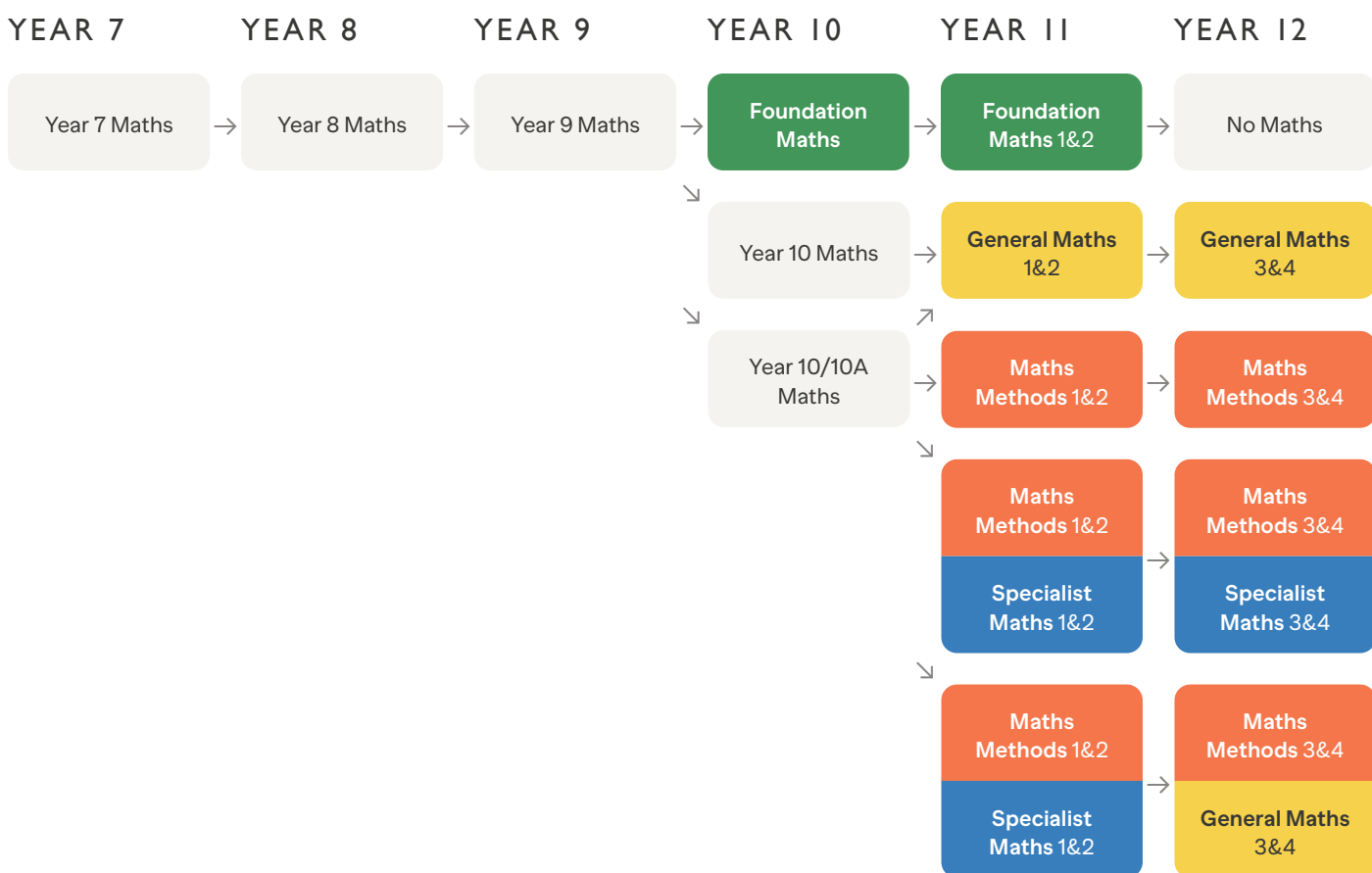
# MATHEMATICS

In Year 7 to Year 9 Mathematics, students develop familiarity with a broad range of linear and non-linear functions and relations, and related algebra and graphs. Learning continues to build on a range of skills and concepts in Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. In Year 10, students select from Foundation Mathematics, regular Year 10 Mathematics, and the more advanced Year 10/10A Mathematics, depending on their mathematical aptitude and aspirations for VCE Mathematics.

The study comprises the following units:

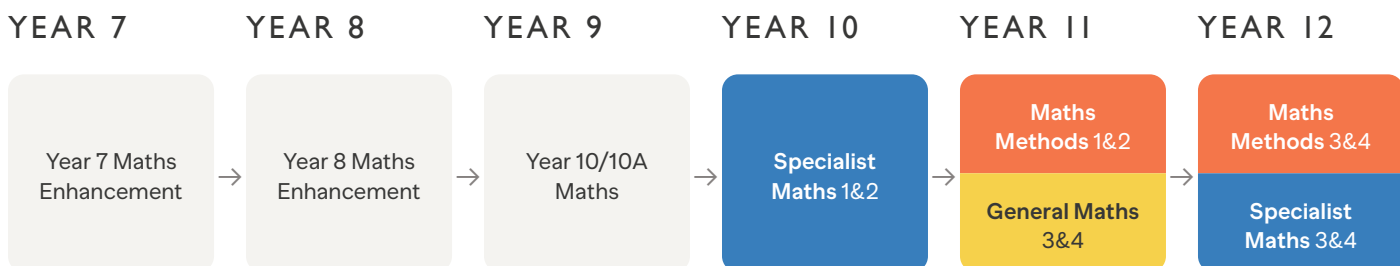
- **Foundation Mathematics** Units 1 and 2
- **General Mathematics** Units 1 to 4
- **Mathematical Methods** Units 1 to 4
- **Specialist Mathematics** Units 1 to 4

## Standard Maths pathways



## Maths Enhancement pathway

The Mathematics Enhancement program is offered to capable students who have demonstrated considerable mathematical ability, enthusiasm, and a good work ethic. The main intake is in Year 7, though well credentialed students can be added in later years. This pathway leads to students completing 10/10A Mathematics in Year 9 and VCE Specialist Mathematics 1&2 in Year 10.





## References

International Baccalaureate. (2022). *MYP: From principles into practice*. International Baccalaureate.

International Baccalaureate Organisation. (2023). *Our Mission*. [www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/mission/](http://www.ibo.org/about-the-ib/mission/)

Woodleigh School. (2022). *Learning to Thrive*. [Brochure] Woodleigh School.

MacKenzie, T. (n.d.) *Types of Student Inquiry*. [www.trevormackenzie.com/sketchnotes](http://www.trevormackenzie.com/sketchnotes)