

Studying for the 2026 HSC

Curriculum information for
students and parents/carers



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

The 'credential' journey towards the HSC

| Year 10 Record of School Achievement (RoSA) | Year 11 Record of School Achievement (RoSA) | Year 12 High School Certificate (HSC) |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced the School Certificate in 2012. • The culmination of Kindergarten to Year 10. • Students are awarded grades A-E for each subject. <p>Students can leave school prior to the Year 10 RoSA (and after the completion of Year 9) if they are transitioning to an apprenticeship/traineeship <u>with</u> TAFE study.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are awarded grades A-E for each subject. • Achieved at the completion of 12 units in Year 11. <p>Students can leave school at the beginning of or during Year 11 if they have and apprenticeship/traineeship OR are enrolled at TAFE OR are working 25 hours a week or more.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are awarded a mark and rank. • Achieved at the completion of 10 units in Year 12. <p>Students can leave school from the age of 17 with parent/carer support.</p> |



Course Information

UNITS

All Courses have a unit value

Most courses are 2 unit (120 hours of study)

A 2 unit course is studied 8 periods a fortnight

2 unit = 100 marks in the HSC



Unit Requirements

Stage 6

Preliminary Course (Year 11)

- Minimum of 12 units
- Students must satisfactorily complete the preliminary course before they are eligible to sit the HSC

HSC Course (Year 12)

- Minimum of 10 units



Pattern of subject Requirements

Both the preliminary and HSC course must include at least:

- 2 units of Compulsory English
- At least 6 units from Board developed courses
- At least 3 courses of 2 units or greater value
- At least 4 subjects

At most 7 units of Science courses can count towards the HSC



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

The minimum standard tests

All students need to demonstrate they have met a minimum standard in literacy and numeracy to be eligible for a HSC.

Students will show they meet the HSC minimum standard by passing 3 online tests of basic skills (reading, writing, numeracy), these tests will first be administered in term 3 and are available for them to sit for up to 5 years after the HSC.



The minimum standard tests

Student can have four opportunities each year to sit the tests

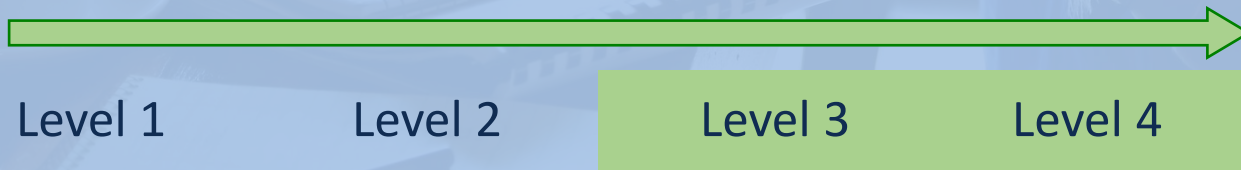
About the tests:

Reading: 45 multiple choice computer adaptive questions (45 minutes)

Numeracy: 45 multiple choice computer adaptive questions (45 minutes)

Writing: answer one question out of a choice of two prompts (approximately 500 words)

[More information and sample questions is linked here](#)



HSC: All My Own Work

All students need to complete the 'all my own work' program before commencing year 11. This will be administered during Year 10, Term 4 after assessments have been completed. It will be administered online & during class time.

It consists of five modules:

- Scholarship Principles and Practices
- Acknowledging Sources
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Working with Others

Students who have completed the program will know how to avoid malpractice. Year 11 and 12 assessments that demonstrate malpractice receive a mark of zero.



Course Information

Extension Courses:

- are worth 1 unit each
- build on the content from the 2 unit course
- are designated for students with a particular aptitude and talent for the corresponding 2 unit course

Preliminary Extension Courses

- English
- Mathematics

HSC Extension Courses

- English 1 & 2*
- Mathematics 1 & 2*
- Science
- History
- Music
- Languages

*students who undertake 2 units of extension in one subject area are required to maintain > 10 units until completion of the first assessment



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

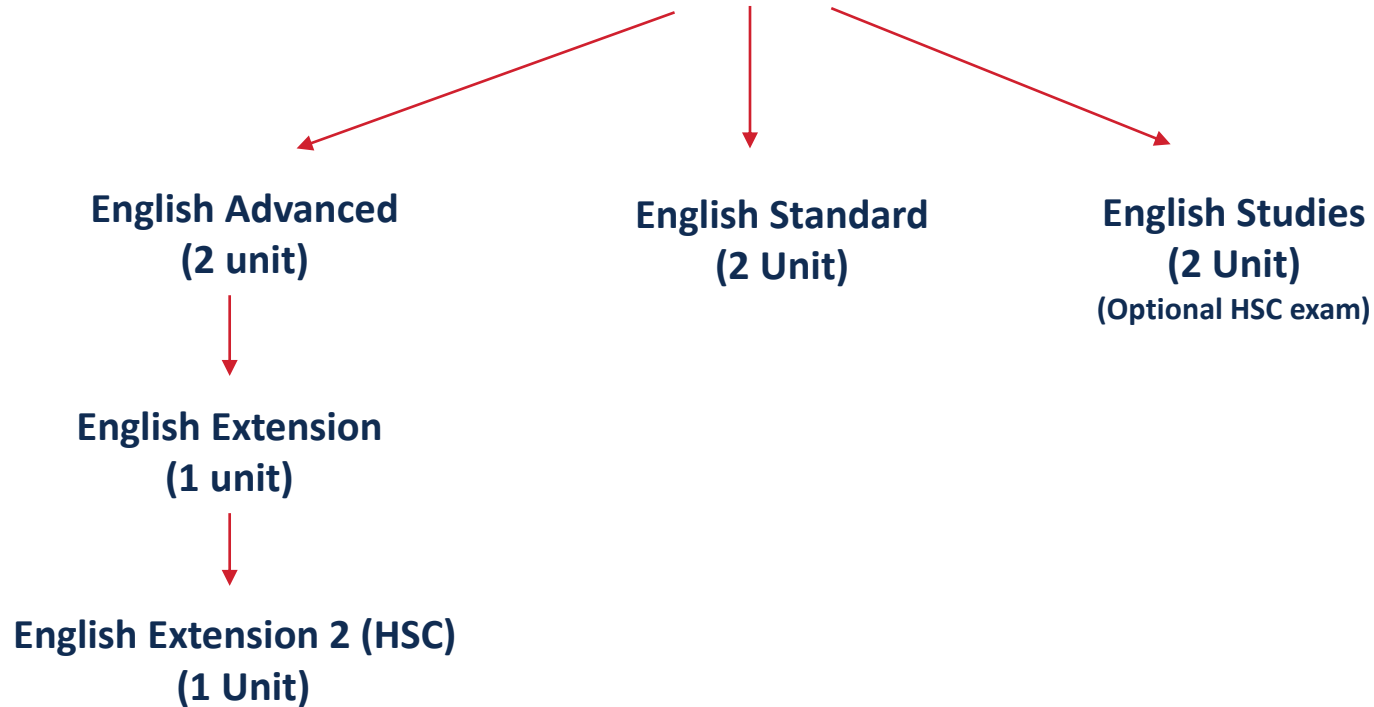


English

English is a compulsory subject in Preliminary (Yr 11) and the HSC (Yr 12).



English Preliminary and HSC



English Standard



Over 40% of HSC students completed English Standard in 2022.

Focuses on contemporary texts and ideas, and enables students to experiment with new language forms and features.

HSC modules include: Texts and Human Experiences; Language, Identity and Culture; Close Study of Literature; The Craft of Writing.



English Advanced

Focuses on complex literary texts.
Challenges students to critically question
the value of language and concepts
across a range of contexts.

This course is for students who love
literature and includes the study of
Shakespeare on the prescribed list.

HSC modules include: Texts and Human
Experiences; Textual Conversations;
Critical Study of Literature; The Craft of
Writing.



English Studies

Provides the opportunity for students to apply English to real-world situations.

Supports students to refine their skills and knowledge in order to feel empowered to use English beyond school.

Traditionally a non-ATAR course, but now has an optional HSC Examination.

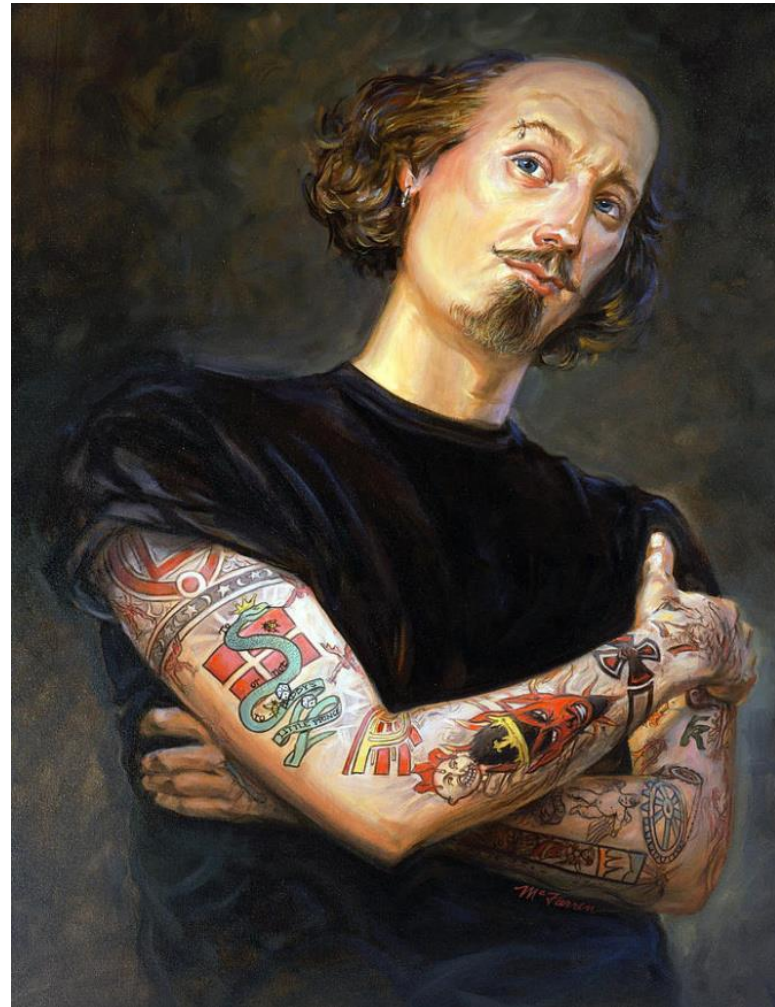


English Extension

English Extension 1 enriches learning for passionate students who wish to immerse themselves in independent research, literary theory and highly complex textual concepts.

English Extension 2 is an HSC subject that allows Extension 1 students to independently develop their own Major Work, based on a form and concept of their own choosing.

Advanced English is a prerequisite for all Extension subjects in Preliminary and the HSC courses.



A Final Note...

Because **English** is a compulsory subject for the Preliminary and HSC courses, it is important that you choose the right course for you to maximise your potential and marks

Talk to your English teacher for suggestions and guidance when making your decision.



MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is not compulsory in Year 11

If you do not intend to study any Mathematics in Stage 6, do not select it as a preference on your selection list.

The 4 Courses:

1. Numeracy Stage 6 *(CEC Based)*

2. Mathematics Standard *(Non-Calculus Based)*

Year 11:

- *Mathematics Standard*

Year 12:

- *Mathematics Standard 2*
- *Mathematics Standard 1 (optional HSC Examination)*

3. Mathematics Advanced *(Calculus Based)*

4. Mathematics Extension 1 *(Calculus Based)*

Year 11:

- *Mathematics Extension 1*

Year 12:

- *Mathematics Extension 1*
- *Mathematics Extension 2*



Course Recommendations

| | 2024 Class | Recommended Year 11 Course | |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 5.3- 5.1 | 10MA1 (Mr Hunt) | Extension | |
| | 10MA2 (Mrs Cantlon) | Advanced | Standard |
| | 10MA3 (Ms Pollock) | Advanced | Standard |
| 5.2- 5.1 | 10MA4 (Mrs Sharma) | Standard | |
| | 10MA5 (Mr Scott) | Standard | Numeracy/No Maths |
| | 10MA6 (Ms Millett) | Standard | Numeracy/No Maths |
| 5.1 | 10MA511 (Mr Mitchell) | Standard | Numeracy /No Maths |



NUMEARCY COURSE

- Course focused on the development and consolidation of core numeracy skills
- Content endorsed course (CEC)
- Can be chosen alongside another maths course
- Does not contribute to an ATAR
- Supports students to develop the core numeracy skills required to become active and successful participants in society. This course offers students the opportunity to prepare for post-school options including employment or further training.



MATHEMATICS STANDARD (Year 11)

MATHEMATICS STANDARD 1 & 2 (Year 12)

- Approximately 60-65% of all HSC Mathematics students will complete the standard course.
- Success in this course requires commitment and hard work.
- Applied mathematics that covers a variety of contexts including:
 - Financial mathematics
 - Statistics
 - Measurement
 - Algebraic modelling
 - Networks (new content in Year 12 course)

It is not until Year 12 (Term 4 of Year 11) where the course splits into Standard 1 and Standard 2.



MATHEMATICS ADVANCED

- Effectively a calculus course
- Requires a strong algebraic ability and a 'liking' of Mathematics
- As a recommendation, only students from the 10MA1, 10MA2 and 10MA3 should consider choosing this course
- A prerequisite for many Mathematics based university courses



MATHEMATICS EXTENSION 1 (Year 11 & 12)

MATHEMATICS EXTENSION 2 (Year 12 only)

- Builds on top of the Mathematics Advanced course
- Requires strong algebraic skills and a love of Maths
- As a recommendation, only about 10-15% students should consider this course.
- University pathways:
 - Advanced Science
 - Engineering
 - Actuarial Studies



MATHEMATICS

A Final Note

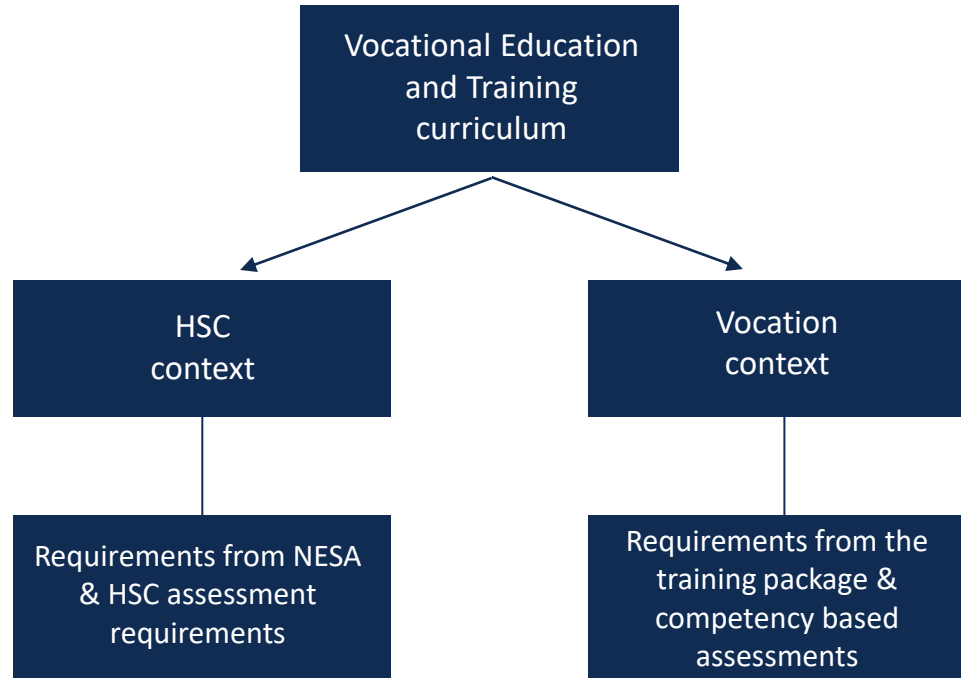
- Maximum enjoyment and meaning out of senior Mathematics
- Best possible HSC/ATAR result
- Conversations and course selection need to be honest. Please consider:
 - Ability in Mathematics
 - Genuine interest in Mathematics
 - Commitment and affect on other subjects
 - Future goals

Your current maths teacher will recommend the most suitable Stage 6 course for you.



VET in the HSC

Vocational Education and Training



- VET lets you complete a workplace credential while still at school.
- Qualifications are recognized Australia-wide (AQF – Australian Qualifications framework).



Curriculum Frameworks

Vocational
Education
and Training

- Construction
- Hospitality
- Business Services
- Entertainment Industries
- Metal and Engineering
- Accounting
- Tourism and Events
- Automotive
- Electro technology
- Retail Services

These subjects are offered on-site at KHS.

Students are required to complete 35 hours of mandatory work placement per 120 hours of coursework



Considerations for courses

You need to make an informed decision

Ability:

Choose what you are capable of doing well.

Interest/motivation:

Choose subjects that interest you and you are motivated to learn.

Career:

Keep in mind future career paths, but be realistic about your choices.

This is the first step towards your future pathway, not your final step.

The UAC (Universities Admission Centre) has information for Year 10 students looking towards university courses.



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

Practical Considerations

Assessment requirements:

What do the assessment requirements for the course involve? (Major works, essays)

Subject combinations:

Do the subjects compliment each other?

What style of learning are you suited to?

Students who receive a good ATAR do well in all their subjects.

Does your selection work to your strengths and assist you in achieving your goals?



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

Course Completion

Students must:

- Follow the course.
- Apply themselves with diligence and sustained effort to the set tasks and experiences that the school provides in the course.
- Achieve some or all of the outcomes.

Assessment Tasks:

There is a maximum of THREE formal tasks in the preliminary course and FOUR formal tasks in the HSC course.



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

Course Completion

Non-award determinations:

N-Determinations are issued for non-completion of a course. This attributes back to reasons on the previous slide.

Class Teachers issue N-warning letters to students who are in danger of not meeting course completion criteria.

The letters inform students and parents of issues with course completion and provide information on what needs to be completed.

Two or more warning letters in a course can result in an N-Determination.



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

Course Completion

Additional requirements

Students must:

- Authentically complete HSC assessment tasks that contribute in excess of 50 per cent of available marks.
- sit for and make a genuine attempt at the Higher School Certificate examination for the course.



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

Illness/Misadventure

Year 10, 11 & 12:

If an unforeseen illness or misadventure stops you from attending or significantly affects your performance in assessments.

The application needs to be substantiated with independent evidence (e.g. medical certificate, police report etc) attributed to the day of the task.

The student will complete the task (or substitute) upon their return.

Always attend assessments if you can, even if you have an illness or misadventure application.

More information is on the school website under the 'senior students' tab.

These applications do not cover:

- difficulty preparing or lost preparation time.
- alleged deficiencies in teaching.
- misreading exam timetables/instructions.
- long-term illness unless you can show it recurred suddenly and unexpectedly.
- conditions for which you should have applied or have been granted disability provisions.
- attending sporting or cultural events.
- Organisational issues/technology failure.





HSC

- Highest secondary school credential.
- Report student achievement in terms of standards achieved in individual courses – each course receives a mark.
- Presents a profile of student achievement across a range of subjects.

Qualifications:

- Successfully complete a minimum of 12 units in Preliminary and 10 units in HSC.
- Sit for and make a serious attempt in HSC exams.
- Complete 'All my own work' program.
- Complete 'Life Ready' course.
- Achieve a level 3 or above in the three HSC minimum standards tests.

ATAR

- For students wishing to gain entry to University after High School.
- It is a rank, not a mark.
- Provides information about how students perform overall, compared to other students.
- Provides the discrimination required by universities for the selection process.
- Calculated from the ten best units (including 2 units of English).

Qualifications:

- Must complete 10 units of Board Developed Courses.
- At least four subjects.
- At least three courses of 2 units or greater value.



Subjects Offered

Board Developed Courses

- Ancient History
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Community & Family Studies
- Dance
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- Earth & Environmental Science
- Economics
- Engineering Studies
- English Advanced or Standard
- Enterprise Computing
- Food Technology
- French Courses
- Geography
- Health and Movement Science (formerly PDHPE)
- Industrial Technology
- Investigating Science
- Japanese Courses
- Legal Studies
- Mathematics Advanced or Standard 2
- Modern History
- Music 1 or 2
- Physics
- Society and Culture
- Software Design and Development
- Textiles and Design
- Visual Arts
- Extension Courses (1 unit each)

Subjects with optional HSC exams:

- English Studies
- Mathematics Standard 1
- Business Services (VET)
- Construction (VET)
- Entertainment Industry (VET)
- Hospitality (VET)

CEC Courses

- Creative Arts (Ceramics and Visual Design)
- Exploring Early Childhood
- Numeracy
- Photography, Video and Digital Imaging
- Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Studies

HSC Qualifications for subjects:

Minimum units: 12 (Preliminary), 10 (HSC)
At least 2 units of English
At least 6 units from Board Developed Courses
At least 3 courses of two unit or greater value
At least 4 subjects

ATAR Qualifications:

Must complete 10 units of Board Developed Courses
The student must elect to sit the HSC Examinations in any subject where this is optional.



NOTE

Some courses offered in the curriculum information booklet may not run because of insufficient student numbers and/or resource constraints.



Subject selection

Students will need to:

1. Select the level of English
2. Select their subject choices in priority order from the drop down boxes in each choice.
3. Select 3 Reserve subjects

A minimum of twelve units need to be chosen, plus 3 Reserve subjects. Your Total units (18+) will be displayed.

Print a confirmation of your subject selections and have it signed by a Parent/Carer. This print out is to be submitted to the Administration Office by Monday 5th August.



KIRRAWEE HIGH SCHOOL
Measure by Achievement

Where to from here?

1. Explore your subject interests and personal strengths.
2. Reports will be issued via the parent portal by Thursday 4th July,
3. Parent Teacher Night will be on Thursday 25th July.
4. The subject selection portal will open on Friday 26th July and close on Friday 2nd August.

Prospective enrolments please see Mrs Blanch
(HT Administration) at the front of the hall



Staff for advice:

- Class Teacher (student capabilities for specific subjects)
- Head Teachers & course coordinators (information about specific subjects)
- Careers adviser (Post-school intentions, Uni pre-requisites, TAFE, pattern of study)
- Deputy Principal (pattern of study)

