

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from parents on past Norwood SC tours

ENGLISH

What literacy support does Norwood provide for its students?

With a focus on literacy throughout Norwood's wider curriculum, our English department maintain close emphasis on developing student access to literacy in our classrooms. We prioritise reading and writing practice, developing foundation skills where needed and opportunities for extension in students seeking extra challenge. To assist students who require additional literacy support, Norwood offers the "QuickSmart" Literacy Intervention program. Our QuickSmart team work with students one-to-one or in small groups. We record exceptional development in participating students, who not only show improved literacy, but increased confidence and engagement in learning.

How does Norwood foster a love of reading?

Norwood's English faculty prioritise fostering a love of reading through our curriculum and associations with the school's Resource Centre. We study novels, short stories and poetry within our classrooms to promote engagement in a wide range of text types. Students also have daily opportunity to read novels of their own choosing. This process is supported by our Resource Centre, who provide recommendations and summaries, guiding students to take ownership over their reading choices. Further to this, our Resource Centre host the annual Reader's Cup - a team-based challenge that combines reading, trivia, and fun for all!

What extracurricular opportunities are associated with the English faculty?

Norwood participates in a range of debating competitions throughout the year. Students who are involved in our debating teams develop their public speaking skills, but also improve their written comprehension, vocabulary and learn to work effectively in a team. Our students compete in the inter-school competition run by The Debating Association of Victoria. They can also participate in a range of model-UN debate formats, providing a dynamic and interactive opportunity to learn about the world they live in.

What senior elective subjects are available at Norwood?

English electives are available from Year 10, where students can enrol in Literature and English Language taster courses in preparation for VCE. Norwood is proud to offer a strong Mainstream English program, and to also be able to provide students with alternative options in Literature and English Language, giving our students ownership over their education and a sense of autonomy in designing their senior course.

MATHS

What kind of online software does the school use for mathematics?

In Junior School we use "Mathletics" similarly to Primary schools and we also use the Cambridge book accounts.

What sort of homework do you expect from Years 7 and 8 students?

Year 7 has a staggered start to homework, with one weekly "Mathsmate" sheet due during Term 1 in addition to any work they did not complete during class time. From Term 2 onwards expect students to use their homework time to complete textbook questions and some project work.

How do you cater for different student needs in mathematics?

Textbook work is divided into three groups to cater for different ability levels, however if a student requires significant modification this comes through the Head of the Year Level

What content is taught in the Enrichment Program (EP) and how does it differ to mainstream classes?

The EP course for mathematics is not significantly different to mainstream, we do cover content in more depth and go through additional content. However, we are aware that not all students have an aptitude for mathematics and therefore we also cater for different levels within our EP program

How do the pathways into VCE work?

There are four different streams in VCE Mathematics: Foundation, General/Further, Methods and Specialist. We begin course counselling with students in Year 9, based on their aspirations, ability and work ethic. We do this in consultation with parents to ensure that students choose a maths pathway that is right for them.

What sort of extension opportunities does the school provide in mathematics?

We endeavour to run two to three competitions during the school year and we also invite students to Outreach programs run by universities to show them how mathematics can be applied outside of the high school setting.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH JUNIOR HEALTH

What topics do you teach in Junior Health in Year 7 and 8?

New curriculum at Year 7 covers the topics of:

- Healthy behaviours to promote wellbeing
- Values and Family
- Fostering positive relationships

New curriculum at Year 8 covers the topics of:

- Self Esteem
- Cybersafety
- Alcohol and Drug Education
- Respectful Relationships

Do students have the opportunity to study Health all the way through their education?

At Norwood, students complete Health as a core subject in Years 7 to 9. We have a Year 10 Health elective and students can also choose to study VCE Health and Human Development in Years 10 to 12.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

What sports do you offer at Norwood?

We have both Physical Education (PE) classes and Interschool Sport Competitions.

Physical Education: Is completed within form groups at Years 7 and 8 and as a core elective at Year 9. Within PE classes, students are provided the opportunity to complete units of each sport for approximately two weeks which align with the sports offered during that term for Interschool Sport. PE classes are aimed at increasing student participation, skill development and tactical awareness. Student can then elect to study PE in Year 10 and in VCE Years 10, 11 and 12.

Interschool Sport: Is played against three other schools in the Maroondah Division. The sports are played during Terms 1 to 3 and these include:

Term 1: Baseball, Cricket, Tennis, Volleyball, College Swimming and Cross Country Carnivals

Term 2: Netball, AFL Football, Soccer, Badminton and College Athletics Carnival

Term 3: Basketball, Hockey and Table Tennis

Can students use the Gymnasium during lunchtime?

Yes, we have many students who come and enjoy the gymnasium facilities at lunchtime. It is a fantastic resource which students enjoy using in both PE classes and during lunchtimes.

Can students access 'representative teams' through Norwood?

Yes, students at Norwood have the ability to try out for College and State Representative Teams through School Sports Victoria. Our College Sport Coordinator can assist students with information relating to tryouts for State Sporting Teams.

Do you have a Sports Academy at Norwood?

No, there is no Sports Academy at Norwood. We prefer all students have the opportunity to represent the College in multiple sporting teams. We encourage students not to be focused on one sport, rather develop a wide skill set that can be transferred between many sports. This is a key focus during our PE classes.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION/ ADVANCE / CAMPS**What camp programs do Norwood offer the students?**

Camps are an important part of the culture at Norwood. All students in Years 7 and 8 have the opportunity to participate in Year Level adventure camps. In Year 9, students have the option of choosing Outdoor Recreation or ADVANCE where they will participate in multiple camps. In Year 9, camp activities such as Surfing, Hiking, Snorkelling, Sea Kayaking, Sailing and other activities are all available for our students. In Year 10, students have the opportunity to participate in Snow Skiing or Boarding and in Year 11 we offer the Central Australia Tour which is a highlight for most who participate. In addition to these camps, Norwood is associated with "Antipodeans Abroad" who assist the College to run International Expeditions for students in Years 10 and 11. In recent times, we have done community work in Nepal, Vietnam and this year in Peru (travel restrictions permitting).

SCIENCE**What areas of Science does Norwood offer in Junior School?**

In Junior School students are involved in four main streams of Science including Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences.

What types of assessments does Norwood run in Science?

Students are given a variety of assessments over the course of the year with the main assessment tasks being: tests, practical reports and assignments/projects in Years 7 and 8. In Year 9 students have a fourth assessment component which is a semester exam to help them prepare for exam conditions in Year 10 and VCE.

Does Norwood differentiate for the students in Science?

Yes. Science structures its assignments to give students some choice in how they present their assessments. This means that all students are required to do the same task and then they can choose their own method of presenting. The teachers also liaise with Heads of Year Level and the integration team to modify work as required. Some ways in which students have presented their assessments are: video of a science experiment, profile of a scientist, kahoot, quizzlet, picture book, concept map, poster, brochure or digital presentation or review of advertisements etc.

Are there any extension programs for students to undertake in Science at Norwood?

The Enrichment Program (EP) for Science has students doing the same topic as other classes in that level. However, the level of detail, assessment requirements are significantly different to the mainstream classes. Students also have a different textbook to their mainstream classes. Over the course of the year students are able to participate in various 'masterclasses' which are offered through La Trobe University's Outreach program and excursions at each year level. Students also have an

opportunity to participate in competitions such as ICAS Science in Junior School and Australian National Chemistry Quiz and Titrations competitions at Years 10 to 12.

What Sciences are offered at Senior School?

The VCE Sciences that are currently offered are Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Psychology. In Year 10 the vast majority of students complete Year 10 Applied Science – a full-year subject in which students are exposed to all areas of Science. This assists them to then make an informed decision on which Science(s) they are interested in studying, in their VCE.

THE HUMANITIES

FRENCH

What languages do you study at Norwood?

Currently French. It is a compulsory subject in Years 7 and 8. In these two years French runs for the whole year. In Year 9 French becomes an elective that students can elect to study to VCE.

HUMANITIES

What will I learn in Humanities at Year 7?

The Year 7 students study History and Geography: each for one semester. Students also study a short unit on Civics and Citizenship. History and Geography are also semester length units in Year 8 and 9.

How will I use my laptop in Humanities?

Laptops are used extensively in Year 7 to 9 Humanities classes. There is a printed copy of the Humanities textbook with the laptops used to access the online activities such as interactive, videos and quizzes. In Geography students are also introduced to Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping.

Does Humanities lead into VCE?

VCE Humanities subjects offered include History, Geography, Accounting, Business Management, Economics and Legal Studies. At Year 10 there are a number of Humanities electives available to students. History is a core subject at Year 10 and runs for one semester.

Are there other opportunities in Humanities?

Students have the opportunity to enter the Australian Geography Competition and the Australian History Competition. There is also the opportunity to enter the MAPit Competition where student teams investigate ways to improve their local community.

How do you cater for the learning of individual students in Humanities?

Students in the EP class have their own Humanities curriculum. They may study different topics such as Ancient Rome at Year 7. Students in mainstream classes can be offered extension or modified activities to enable them to work to the best of their abilities.

HISTORY

What topics will I learn about in History at Year 7 and in Junior School?

History at Year 7 involves investigating the Ancient world. The areas that are covered include Ancient Egypt and Ancient China. The history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders is also studied. Students learn about these ancient civilizations through a variety of activities which involve both individual and group work and hands on activities such as mummifying an apple and painting Aboriginal artwork. In Year 8 History students study the Medieval World such as the Vikings, Shogun Japan and the Aztecs. The focus of Year 9 History switches to Australia looking at colonial days and World War 1.

GEOGRAPHY

What topics will I learn about in Geography at Year 7 and in Junior School?

Students study the importance of water as a valuable resource together with investigating the causes, impacts and responses to natural hazards such as cyclones and flooding. Students also look at the liveability of places and investigate what makes places such as Melbourne so liveable. In Year 8 students look at the formation of landscapes such as coasts and the increasing urbanisation of countries. At Year 9 students study the effect of human activity on biomes and the increased interconnectedness of the world.

Are there Geography fieldwork trips at Year 7?

Fieldtrips are run at each year level. The Year 7 fieldtrip is to Edendale Farm where students undertake water testing activities. At Year 8 students investigate three Port Phillip Bay beaches and at Year 9 they travel to the Dandenong Ranges National Park. On each field trip students undertake a variety of fieldwork activities.

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS / CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

Do students study other topics other than History and Geography?

In Year 7 students study a unit on Civics and Citizenship. In this unit students look at our system of government and laws and also participate in running their own parliament. In Year 8 the focus is on Economics with the students working in teams to develop and pitch a product. In Year 9 Business is a core subject, called 'Out on Your Own'. This is a semester length unit with a focus on practical skills such as applying for a job and managing finances. The course also focusses on resumes and job Interviews, earning, spending and saving money strategies and Taxation. We then provide a "taster course" which leads into our Senior School subjects: introducing the Victorian Court hierarchy, economics in Australia, basic accounting skills and small business issues.

What does Year 9 Business lead to in VCE?

Out On Your Own provides a pathway to two Year 10 subjects: Courts, Parliaments and Markets. This subject has a focus on the Victorian Court System, the structure and function of Federal and State Parliament and it investigates how our economy works. This unit can lead to Legal Studies and Economics Units 1 to 4.

Our second Year 10 subject is Business and Finance. This has a focus on types of businesses in Australia, how to operate a small business, reasons for success and failure of a small business and it also involves students in small groups operating a "Market Trading Day" at the College where students plan and operate their own small business. The course also covers Accounting where students learn how to record and report financial transactions. They become familiar with Accounting elements and assumptions and are able to prepare Journals, Balance Sheets and Income Statements. This unit can lead to Accounting and Business Management Units 1 to 4.

What does the College offer at VCE for Business Studies?

We offer all four Business studies: Accounting, Business Management, Economics and Legal Studies.

MUSIC

Classroom Music

Does Classroom Music progress through to VCE?

Yes, Classroom Music is compulsory in Year 7 and 8 for one semester each. It is an elective in Year 9 and 10 and we offer VCE Music Performance in Years 11 and 12.

What do you cover in Junior Music at Year 7 and 8?

In Year 7 we focus on beat, rhythm, group work and composition while playing keyboard pieces and Ukulele chords. In Year 8 we consolidate these skills while covering general and rock music.

Instrumental Music

How does the Instrumental program work at Norwood?

Students are timetabled for their instrumental lesson on their timetable. Students are then withdrawn from regular classes at a different time each week, for their lesson. After their Instrumental Music lesson, students return to their regular class. All enrolled students must also join an ensemble such as Junior Band, Junior Strings and Chorale in Year 7. Concert Band, String Orchestra, Jazz Band and A'Cappella (by audition) are available for Year 8 to 12.

Students participate in regular concerts and soirees, assemblies, excursions and a very popular annual three day camp at Mt Evelyn.

Which instruments are taught at Norwood?

Strings: violin, viola, cello and double bass, bass guitar

Woodwind: flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon,

Brass: trumpet, trombone, French Horn, euphonium and tuba

Percussion: Ensemble Percussion for Year 7-9 and DrumKit for seniors.

Voice: soprano, alto, tenor, double bass

Guitar: acoustic and electric (by a private teacher with separate charge structure)

Do students have to join an ensemble?

Yes. We are very proud of our ensembles and it is very important that students attend their weekly ensemble rehearsal to develop skills in performing together such as watching the Conductor, learning self-discipline and persistence. In Year 7, Junior Band and Junior Strings rehearsals are from 7.45am to 8.30am on designated mornings. All other ensembles are after school, generally for one hour each week.

Can we hire an Instrument?

Yes. We have a large number of brass, string and woodwind instruments for rent. The Year 7 students have priority over these instruments as we hope that Year 8 students will choose to purchase their own instrument after renting in Year 7. Some very expensive instruments such as French Horn and Bassoon may still be available for hire in later years.

Is it expensive to learn an instrument?

We have a charge for instrumental lessons and a charge for renting an instrument. In Year 7, the charge is \$400 per year for small group lessons, and \$200 a year to rent an instrument. Guitar charges are quite separate. Please inquire via the Music Coordinator.