OPTION SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS for YEAR 9, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

In Year 9, all students study English, Mathematics, Science, Society and Environment, Religious Education and Physical and Health Education as part of their curriculum.

In conjunction with these subjects, students are able to choose ‘option’ subjects. Option subjects provide students with the opportunity to develop their talents in a wide variety of areas. During Year 8, students were exposed to a range of option subjects. In Year 9, students can choose new options or build on their experiences from Year 8. As the College encourages all students to pursue personal excellence, the choice of option subjects needs to take into account the student’s ability, skills and interest.

When choosing option subjects for Year 9, students will need to choose either;

- 2 Major Options (taken 5 periods per 10 day cycle for the entire year) AND 2 Minor Subjects (taken 5 periods per 10 day cycle for a semester each)

OR

- 3 Major Options (taken 5 periods per 10 day cycle for the entire year)

Specialist Programmes

The Specialist Band Programme and the Specialist Science Programme are studied as part of the Options program, so students doing these programmes need to select them as a major in their option selections.

Students who are currently in the Specialist Band Programme are expected to continue this for Year 9 as it is a 2 year scholarship. Offers for a position in the Specialist Science Programme will be made early in week 9 of this term, however, if you are keen to do Specialist Science then indicate it as one of your options and if you are not offered a place you will need to re-select later.

The Option Selection Form should be completed and returned to the College Office no later than Wednesday 2nd September, 2015.

Please contact Mr Douthie if you have any queries.
Art (Major / Minor)
This subject builds on the skills acquired in Year 8 and aims to extend those students who demonstrated a sincere competence in the visual arts. Both the major and minor courses cover a variety of themes and students will be encouraged to make personal responses to their environment, social and physical, using a variety of media. A wide range of activities are covered including ceramics, printmaking, computer aided graphics, painting and sculpture. Reference to various Art History themes are studied to foster an appreciation of the arts and to generate creative thinking. Drawing is an emphasis as a studio project itself or in preparation for other studio areas.

Commerce (Major / Minor)

Computer Programming (Major/Minor)
The intention of the Computer Programming course is to teach students fundamental skills in programming so they can compete in a digital world. As we include more technology into our lives it is a valuable skill to be able to interact with and create programs for computers, smart phones and future technologies. See www.code.org for more information about why learning to code is important.

The students will get exposure to several programming platforms (Scratch, Python, Game Maker) with the ultimate goal of being able to create apps using the Android Software Development Kit. Students will also be required to use skills in multimedia applications in order to create apps that function well with a pleasing Graphical User Interface.

Drama (Major / Minor)
The Year 9 Drama program is available to all students interested in developing their confidence and skills as a performer. The class work incorporates a variety of practical performances including Variety Nights, Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival and the creation of student devised work. The students broaden their understanding of acting by studying various dramatic styles such as Melodrama, Elizabethan Theatre and Improvisation. The students will also be a part of the annual Theatre-sports Competition as they do battle in a Whose Line Is It Anyway style performance! There is also a theory component included in the Year 9 Drama course, including reflection and analysis of their own work, and other viewed works. Students wishing to study Drama in Years 10 – 12 should also choose to study Drama in Year 9.

Electronics (Major)
The content and assessment of this course is equally divided between theory and practical work. Students need no prerequisites and most should cope with the mathematical theory concepts that are included in the course. Theory in the course includes electrical safety, basic electronic principles, understanding and recognition of components, calculations in resistance, capacitance and simple circuit laws. Students investigate needs, opportunities and problems that are defined in a design brief. They devise a solution that considers factors such as function, environment, materials, components and parts. As part of this process students will be introduced to elements of design and the use of CAD programs. Practical work involves the construction of transistor and integrated circuitry on manufactured printed circuit board.
**Information Technology (Major / Minor)**
This course is designed to give the students an opportunity to apply and gain skills in software applications. The course allows the students to practice and consolidate skills in the practical aspects of ICT such as, graphic image manipulation, web site design, an introduction to programming, audio/video editing, 2D/3D Animation and green screening. Students will use a variety of software applications and tools that enables the interactive use of text, audio, still images, video, graphics and music.

**Italian (Major/Minor)**
This course builds on ideas, vocabulary and basic grammar structures acquired in Year 8 and is designed to provide students with the necessary skills to communicate at an elementary level with native speakers in both written and spoken exchanges. Students who choose to study Italian in Year 9 will deal with various topics and emphasis is placed on a wide range of practical activities including role-plays and games. The cultural and background content is further encouraged through multi-media, audio-visual programmes and excursions and incursions. Students who intend to continue with their Italian studies in Yr 10 and in upper school must study it in Yr 9 due to the academic nature of the course.

**Media Studies (Minor)**
In Year 9 Media Studies, students will learn to identify and deconstruct the key features and structures of a range of media texts. Students will explore how audience values and attitudes can shape, and be shaped by, popular media. They will also gain an understanding of how political, economic and ethical constraints influence the choices that producers of media works make, and apply this understanding in their own work.

In the first term, there is a focus on representation in print media, including the construction of celebrity and character types in magazines and advertising. Through an exploration of photographic codes and conventions, as well as written codes and image composition, students will understand how our reading of an image can be impacted by elements such as lighting, camera angle, framing, setting, etc. Students will need to use still cameras, and simple image editing software such as Microsoft Paint or Photoshop.

In second term, students begin to explore representation in film through viewing, and deconstructing, a range of documentaries, and documentary styles. Students will apply their knowledge to the creation of a documentary about themselves, with focus on a particular aspect of their life.

**Metalwork (Major / Minor)**
These subjects follow on from the skills that were taught in Year 8 and are designed to encourage and broaden the students’ knowledge of metalworking practices and processes. Students are encouraged to develop design and problem-solving skills. The course also expands their knowledge of machine tools and specialised metalworking equipment as well as developing an understanding of visual and working drawings. It introduces students to a range of hand tools and promotes safe working practices.

**Music Technology (Major/Minor)**
The Year 9 Class Music program incorporates the use of music technology, practical performance in ensembles, composition tasks, and some written theory. The students broaden their understanding of music by studying various musical styles throughout the year. Students wishing to study Music in Years 10-12 should also choose to study Music in Year 9. Project assessments include composing music to media, remixing, individual and group performances, and developing music industry vocational skills. Students will utilise software such as Mixcraft, Ableton Live and Logic Pro. This course is designed to give students an insight into vocational elements of the music industry. Due to the performance aspect of this course, it is preferred that students who take this option also learn a musical instrument, either privately or through the College.
Music – Specialist Band Program (Major)
This Specialist Band course is a continuation of the Year 8 Specialist Band Programme. In this course, students will continue their College-funded instrumental lessons and partake in Concert Band rehearsals in class. Continuation in this program from Year 8 is a prerequisite to receiving College-funded tuition and to be given the opportunity to be part of the next Concert Tour that will occur before these students graduate. Students are given the opportunity to perform both as a soloist and as a band, displaying the practical skills and theoretical knowledge they have learnt in their time as part of the Band Programme. The course is designed to promote musical excellence within the College, as members of the band programme become the senior music students in the years to come. In this way, the course promotes leadership, confidence and a high level of achievement. Students are reminded that a commitment to the Specialist Band Programme is for the whole year.

Outdoor Education (Minor)
This course educates students about the environment, in the environment and for the environment. This course will allow your son to explore topics that are essential to interacting in their environment such as navigation, orienteering, bush survival, first aid, minimal impact, hiking, camping, and rock climbing. Outdoor Education is about learning life skills which are facilitated in the outdoors and the learning objectives of this course include; develop teamwork skills, decision making and problem solving skills, improve communication, instill leadership qualities, and foster initiative and resourcefulness.

Specialist Science Course (Major)
The Year 9 Science Specialist Course is offered to students that have displayed an above average aptitude for Science and received consistently high results in assessments throughout Year 8. It is designed to allow the students to apply their knowledge and explore their interests through extended Open Investigations and general experimentation. It is basically hands on, fun and rewarding. Students will receive an offer for a position in the Course (included in this letter) and will need to accept the offer in order to guarantee a place.

Specialised Phys Ed (Minor)
This course is designed to cater for those students who have a keen interest in Physical Education and Sport. Students will be exploring various aspects of particular sports, with relation to techniques, strategies and rules. They will also have an opportunity to further develop their general fitness and health, sportsmanship and interpersonal skills. Furthermore students will gain an understanding of the management of sports injuries and human anatomy.

Technical Drawing (Major / Minor)
This course is designed to further expand the knowledge and skills learnt in the short introductory courses of Year 8. Students are encouraged to link their knowledge of Technical Drawing with their practical skills so as to develop better design folios. Students are also introduced to Computer Aided Design.

Woodwork (Major / Minor)
The main aim of these subjects is to further develop the skills and working practices learnt in Year 8 and to prepare students for the more individual and independent project organisation expected in Year 10. Students are encouraged to develop design and problem-solving skills. The course also expands their knowledge of various machines and specialised woodworking equipment as well as developing an understanding of visual and working drawings. It introduces students to a range of hand tools and promotes safe working practices.
MAZENOD COLLEGE

OPTION SUBJECT SELECTIONS FORM

YEAR 9, 2016

NAME: ______________________________ FORM: ____________

Please select either;
3 majors

OR
2 majors and 2 minors by placing a tick in the box next to the subjects in the table below that your son would like to enrol in for Year 9.

Note
❖ An option chosen as a major cannot be selected for a minor as well.
❖ An option may not be offered if demand for it is insufficient to make it viable.
❖ Some combinations may not be possible due to timetable constraints.

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*Students will receive a personal letter offering a place in these programmes.

Please return this form by **Wednesday 2nd September, 2015**

Parent Signature: __________________________ Date: ____________
“Learn what you are in the eyes of God”