

Pakenham Secondary College

Year 7



Year 7 Centre

Year 7 at Pakenham Secondary College takes place in an open learning centre that underwent refurbishment four years ago. Year Seven students complete the majority of their studies within the open learning centre and their locker bays are part of the centre. Students from other year levels do not have access to the building providing students with a safe area where they feel comfortable during the transition process and throughout the year. The year 7 staff room is in this area and there is a staff member available at all times to assist students should the need arrive.

The centre allows for enormous flexibility in terms of grouping of students, curriculum delivery and teaching practices. The staff are committed to the philosophy that the student is the centre of the educational process within the Centre. Therefore students are grouped so teachers can focus on individual and small groups that have similar learning styles or needs as well as mixed ability groups. Teachers work together to plan and teach a curriculum that caters for a range of learning styles. Team teaching is an essential element of the Centre so teachers are able to learn from and support each other.

Subjects

Students complete a set program during year 7 and 8. The school week consists of twenty periods divided as follows:

English	4 lessons per week
Mathematics	4 lessons per week
Science	2 lessons per week
Humanities	2 lessons per week
Integrated Studies	4 lessons per week

Health and P.E.	2 lessons per week
L.O.T.E : French	1 lesson per week
Arts / Technology	3 lessons per week

Over two years, students complete one term of the following Art and Technology Studies: Drama, Music, Information Technology, Textiles, Food Technology, 2 Dimensional and 3 Dimensional Art. All these subjects have a natural progression to year 8 and beyond. They prepare students for future pathways of their choice

Extra Curricular Activities

There are numerous opportunities for students to undertake extracurricular activities. As well as our House swimming and athletics carnival, students can participate in a broad range of interschool sports. An instrumental music program is available to students with guitar, drum and singing lessons delivered at the College during the week. The College has been a successful participant in the State Rock Eisteddfod and all students have the opportunity to be involved either as a performer or as an assistant behind the scenes.

Class Structure

The composition of most of the Year 7 Home Groups is based on friendship and recommendations from parents and Primary school teachers. We also have two other groups - Bright Sparks and Boys Education. Information regarding the two latter groups is included in the package for your perusal. Each Home group has an allocated teacher who is the first point of contact for the student or parent. The Home Group teacher plays a significant role in ensuring that your child's transition from primary to secondary school is as smooth as possible. The Home Group teacher sees their students each day, thereby developing an excellent rapport. Groups of three home groups have an allocated team leader who generally deals with larger issues. Year 7 is overseen by a Year 7 Educator, Mrs. Jo-Anne Duggan who is also the College Transition Co-ordinator. She is the contact person for all transition matters large and small. Years 7 and 8 at the College have a dedicated Assistant Principal, Ms Frances Dunlevie. The College Principal Mr. Ray Squires oversees the running of the College.