Model Farms High School

“Achieving Personal Excellence Through Quality Teaching”
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School Motto

“Magna Facta”
(Great Deeds)

School Mission Statement

“Achieving Personal Excellence Through Quality Teaching”
CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Gooden Drive, Baulkham Hills 2153
Telephone: 9624 3133       Fax: 9838 8407
Email: modelfarms-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Web Address: www.modelfarms-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Uniform Shop Days: Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Uniform Shop Hours: 8.10-9.00am

KEY PEOPLE

PRINCIPAL                              MRS BENNET
DEPUTY PRINCIPALS                     MRS PLEDGER
                                        MR GRADY

HEAD TEACHERS
ENGLISH                               MRS COFFEY
MATHEMATICS                           MRS DALTON
SCIENCE                               MS HOY
HUMAN SOCIETY & ITS ENVIRONMENT       MR BARONS
PD/H/PE & DANCE                       MR BIRRELL
HOME ECONOMICS & LOTE                 MRS ELLIOTT
INDUSTRIAL ARTS                       MR COOPER
CREATIVE ARTS and PERFORMING ARTS    MR CRAGLIETTO
HEAD TEACHER (WELFARE)                MRS LUMLEY
ADMINISTRATION                        MR D DAWSON
COMPUTING STUDIES                     MS DUNGER (Relieving)
SPORTS ORGANISERS                     MR PHEGAN & MISS ATTENBOROUGH
SUPPORT                               MR MAKSIMOVIC

WELFARE
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL        MR KEEN
JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL         MS SNELL
PREFECTS                              MR D DAWSON

STUDENT ADVISERS FOR 2016
YEAR 7                                 MS MARTIC
YEAR 8                                 MR C PULEO
YEAR 9                                 MR M DAWSON
YEAR 10                                MS VARGHESE
YEAR 11                                MRS ALDABBAS
YEAR 12                                MS LETHERBARROW

CAREERS ADVISER                        MRS WOODS
COUNSELLORS                            MRS WILSON/MRS GIRARDI
LIBRARIAN                              MRS VELLA (Relieving)
Welcome to Model Farms High School. Our parents are proud of our school and we have devoted much time and energy to supporting its programs.

The P&C is an important part of school life – providing a valuable link between parents, citizens and school staff. Our P&C motto is “Connecting Parents & Citizens with Our School”. One way this is achieved is through our monthly meetings which provide a forum to learn about and discuss issues affecting the education of our school students.

The P&C hosts Topic Talks on various aspects of the school curriculum and school life. Topic Talks provide an excellent opportunity for parents to gain a greater understanding of the subject and ask the questions they feel most important in relation to their child’s education.

The P & C raises money through several activities. Our uniform shop supports the school’s uniform policy and also raises significant funds which are used to improve school resources and facilities such as the purchase of textbooks and the extension of air conditioning to classrooms. Our happy volunteers are waiting to serve you – why not join them!

Each May the P & C holds a Trivia Night which, apart from being heaps of fun, raises money for projects such as fitting out the new school hall and the tiered learning centre.

Whether you are a keen fund raiser or simply want to know more about what is going on in your school please join us at our regular meetings on the first Wednesday in the month (during school terms) at 7.00pm.

You can make a difference!

Belinda Schuster
PRESIDENT
On behalf of the School Council, welcome to Model Farms High School. We’re sure you’ll really enjoy your time at the school.

The Council is made up of representatives of parents, students, staff and the community. Our main purpose is to work with the Principal and the staff to ensure that Model Farms remains the great school that it is, and indeed to help make it even better. Our activities are many and varied: we assist in developing the school’s policies on topics such as welfare and discipline, enrolment and homework; we examine the school’s annual budget; we help prepare the Annual School Report; we choose who will run the Canteen; and we award Certificates of Appreciation to staff, students and others who have made a positive contribution to the school.

We are very keen to get the view of everyone in the school, so if you have something you’d like to tell us, you can speak to a member of the Council, you can write it down and hand it in at the Front Office, or you can leave your name and phone number at the Office and we will get back to you. Another way we find out what people are thinking is by conducting surveys through the school’s weekly Newsletter.

You might also like to think about becoming a member of the Council. It is a great opportunity to contribute to the school and its progress as well as to find out about important developments in the school. Elections are held in Term 1 each year.

Again, welcome to Model Farms High. We look forward to meeting you at school events in 2016.

Steve Norcott
PRESIDENT
student information
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The Principal

The Principal is responsible for the professional leadership, organisation, management, supervision and efficiency of the school. Parents are encouraged to contact the Principal on any issue by phone. If you wish to see her please make an appointment to ensure availability.

The Deputy Principals

The Deputy Principals are responsible for the efficient operation of the school. The Deputies are concerned with the planning of the organisation of the school and the general supervision of teachers and students. Also they have the responsibility for learning support, curriculum and professional development. Each Deputy Principal oversees three year groups, 7, 9 and 11 or 8, 10 & 12 and follows these cohorts as they progress through the years. In 2016 Mrs Pledger oversees Years 7, 9 and 11 while Mr Grady oversees Years 8, 10 and 12.

Head Teacher Administration

Model Farms High School has two Head Teachers Administration. Their duties include supervision of attendance, day to day changes in timetable, engaging casual teachers and rosters.

Head Teachers

Head Teachers are responsible for the planning and teaching of the courses of study provided in each of their Key Learning Areas. They place students in their appropriate classes and are responsible for determining strategies to account for their progress. They also have duties outside their own faculties. They are available by appointment for discussions with parents and students about issues related to a particular course or subject.

Year Advisers

Year Advisers are responsible for the personal welfare of the students in their year. They check on progress, all matters concerning student welfare and when necessary, contact parents. Students should always feel free to approach their Year Adviser. Parents, by appointment, may obtain a full report on progress in academic and social development from the Year Adviser.
The Counsellors

The Counsellors are at the school 4 days per week. The Counsellors deal with problems that have been referred by the Principal or members of staff. Parents may make appointments for interviews through the School Administration Support Staff or by contacting the Counsellors directly. Students seeking help make appointments through the Year Adviser or directly with the Counsellors.

The Careers Adviser

The Careers Adviser coordinates a program of Career Education from Year 7 to Year 12 and to provide a counselling service to individual students. Parents may also arrange interviews with the Careers Adviser

The Administrative Support Staff

The Administrative Support Staff are available to parents and students for general information on school activities. Appointments to see the Principal and other members of staff should be made through the Administrative Support Staff. Enquiries concerning bus and train passes as well as payment of voluntary contributions should be directed to them.
ROUTINE PROCEDURES

School Contribution

School fees are essential in allowing the school to maximise learning outcomes for all students. They are used to purchase classroom resources such as textbooks, library books, sporting equipment and computing essentials. Without fees the school would be disadvantaged in providing the best learning environment for students at Model Farms High. The contribution also covers the cost of the diary. A school receipt is always issued. You may pay by cheque/credit card/cash.

Student Diary

A school student diary is issued to students at the beginning of the year. This contains important information about school policies and procedures. It is expected that all students use a diary to assist in organising their work.

Subject Contribution

For subjects that have a practical base, costs will be passed on for materials (e.g. wood for Woodwork). The subjects to which this applies are Design & Technology, Visual Art, Computer Studies, Food Technology, Agriculture, Music and Technical Drawing. Please pay at the Administration office and a receipt will be issued which is to be shown to your class teacher.

Textbooks

Textbooks are issued to all students. Students must be very careful with textbooks and must return them when requested. Students must replace any books that are lost or pay for the repair of books that are damaged.
Student Attendance

General Information
At Model Farms High School we are keen to ensure high student attendance. When a student is irregular in attendance, the continuity of learning is broken and this makes it difficult for the student to progress. By law all children must attend school regularly until they are seventeen (17) years old. It should be noted that the Record of School Achievement and the Higher School Certificate can be withheld if attendance has been unsatisfactory. By law students must remain on the premises from their time of arrival until their dismissal from school, unless they are attending approved school excursions under teacher supervision. Parents will always be asked to sign permission notes for these activities.

All formal school reports will indicate:

- Days absent during the reporting period including unexplained absences
- Days late

It is important that those reading reports such as employers gain a positive impression of student attendance.

Student ID Cards
All students are required to carry their photo ID cards with them at all times. The ID card functions as: an Attendance card, a Library borrowing card and an age ID card. The ID card costs $5.00.

Illness at School
If a student is sent home from school during the day because of illness or other exceptional reasons, parents or carers will be contacted prior to the student leaving school. Students in Years 7 – 10 are not allowed to walk home unless written permission by fax or email is received or after consultation with the Deputy Principals or the Principal.

Late Arrivals
School officially starts at 8.35am. Arrival after that time necessitates a Late Note. Students are reminded that it is their responsibility to pick up a Late Note. The school policy regarding arrivals is as follows:

Students who arrive at school after 8.35am are required to report to the Administration Office for a Late Slip. Students must not go to class without picking up a Late Slip. If the lateness is unavoidable, for example a late bus, parents are asked to please supply the school with a note. All lateness to school must be explained. Arrival after 9:00am a student must go to the Library for the Late Slip.
Attendance: Late Arrivers

Start of the day:
8:35am

Am I Late?

No
Go directly to Period 1 Class

Yes
Report to the Admin Office Window or the Library for a Late Slip

Have I arrived after Period 1?

Yes
Report to the Library for A Late Slip

Absences
When a student returns to school after any absence, he/she must bring a note on the first day of return dated and signed by the parent or carer giving the reason and indicating the period of absence.

Letters must not be written by sisters or brothers unless they are the legal guardian. These notes must be handed in at the Front Office. Notes can be handed to their Period 1 teacher or placed in the blue bucket in the Front Office. If a student is absent for one (1) or more days without any notification to the school, an official note will be sent by the school to the parent concerned requesting the reason for absence.

Appointments
Parents are requested to make appointments for dentist, doctors, etc. after school. Sport is not considered an appropriate time for appointments.
Early Leave Pass
If students need to leave school during the day, they must bring a note requesting permission to leave school grounds. This note must be taken up to the Library before school starts in order for a permission note to be produced by the Attendance System and signed by the Library staff. On Wednesdays, notes for early leaving must be presented to the PD/Health/PE Faculty first for signature then brought to the Library. Before actually leaving school grounds, students must bring their Leave Slip back to the Library to get the actual Permission to leave School slip.

Truanting
All teachers monitor attendance during the day. Here is the school’s policy towards truanting:

Definition of Truancy:
Any loss of time from class **without** the permission of the classroom teacher for all or some of the period.

Reporting of Truants:
Any student absent from class will be reported for truanting if their name does not appear on the Daily Absence Sheet

Students are offered the opportunity to explain their reasons for missing class. If they are unable to, they will receive an after school detention. A data base of all notified truancy is kept by the Head Teacher Administration.

Contact Details
It is essential that student contact details are kept up to date. If you change your phone number, address or other details please contact the office. A change of “contact detail” slip is regularly published in the parent newsletter.

Excursion
Payments for excursions are made at the front office (Block 5). You must hand in the permission slip and medical information sheet by the due date for excursions to run smoothly and to ensure that bookings and payment can be organised.

Payment will not be accepted by the office after this date and this includes parents phoning through with credit card details after the due date. Students are made aware of this deadline. I would ask parents to support this policy as it can be upsetting when payment cannot be accepted. The office staff who are carrying out school policy, are also placed in an uncomfortable situation.

Medical Details and Excursions
The school requires medical details to be accurate. For excursions teachers need to be aware of medical issues. They take a list of these on each excursion. This information is collected on enrolment and updated as parents inform the school of any new conditions. Rather than requiring parents to fill out medical conditions each time there is an excursion parents are asked to note any changes to medical information. This only needs to be done once as details are immediately updated on the system.
Transport

How to Apply for Bus and Train Passes
Enquiries and applications for bus or train passes should be made to the Office. The applications for bus passes are processed as follows:

When completing a bus pass application at Item No 6 the nearest cross street must be mentioned, not just the road.

The application must be approved first by the school, then by the Bus Company before the pass can be issued. This means that there is always some delay, over which the school has no control. Bus passes are distributed by the school as soon as they are received from the Bus Company.

At the beginning of first term students may travel free for the first two weeks until in receipt of their bus pass.

Rules Covering Travel in Trains or Buses
The URBAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY and BUS COMPANIES sets strict rules regarding behaviour of students who are allowed free travel.

Parents and students should note that the privilege of having a free travel pass can be withdrawn at any time.

The rules are based on safety, courtesy and consideration for others. The school expects students to realise the importance of abiding by these rules. Students must wait in a safe and orderly manner, show adults full courtesy, not put themselves or others at risk and avoid noisy or disruptive behaviour. The comfort and convenience of others must be considered at all times. Bus drivers will remove from the bus any student who misbehaves. Bus drivers and railway authorities will confiscate the pass of any student whose behaviour is unsatisfactory and will return it to the Principal.

Lost Bus Passes
Students who have lost or had their bus pass stolen, need to go to Hillsbus in Boundary Road Northmead to get a replacement bus pass which will cost approximately $14.00 and will be processed over the counter.

Changing Address
An application needs to be filled in again, and when a NEW pass arrives the OLD bus pass MUST BE RETURNED before the NEW one can be issued.
School Uniform Policy

Full school uniform is compulsory. The Model Farms High School uniform promotes the school’s image in the general community. If students value themselves and the community values the school, our references and reports will be a major advantage in seeking employment. As well, uniforms are worn to promote the safety of students. If an intruder does enter the school, they will be very obvious.

It is in the best interests of the school and students alike that full school uniform be worn to school at all times. School uniforms are designed to be neat, practical and of good quality. They help a student to maintain high personal standards, high self-esteem and they help promote and enhance school pride and school tone.

Any student who must come to school out of full uniform should have a note from home. This note is handed in before school to a Head Teacher and a uniform pass issued.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senior Boys</th>
<th>Senior Girls</th>
<th>Junior Boys</th>
<th>Junior Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short sleeve white shirt</td>
<td>Short sleeve yellow blouse</td>
<td>Short sleeve blue shirt</td>
<td>Short sleeve blue blouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bear &amp; Ley Grey shorts (non</td>
<td>Long sleeve yellow blouse</td>
<td>Long sleeve blue shirt</td>
<td>Long sleeve blue blouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cargo)</td>
<td>Grey skirt</td>
<td>Bear &amp; Ley Grey shorts (non</td>
<td>Bear &amp; Ley Grey shorts (non</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Blockers (non Cargo)</td>
<td>Slacks – Winter only – tailored</td>
<td>Cargo)</td>
<td>Cargo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>(as per Uniform Shop)</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>Check skirt – Navy with pleat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School fleecy top</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>Slacks – Winter only – tailored</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior tie compulsory T2 &amp; T3</td>
<td>School fleecy top</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>(as per Uniform Shop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys blazer - Optional</td>
<td>Senior tie - Optional</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gold sports top</td>
<td>Girls blazer - Optional</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports shorts -</td>
<td>Gold sports top</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy/White/Gold</td>
<td>Sports shorts -</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White socks (plain to ankle)</td>
<td>Navy/White/Gold</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School track suit</td>
<td>White socks (plain to ankle)</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain black leather shoes/joggers</td>
<td>Panty hose - Black</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School track suit</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plain black leather</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>shoes/joggers</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
<td>School wool jumper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note: patterned jackets, coloured sloppy joes, jackets, hoodies, beanies, denim jeans or any items with visible brand names are not permitted. This includes coloured undershirts.
Grooming

Students should be encouraged to take pride in their grooming and personal appearance. Hair should be neat, clean, well brushed and well combed. Extremes of cut or styling are not appropriate and should not be worn by either boys or girls.

Uniform Pool

Parents of children who have left school can donate their uniforms to the school uniform pool. Second-hand items are also available. The Uniform Shop is on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8.10am – 9.00am.

Special Note on Footwear

Memorandum to principals – received from the Department of School Education

‘These guidelines have been prepared in response to requests for advice on safe footwear for students and staff in practical lessons – Industrial Arts, Science, Home Economics, Art and Agriculture.

Thongs, open-type sandals or shoes, canvas-type shoes and/or gym boots shall not be worn in practical classes where there is the possibility of injury through spillage of hot liquids, metals or the dropping of heavy or sharp instruments, tools etc.

While it is not possible to specify any one standard to meet all situations, shoes with a stout sole and firm leather uppers are considered necessary to protect students and staff.

Accordingly, principals, in consultation with teachers, should decide on acceptable standards of footwear for class work and explain to students and parents why these standards are necessary.

It may be necessary, on occasions, to exclude a student whose shoes do not meet these safety standards from participation in a particular aspect of practical work.’

Director-General of School Education
## Illustrative Guide to Assist in the Purchase of Acceptable School Shoes

**Acceptable Boys Shoes:**
- Black leather
- Laced or Velcro
- Upper foot protection
- Non-slip sole

**Unacceptable Boys Shoes:**
- Splashes of colour/white (shoes must be totally black, inc. shoelaces and sole)
- Canvas upper
  - E.g. Ruben’s

**Acceptable Girl’s Shoes:**
- Leather upper providing protection to the majority of the upper foot
- Laced (preferred) or strapped*(leather strap)
- Heal and sole with non-slip grip

**Unacceptable Girl’s Shoes:**
- The majority of the upper foot is unprotected.
- Smooth sole with little grip
- No/token heel
- Thin/soft leather offering little protection.

**Acceptable Sports Shoes**
- Lace up/Velcro (no slip ons)
- Covers all of the top of the foot
- Provides arch support and sole protection

**Sports Shoes**
- Unacceptable

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*Students undertaking practical based subjects need to wear lace-up shoes that protect their feet against drops and spills. O H & S requirements may result in students who are not wearing shoes with sufficient protection being excluded from some practical activities. If in doubt please purchase lace-up shoes.*

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Student Handbook – MFHS
Homework Procedures

Model Farms High School believes homework is integral to successfully achieving curriculum outcomes. The undertaking of homework consolidates and extends the skills addressed in class and enables all students to develop an independent work ethic imperative for life long learning.

Homework may take a number of forms such as completing class work, extension tasks, set assignments, assessment tasks, as well as skills and content revision.

Parents are asked to encourage students to manage their homework, but not to do the homework for their child.

Every effort will be made to recognise student commitments out of school hours when allocating homework, assignments and tests. In this regard students will normally be able to negotiate realistic homework demands with teachers.

Students should note the following:

- All students are expected to use a homework diary
- School homework will be set on a regular basis. Students are expected to complete all homework by the due date. Only in special circumstances will students be given an extension
- Teachers will regularly check that homework has been completed and give meaningful feedback as needed
- The dates for assignments will be published on the school website calendar
- The consequences of non-completion of homework may include a range of sanctions, including notification of parents, depending on the frequency and severity of the offence
- Failure to submit or attempt a scheduled assessment task in School Certificate, Preliminary or HSC courses will lead to written notification in accordance with the Board of Studies requirements
- Students in the senior school are expected to undertake increasing amounts of homework and study in order to adequately prepare for, and meet, all Board of Studies requirements. As a guide Higher School Certificate students should do at least 20 hours per week of homework and study
- Senior students undertaking assessment tasks should give these tasks priority. At any time, if completing all homework is a problem, you should see your teacher
- The school library will be available before and after school to facilitate the completion of homework
Mobile Phone and MP3/IPODS Policy

Model Farms High School recognises that many parents wish their son or daughter to carry a mobile phone. If a student brings a phone to school he/she must ensure the mobile phone is **TURNED OFF (at all times)** and **NOT USED** during school time, including lunch, recess and during sport.

Unauthorised usage of electronic devices is not permitted for any purpose, including video and audio recording. Breaches of this rule will be considered as a serious discipline issue and may lead to suspension.

The school takes no responsibility for the security of mobile phones. They are brought to school at the owner’s risk.

If parents need to contact students they are to phone the school on 9624 3133. If it is important that a parent needs to be contacted students can gain access to a phone by asking a member of staff.

The use of mobile phones at school can lead to problems such as:
- Security/theft
- Harassment
- Distraction in class
- Social division
- Cheating in exams

In accordance with Board of Studies policy, students may not have a mobile phone with them in any room where an examination is being conducted.

Repeated failure to observe the regulations in relation to mobile phones will result in after school detention.

Mobile phones used in breach of these rules will be confiscated to be collected at the end of the school day or as soon as practicable. Parents will be required to personally collect the phones of repeat offenders.

It is recommended that MP3/IPODS players not be brought to school. They are to be **TURNED OFF and NOT VISIBLE** at any time while students are on the school grounds or on a school activity such as sport. Any breach of these conditions will result in the MP3/IPOD player being confiscated to be collected at the end of the school day or as soon as practicable. Parents will be required to personally collect the MP3/IPOD players of repeat offenders.
Parent Participation

Parent participation in the School Council and the Parents and Citizens Association is encouraged.

We often have guest speakers from various faculties to outline course information and to answer your questions on homework, study and balancing school work with other activities.

P & C meetings are held at 7:30pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the Staff Common Room.

School Canteen

Model Farms High School is serviced by an efficient school canteen. Lunches may be ordered daily before school or at recess. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at recess or lunch.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

This is made up of elected representatives from each year. Students can raise questions on matters for discussion with their year representatives. The Student Representative Council gives the students a voice in the running of the school. The aim of the Council is to promote student leadership.

Junior Representative Council (JRC)

The Junior Representative Council aims to give students in Year 7 leadership opportunities. Two students from each Year 7 class are elected to the Junior Representative Council.

2016 School Term Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 1</th>
<th>TERM 2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 January to</td>
<td>Monday 26 April to</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8 April</td>
<td>Friday 1 July</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM 3</th>
<th>TERM 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 18 July</td>
<td>Monday 10 October to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23 September</td>
<td>Tuesday 20 December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*School development days occur at the beginning of Terms 1, 2 and 3 and the last two days of the school year.
School Library

**Aim:** The MFHS school library is a dynamic hub of learning where staff and students work together to find and use information. This information may be found in our large range of books, or found in cyberspace using a range of current technologies. This is a place in the school where you will be supported to develop critical thinking skills to prepare you for the challenges of 21st century learning.

**Library Guidelines for Students**

1. Four (4) books may be borrowed at a time by Junior students while Senior students may borrow six (6) items. The borrowing period is for two (2) weeks. If you need a book for longer than two (2) weeks, please just let us know and we can renew it for you.

2. The library is an open learning space. Consideration to students in other learning spaces can be shown by moving quietly around the library so that other students are not disturbed.

3. Bags are kept outside the library on bag racks. It is always good practice to keep your valuables with you so small items such as laptops may be brought with you into the library.

4. Food, drink and gum are not permitted in the Library. This rule helps to maintain the condition of our resources and to keep the library space clean for other students.

5. There are several small learning spaces in the library. These include the ‘Think Tank’ and the ‘Seminar Space’. These are used by students who need special facilities for their learning and are booked in advance with the librarian.

6. Photocopies can be made on the copier in the Library by any student before school, at recess, or at lunchtime. Each black/white copy will cost 10 cents and a colour copy 50 cents. This is done via a photocopy account set up in the library when you hand back your green form. To top-up your account go to the Library desk.
Computers are available for student use in the library. As these are in high demand, it is important to share the time with other students. Some computers are designated as ‘schoolwork only’ while others are used for recreational computer games. Students who want to complete assignments at lunchtime are given priority.

If you need any help in finding a book, the Library staff will be more than happy to help you. We are also available to assist you with research, assignment planning and information literacy skills. If you need help, just let us know.

The library is a great place to find like-minded friends and to rediscover reading. Our book displays change weekly, student recommendations are displayed on a screen and we even have a ‘Browsing Lane’ for quick selections. Make book-borrowing a habit throughout your years at MFHS.

Library Hours:

a) Before School 8:00am to 8:30am.
b) Recess Open – (except Friday)
c) Lunch Open – (except for Wednesday sport)
d) After School Open TUE and THU until 4pm

“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life. Libraries change lives for the better.”

— Sidney Sheldon
Student Acceptable Use Policy for the Internet and Email

The school’s computer network has been established for a limited educational purpose. The term “educational purpose” includes classroom activities, career development and limited high-quality self-discovery activities.

Student Internet Access:
All students will have an individual password to enable them to access Internet information, resources and email through their classroom, library, school computer labs or mini-labs.

1. Personal safety
   • You will not post or email personal contact information about yourself or other people. Personal contact information includes address, telephone, photographs, etc.
   • You will promptly disclose to your teacher or other staff any message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.

2. Security and Access
   • You will be careful not to access unacceptable Internet sites
   • You will use the Internet and email for educational purposes, not personal use
   • You will keep your password confidential and never allow another person to use your personal e-learning account

3. Illegal Activities
   • You will not attempt to gain unauthorised access to the school’s servers or to any other computer system through the school’s network
   • You will not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the school’s computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses or by any other means
   • You will never send or publish unacceptable or unlawful material or remarks, including, offensive, abusive or discriminatory comments
4. **Inappropriate Language and comments**

- You will not use obscene, profane, rude, inflammatory, threatening or disrespectful language.
- You will not engage in personal attacks nor harass (bully) another person. Harassment is acting in a manner that distresses or annoys another person.
- You will not use a DVD/CD or a USB device to play games or partake in any other non-education activity.
- You will not disrupt activities by playing games loaded off the internet.

5. **Your Responsibility**

- You have a responsibility to report inappropriate behaviour and material to your teacher
- The school has an expectation that you will use Internet and Email honestly and appropriately. Your use of the Internet can be a mirror that will show you what kind of a person you are.

**Consequences**

All present and past use of the Internet and Email services can be tracked by the school and the Department of Education. If you do something wrong there is a high probability of being caught. Inappropriate use of the Internet and email will lead to a range of sanctions which may include cancelling your account and in some cases suspension.
student welfare
Welfare

Model Farms High School is a caring, sharing, friendly and safe community. Our goal is to achieve the best possible outcomes for all students and support their wellbeing. To achieve our goal we strive to build strong relationships, create a positive and pleasant environment, and demonstrate tolerance and cooperation with high expectations for everyone in terms of:

- Behaviour
- Application
- Recognising the rights and responsibilities of others

A well organised welfare system is in place to support all students. Students are expected to accept responsibility for their actions and are provided with opportunities and strategies to improve. A Code of Behaviour is displayed in all of our classrooms to remind students of their responsibilities to themselves and others. A discipline system is in place to assist any student who is unable to meet expectations in terms of respecting the rights and responsibilities of others or who endanger the safety or wellbeing of others.

On enrolments parents enter into a partnership with the school and its staff. This partnership is based on shared responsibility and mutual respect. It aims at achieving learning and good discipline so that the school environment is both productive and harmonious. Parent contact is always encouraged and welcome.

The Welfare Program delivers a range of activities for students to support their growth and development at different stages. This is done through the implementation and delivery of workshops, guest speakers, motivational talks, forums and awareness days that promote positive social attitudes. There is a focus on WISE: Wellbeing, Internet safety, Stereotypes and Engagement addressed at year meetings, formal assemblies and in their WISE lessons, providing opportunities to set personal goals and positive values. We have a range of Mentoring programs that serve to promote personal growth and Leadership programs that allow students to develop their leadership skills. Our Year Advisers and School Counsellors also provide services for students who require additional support at school.

Model Farms High School has an Anti-bullying policy that is supported through the education of all students in the delivery of the WISE program. We engage students in talking about their behaviours towards one another and by inviting people in our community to address the affects bullying has on the community. The Welfare Team participate in the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence by recognising that we are all unique and valued individuals.
We have a network of student support at the school…

Personal success is an important aspect of a well-balanced student. Student’s achievement in various aspects of school life is recognised through:

- Merit System
- Formal Assemblies
- Presentation Breakfats
- Presentation Night
- School Newsletter
- School Website
- Facebook

Leadership opportunities are promoted at all levels and students are actively encouraged to participate. Many extra-curricular activities address a range of interests and opportunities as well. Some of these include:

- JRC and SRC
- Public Speaking
- Fame
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Peer Support
- School Band
- High Resolves
- The Helmsman Project
- Lithgow Leadership Camp
- Global Enterprise Challenge
- Australian Business Week
- Gifted and Talented Projects
- The Model Mathematician
- Peer Reading

Our school is proud of its reputation as a safe caring school. Our aim is to provide the best possible outcome for all students and to be valued members in the community.
## Welfare Program
### WISE Lessons 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Focus Area</th>
<th>Students will…</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>WISE lessons - Themes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wellbeing</td>
<td>For students to be well equipped in recognising how to stay mentally well and be aware of the support structures around them to be able to cope with any stress or anxiety they experience in their environment. They will see the benefits of developing positive relationships at school and how to build their self-esteem and resilience as part of their skills for life.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sense of Belonging</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>For students to be aware of their behaviour when online and to look at the responsibilities they have as digital citizens. They will be more aware of the affects cyber bullying has on their peers and the legal implications as a result. Information will be given on how their online activities are shared and their privacy compromised in the cyber world.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Safe Surfing</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Stereotypes</td>
<td>For students to gain an understanding of racism and discrimination in a multicultural society and the role they play in stamping out undesirable behaviours at school. They will be encouraged to accept others by respecting all cultures and in celebrating their own. The importance of friends and maintaining strong relationships will be supported and celebrated in all school activities.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Racism</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Engagement</td>
<td>For students to respect themselves and show respect to each other by focusing on the school’s core values. They will be encouraged to participate in leadership opportunities and to undertake volunteering projects. Our civic responsibility will be recognised along with future directions to become valued members in our society.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Respect (Anti-Bullying)</td>
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</table>
How to ..... Help your children have a happy day at school

Have a good start to the day

➢ Make sure your children have a good night’s sleep.
➢ Make sure you and your children get up early enough to:
  - Have breakfast
  - Get lunch ready
  - Pack a school bag
  - Get dressed
➢ Make sure your children leave in time to get to school a little early.

Be involved with school

➢ Let the school know you are interested
➢ Offer your support and help
➢ Read notes from school and reply on time
➢ Phone the school if you want information
➢ Show an interest in homework
➢ Look for good things your children are doing
➢ Attend parent/teacher, P & C and School Council meetings
➢ Read the school newsletter

Going to school is important

➢ Encourage your children to be part of school every day
➢ Keep your children home only when they are sick
➢ Advise the school of any absence
➢ See the doctor and dentist outside school

Friends are important

➢ Show an interest in your children’s friends
➢ Invite friends to come and play
➢ Encourage your children to play with other children
How to ..... Help your children with homework and study

Be interested

- Ask your children about their day at school
- Listen to what your children tell you
- Praise your children when they are successful
- If your children do not do well at something, encourage them to keep doing their best

Encourage homework and study

Insist on your child using the school homework diary

*It is especially important for high school students to have a quiet place to study.*

- Provide your children with a suitable homework and study area. This area may include:
  - A table and comfortable chair
  - Good lighting
  - School equipment such as folders, paper, pens and pencils
- Try to keep noise and distractions to a minimum. If possible, turn off the TV
- Other places to study are libraries
- Provide your children with suitable computer access e.g. the local library

Be organised

*It is important for your children to use their time effectively when studying.*

- Help your children select a regular time for studying
- Help high school students make study timetables. Encourage them to keep to the timetable
- Help your children be prepared for the next day by making sure homework is done
- Remember to set aside time for regular breaks when doing homework and study during the school week

It is important for children to have free time on weekends.
Peer Support

As part of the Welfare Program the school runs a Peer Support Program in Year 7 to facilitate a smoother entry into high school. This program aims to establish a caring and friendly environment for participating students and to provide a structure in which students are able to make responsible decisions and develop self assertive skills. The program utilises Year 11 students who have participated in leadership programs in Year 10. This helps to break down the barriers between junior and senior students by providing the new Year 7 students with a senior friend with whom they can share concerns.

YEAR 7 AIMS

- To gain a sense of security through belonging to a small intimate group, separate from class groups within the school.
- To provide a forum where students are able to discuss issues they feel important.
- To provide an opportunity to improve communication skills, self-awareness and self-esteem and cope with peer pressure.
- To provide an awareness of the similarities and differences in people and an ability to cope with these.
- To provide an opportunity to develop more caring friendships among peers.
SKILLS
The following are some of the skills developed by the Peer Support Program.
- Listening
- Discussion
- Problem solving
- Working cooperatively
- Communication
- Observing
- Values clarification
- Self expression
- Conflict resolution
- Decision making
- Role play
- Goal setting
- Stress management

VALUES AND ATTITUDES AND FEELINGS
The following are some of the values, attitudes and feelings developed by the Peer Support Program.
- Open mindedness
- Positive self esteem
- Consideration for others
- Accepting responsibility
- Value for others
- Uniqueness
- Tolerance
- Cooperation
- Sharing
- Confidence
Additional Activities

**CAREERS**
Work Experience – Year 11, Year 10, Year 9
Careers Talks – Held throughout the year mainly aimed at Years 10, 11 and 12
Visits to Careers markets Years 10 and 12
Joint Secondary Schools/TAFE (JSSTAFE)

**CREATIVE ARTS**
**Drama**
Professional Workshops
School Productions
Showcase
Sydney Drama Festival
Theatre Visits
Weaving Words – Primary Workshops
Junior Drama Ensemble

**Music**
Playing Instruments
Singing Popular Songs
Student Concerts
Listening to Different Music
Create, Compose and Music

**Visual Arts**
Photography
Visit Art Galleries
Art Exhibition (including lots of positive Public Relations for the school)
Displays around school (Foyer, Library and Corridors)
Ilford Schools Competition
Orange Blossom Festival (Art and Photography)
Art links with local Primary Schools
Visual Arts competitions on a Regional and State level
Year Book

**ENGLISH**
Debating – Year 7 – 12
English Competition
Fame at the Farms
Youth of the Year (Lions)
Talented Student Workshops
Writing Competitions
LANGUAGE
National Languages Competition
International Penfriends
Correspondence with overseas schools
Food Festivals
Excursions to Restaurants
Overseas visits
Language Camps
Year 10 Language day at Macquarie University

LIBRARY
Book Displays
Student work displays
Chess Club

MATHS
Maths Competition

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
Extra-curricula training for sporting teams
Coaching for Major Carnivals
Combined High Schools Knockout teams
Information, permission slips and often transport to approx. 30 zone and region trials in various Sports.
Lunchtime competitions

SCIENCE
Science Project (Years 7 and 10)
Australian Science in Schools Competition
Chemistry Competition
Primary Science Links

HUMAN SOCIETY AND ITS ENVIRONMENT
Excursions
M.U.N.A. Model United Nations Assembly
Metropolitan West Geography Skills Competition (Years 9 and 10)
Australian Business Week
Year 7 Geography Contest (in school)
Australian Geography Competition (Years 9 and 10)
Year 10 Commerce Businesses
TECHNOLOGY AND APPLIED STUDIES

Home Economics
Exploring Childhood (1 Unit Course in Year 11 and 12) – 2 Playgroups are established within the school
Education Week Displays
Computers used as part of design process in Design & Technology
Workskills Cookery Competition
Primary Links using student mentors
Entries in the Castle Hill Show
Minister’s Young Designers Award
Digital Club

Industrial Arts
Minister Young Designers Award
Crest Awards (HE)
Education Week displays
Annual Institute of I.A. Craft Awards
Industrial Arts Open Night

Computing Studies
Website Design Competition

Duke of Edinburgh
# BELL TIMES

## 6 Period Day: 10 Day Cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>13:25-14:13</td>
<td>13:15-14:08</td>
<td>Sport 13:00-14:40</td>
<td>13:15-14:08</td>
<td>13:15-14:08</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>14:13-15:00</td>
<td>14:08-15:00</td>
<td>14:08-15:00</td>
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<td>14:08-15:00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Roll Call is at the beginning of Period 1 (in the classroom).

### MONDAY ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are held after Period 4 each Tuesday. Senior (Years 10, 11 & 12) and Junior (Years 7, 8 & 9) run on alternating weeks. Periods on Tuesdays are 5 minutes shorter than other days to accommodate the assembly. During the weeks when the seniors or juniors are not having an assembly they are organised into Study Skills groups where there they will undertake study skills lessons, values lessons or be involved in year assemblies or presentations.
**Period 1 Assembly:** these are only held if there is a need to address all students before the beginning of a day. This usually only occurs at the start of term 1. These assemblies are signalled by 3 short bursts of the bell.
Curriculum
## COURSES AND PERIOD TOTAL FOR YEARS 7 TO 10

Model Farms High School operates on a six period day and a ten day cycle.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 7</th>
<th>Year 8</th>
<th>Year 9</th>
<th>Year 10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pd/cycle</strong></td>
<td><strong>Course</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pd/cycle</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>PD/Health/PE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>PD/Health/PE</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOTE</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>LOTE</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Technology</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Design &amp; Technology</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
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<tr>
<td>SensAbility</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rock and Water</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
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</table>

In Years 9 and 10, students do three elective courses. These are grouped together as the X-Elective, Y-Elective and Z-Elective and each group may include subjects from the following list:


* At time of printing, however may vary in 2016
Agriculture

Model Farms High School has a well stocked and functioning school farm with cattle, sheep, alpacas and different types of poultry as well as vegetable beds and orchard trees. Students can choose Agriculture as an elective subject in Years 9 and 10 as well as a senior subject in Years 11 and 12. Students are taught the skills and knowledge associated with animal and plant production and the operation of a farm. Students in Year 7 will be doing one lesson of Agriculture per fortnight as part of their Science course. (see Science information)

Background

Australia is a major exporter of agricultural products. Agriculture accounts for 37% of our export revenues. We are the world’s largest exporter of beef and wool, the second largest for mutton, and among the top wheat export.

Major crops - wheat, barley, sugar cane and fruit
Livestock - cattle, sheep and poultry

Of the top 25 exports, 21 are primary products.

Australia’s position in the southern hemisphere (away from the major sources of pollution), low population density and well educated workers who can produce high quality agricultural and horticultural products will ensure that this sector will continue to be a major source of employment.

Further training

TAFE and University. Locally, tertiary institutions at Ryde and Richmond specialise in Agriculture as does Yanco in the south west of the state.

At the Castle Hill Show in 2015:

- The Duck Eggs won
  - Best duck eggs
  - Best eggs at show
  - Best farm produce
- The Chickens won
  - Best chicken eggs
- The Bantam eggs won
  - 1st place
- The ducks and bantams came 2nd in their respective classes
- A student came 3rd in the Junior Dairy Judging
- Our School display was 3rd for school displays
Computer Education

At Model Farms High we provide students and staff with as much access as possible to our computing resources, which includes dedicated computer rooms, laptops, and wireless network access. All students are given a login to access computers and the Internet. As part of this they are provided with a networked home drive, and a cloud storage drive (google drive) to store school work. Each login is protected by a password known to the student. Teachers will ask students to submit assignments/classwork electronically by email, or uploading to an internet accessible server. Students should have a USB flash drive to back up any work created at school (minimum of 4GB recommended)

When using the school's computers, or laptops, students requested to comply with the following guidelines:

1. No food or drink to be consumed in the room with computers, or near laptops
2. Be careful around, and respect the computers, to avoid accidental damage
3. Inappropriate material should not be brought to school on USB or via the internet
4. "If it does not belong to you, don't plug it in, or pull it out"
5. Be fair to other students, and don't interfere with their computer, work, or account.
6. Wait outside a computer room until your teacher arrives

All students and their parent/carer must complete a Student Access Agreement in order to get a User ID and Password to use the school’s computer network. The Student Access Agreement outlines the conditions of use for school desktop computers, laptops and the Internet and the consequences for breaches of this policy. If a parent does not want their child to have access to the Internet at school, they must inform the school in writing.

Years 7 and 8 computing forms part of their technology courses, and all students use computers as part of core and elective subjects. Computing subjects are offered as the elective subject IST in Years 9 and 10 and a range of technology classes in Years 11 and 12. With the increased use of computers at school, students will gain a good understanding of a broad range of software and how to analyse and assess the accuracy of information. They will be very prepared for the future with an excellent set of skills.

Students are able to access computers in the Library on most days before school, during recess and lunch, and on select days after school. This access gives students access to the software they may require to complete course and homework, projects, and research information.

All Department of Education (DOE) students have access to a free download of Microsoft Office, selected Adobe software, and Microsoft Windows 7/8.1, (which can be upgraded to windows 10 via Microsoft) via the DOE student portal. These are provided for free to support the use of this software at home, or on a personal BYOD laptop.
English

The skills addressed in the English classroom are important for student success across all subjects. The English Faculty at Model Farms High School has a planned approach to the development of all the language modes enabling students to improve all forms of oral and written communication.

The English classroom concentrates on developing the skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing. Year 7 English focuses on developing student familiarity with a variety of texts needed for success throughout Years 7 and 8. These texts provide a solid foundation for the development of language. Furthermore this reinforces the understanding that reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing are skills they require beyond the classroom. Students go on to develop skills in a wide variety of literacy areas including graphic, visual and electronic literacy.

At Model Farms High School, English classwork and assignments are programmed around specific syllabus outcomes and involve the study of Australian and overseas texts. These texts may be dramatic, fictitious, autobiographical, media based and range from a wide variety of sources. Within these modules, students participate in speaking tasks, study of the electronic and other media, language and literature analysis as well as drama activities. Conference writing leading to final draft presentation is the main process for the development of sustained, structured writing of a variety of texts.

Students are assessed through a combination of assessment items and classwork. Across the form assessment tasks take place throughout the year for measuring skills in the language modes of speaking, listening, reading, writing, viewing and representing. All other assessment procedures are based on classroom performance. Homework is a regular expectation in English. Homework consolidates learning, develops skills and nurtures an independent work ethic. Students should read at night as part of their homework program.

The English Faculty at Model Farms High School offers strong extra-curricula activities in Debating, Public Speaking, Drama, writing and spelling competitions. Students can develop their computer literacy skills with access to the schools technology and assessment opportunities which encourage the use of multi media presentations.
The Home Economics Faculty works with the Industrial Arts Faculty to present the Mandatory Technology Course to Years 7 and 8.

Technology – Food and Textiles teaches problem solving using a design process.

Students will develop a design folio which documents all the stages of the design process that they go through in order to produce a product or process. The design folio is just as important as the end product which the students produce. Topic Areas covered include food, textiles and Information Technology.

Computers are a compulsory component of the subject and are also integrated into all other Home Economics subjects.

Where possible student’s work is entered into community based and state wide competitions including the: Castle Hill Show (Years 7 – 12).

Year 7 and 8 Technology students are involved in running a café at school Open Nights and act as peer mentors for Primary Links in Technology.
The HSIE Faculty offers three subjects in the Junior school - Geography in Years 7, 9 and 10; History in Years 8, 9 and 10 and elective Commerce in Years 9 and 10.

The Geography Course covers the following areas:

Year 7:
- What Geographers do, Tools Geographers Use, World Heritage Areas and Desert Areas.
- Global Change and Global Issues such as Tourism and Global Citizenship.

Years 9 and 10:
- Investigating Australia’s Identity, Changing Australian Communities and Issues such as Urban Renewal and Coastal Development.
The History Course

In Year 8 students study Ancient Civilizations such as Egypt, Greece and Rome. Then different indigenous cultures are examined including the Aztecs, American Indians and Australian Aborigines as well the popular Medieval Times.

In Year 9 and 10 students will study Australian history from 1901 up to the present. This mandatory course provides all students with knowledge and understanding about Australian History, including Citizenship Education. Topics that will be taught include: White Australia, a sporting nation, the 1960s and social changes, the Vietnam War and Australian Prime Ministers.
The Commerce Course

Commerce is an elective that can be studied in Years 9 and 10. The programs cover, The Consumer and Business, Consumer Choice, Personal Finance/Investigating, Promoting and Selling, Running a Business in Year 9, and Law and Society, Political Involvement, Employment Issues and Towards Independence in Year 10.

The Year 9 Program has two core topics.

- **Consumer Choice** – covering such areas as comparison shopping, consumer protection and how to pay for goods and services.
- **Personal Finance** – Where students learn about earning an income, spending, saving and borrowing money and managing finance.

In addition a number of Options can be studied such as:

**Investing – E Commerce:**
Buying and selling shares on the internet – students can win large prizes for themselves or the school. It uses the real stock exchange in Sydney with real prices.

**Promoting and selling:**
Helps people in retail jobs – advertising

**Running a Business** (students run their own business)
A chance to see if you have what it takes to run a business profitably or whatever other talent you may have.

Year 10 Commerce students also study two core topics:

- **Law and Society**
  Knowing your rights in many day to day situations

- **Employment issues**
  Helps in being prepared for the work force.

**Assessment Policy HSIE Years 7 – 9**

Tests – Class/Moderator 50%
Assignments 25%
Classwork 20%
Spelling 5%

100%
Industrial Arts

The Industrial Arts Department offers students an extensive range of practical courses up to both the ROSA and Higher School Certificate. Students of all abilities – boys and girls can elect from a range of subjects to meet their individual needs and interests.

Year 7 and 8 Technology

All students in Years 7 and 8 are required to do 200 hours of Technology (mandatory) over the two years. Essentially a problem solving course, Technology ensures that students achieve the following skills by the end of Year 8.

Computer Skills: Basic word processing, and computer based research skills.

Graphic Skills: Communication of ideas and plans using basic drawings and freehand sketches.

Planning Skills: Developing plans and putting them into action.

Designing Skills: Creating products to meet requirements of a design brief.

Technology Skills: Working with a variety of materials – wood, metal and plastic and safely using a variety of machines to process these materials

Presentation Skills: Oral, written and graphic.

Evaluation Skills: Assessing products, systems and environments
Years 9 and 10

Elective courses offered in Year 9 and Year 10 to the ROSA are as follows:

**Industrial Technology:**
- **(Wood)**
  A designing, planning and construction skills course using plantation timbers and the latest technology and wood working equipment.

**Industrial Technology:**
- **(Metal)**
  Also a designing, planning and construction skills course using ferrous and non-ferrous metals and modern metal working equipment and technology.

**Graphics Technology:**
A graphics course using freehand drawing, mechanical drawing and computer aided drafting (CAD). Students complete a core program in Year 9 and the first half of Year 10. Students then move into “specialist areas” called “modules”. A module equates to one terms work. Modules offered are: Architectural Drawing, Engineering Drawing, Graphic Illustration, Computer Aided Drawing.

**Industrial Technology:**
- **(Electronics)**
  An exciting course in which students study how electronic components work, students construct functional products, ranging from flashing lights, electronic bugs to sound activated switches.

**Student Achievement**
The following components are used in calculating student achievement.

- Classwork practical component
- Assignment/folio component
- Major project work component
- Exam/test component

**Staff**
Considered one of the most experienced and qualified Industrial Arts staff in the state, staff take pride in giving attention to individual student progress AND WORK HARD TO HELP STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR PERSONAL BEST. Major projects completed for the HSC are of an exceptionally high standard with excellent results.
What will I Learn?

At Model Farms High School you will do LOTE as a two year course which will fulfil the 100 hour requirement for your ROSA.

This compulsory language course introduces you to French and Japanese in Year 7. In Year 8 you concentrate on one language of your choice.

By the end of Year 8 you will have learnt to speak and write about everyday situations, read simple passages, listen to songs, understand the spoken language on the topics studied, and learn about life in other countries.

In LOTE, you will also have fun cooking, making posters, role-playing, singing, watching videos, reading magazines, getting a pen-pal, planning for future travel, meeting or becoming an exchange student. At the end of this two year period you can then elect to continue your LOTE study through to the ROSA and even on to Year 12 and the HSC.

Assessment in LOTE is based upon regular topic tests, classwork, homework, assignments and a book mark.

Remember MULTI LINGUAL is MULTI TALENTED!!!!!!!
Maths

Mathematics is a search for patterns and relationships. This search utilises acquired knowledge and skills and leads to the development of concepts and generalisations which can be applied in finding solutions to problems, improving our understanding of the world around us and meeting the specific needs of people.

Mathematics is a way of thinking which is supported by processes such as exploring, manipulating, discovering, ordering, classifying, generalising, abstracting, estimating, calculating, describing, deducing, drawing and measuring.

Mathematics is a powerful, precise and concise means of communication used to represent, to interpret, to explain and to predict.

Mathematics is a creative activity and may involve invention, intuition and discovery.

All recent revisions of mathematics courses have included increased emphasis on problem-solving in all content areas. Students are encouraged to compete in the Australian Mathematics Competition (held in July/August each year).

In all courses, homework is an integral part of the learning process and students will be set regular homework activities. These will vary from time to time and may include completion of an activity from the day’s lesson, work from a different activity or worksheet, research for an investigation or preparation for a test. A student who encounters difficulty with homework will need to approach their maths teacher for assistance and advice at the earliest opportunity.

Note: Our cyclic timetable will have some days each fortnight where there will be no maths lesson so there will not always be maths homework set for each day of the week. We have a homework policy that involves both teachers and parents in the supervision and tracking of maths homework.
Years 7 and 8:

The content of the Course in these years is divided into four major topic strands: Working Mathematically, Number & Algebra, Measurements & Geometry and Statistics & Probability. The textbooks we use in Years 7 and 8 are the Signpost or New Century textbook series. These are supplemented, from time to time, with material and activities from various other sources.

A special Stationery Pack is available for purchase by new Year 7 students. This includes a grid book (to be used as the mathematics exercise book) and a geometrical instruments kit. The grid layout of the pages (5mm squares) makes it easier to draw diagrams which require parallel lines or right angles, number lines and number planes, and to set out work in neat and easily read columns.

**Note:** All students are required to have a hand calculator for mathematics throughout their secondary school years and these are available for purchase from the Uniform Shop.

Mathematics classes are graded in Year 8 according to students’ achievements in Year 7. Assessments in both years are calculated from a combination of common tests, assignments, and Half Yearly and Yearly exams. Students in Year 7 will attend the “World of Maths” incursion in Term 1.

Years 9 and 10:

There is a set of new syllabi in operation based on a ‘level’ of achievement. As with the junior courses, the core content is divided into four strands Working Mathematically, Number & Algebra, Measurements & Geometry and Statistics & Probability. Students will also work on several “Option Topics” and Themes during these two years. The mathematics covered in the different courses varies “in mathematical abstraction, depth of treatment and practicality” in order to cater for students with a wide range of learning needs.

Problem-solving is now a major aspect of mathematics in all Year 9-10 Courses. In addition to the core work and Option Topics, students will take part in mathematical investigations, many of which will involve working in groups and writing up a detailed personal report. Assessment is calculated from a combination of topic tests, assignments and investigations, Half Yearly and Yearly exams.

Students are graded into the courses according to their achievements by the end of Year 8. Some regrading may be carried out by the end of Term 1 or early in Term 2 but, overall, the classes continue through to the end of Year 10.
Music

**IN CLASS**

The music curriculum offered at Model Farms offers students a wide-ranging and comprehensive experience in this subject in an active and well resourced department. Students get to develop their musical talents in a practical, skills-based program.

In class we:

- **Perform** – singing, keyboard (regular lessons), drums, guitar, plus any other instruments that make our classwork sound good.

- **Listen** – to a wide range of music to help us understand how performers, composers and songwriters create their art. Also we use computers to help us with our aural skills (regular lessons – experienced students can be accelerated in this area).

- **Learn** – about how musical instruments work (have a go at making our own), different styles of music (from rock to the symphony) and the role music plays in other cultures. We also use our regular computer lessons to help us understand music theory (experienced students can be accelerated in this area).

Students have the opportunity to participate in performances such as “Fame”, musical, choir and rock bands.
PD/Health/PE

KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING
By the end of the Year 7 course students will understand more about themselves and will know more about the sorts of things that can affect their health.

Areas of study may include-

**Theory**
* towards better health
* fitness for life
* understanding ourselves
* decision making
* food for life
* family and friends
* water safety and survival

**Practical**
* basic skills
* cross country
* athletics
* dance
* gymnastics
* netball
* football
* fitness
* minor games

ESSENTIAL SKILLS
Students will improve their lifestyle through the many positive learning activities that take place in both theory and practical lessons. Students will be able to make informed decisions regarding their lifestyle and methods of adopting a healthier lifestyle. Students will improve their physical fitness and skills through a variety of practical lessons.

ATTITUDES AND VALUES
At the end of the course students will value a healthy lifestyle and will appreciate the necessary steps needed to be taken to achieve a healthier lifestyle.

ASSESSMENT
The course is assessed as follows:
PD/Health – 50% (involves Bookwork/Assignment and Exams)
PE – 50% (involves Participation/Effort/Skills/Organisation)
Science

Science is compulsory in Years 7 – 10 and junior students at Model Farms High School follow the same course topics with optional extension work provided for more capable students. Gifted and Talented is established in each year and all other students are placed in unstreamed regular classes. Each year completes the following topics:

STAGE 4

YEAR 7
1 Scientists In The Making
2 What’s the Matter?
3 Being Alive
4 Sedimentary My Dear Watson
5 Separating Mixtures
6 Sort It Out
7 The Earth in Space

YEAR 8
1 Elements, Compounds and Mixtures
2 It’s Not Easy Being Green
3 Magnets and Sparks
4 Body Systems 1
5 Body Systems 2
6 Energy All Around
7 Chemical Changes
8 Forces

STAGE 5

YEAR 9
1 Chemical Reactions 1
2 Coordination and Reproduction
3 Waves & Electromagnetic Spectrum
4 Rocky Road
5 Chemical Reactions 2
6 Diseases
7 Ecosystem 1

YEAR 10
1 The Scientific Method
2 Genetics and Biotechnology
3 Motion
4 Chemical Reactions 3
5 The Shocking World
6 Evolution
7 The Universe
8 Global Issues
The school is well equipped with 8 science laboratories and practical work forms an essential component of student experiences. Each laboratory has a computer connected to the school network for in-class use.

Assessment is done “across the year” with each year having 4 assessment tasks per semester. These tasks include topic tests, practical tests, skills test and literacy tests. Students in Years 7 and 10 also carry out an individual practical research project that forms part of the yearly assessment. For example Year 7 student projects included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which lip gloss lasts longer?</th>
<th>What type of ball goes further?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which sponge soaks up the most water?</td>
<td>Music and its affect on human behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrosion investigations</td>
<td>The affect sunlight has on algae growth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are encouraged to enter state wide competitions such as the University of NSW Science Competition and the RAC Chemistry Competition. Many other opportunities are available to science students throughout the year e.g. Forensic Science Event, Genetics Presentation, CSIRO visit.

All students are expected to be fully prepared for each lesson – a notebook, pen, pencil, ruler and rubber are essential.

Safety in Science is a priority, and all students are instructed in correct laboratory behaviour and practical procedures with this in mind. Students must purchase and use safety glasses when required in practical lessons.

Within Science, students in Year 7 also study Agricultural Technology for one period a fortnight. This provides them with an introduction to an elective topic that is available in Years 9 and 10. Topics covered in Year 7 include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparing soil for planting</th>
<th>Animal and cattle care and handling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harvesting plants</td>
<td>Poultry care and handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using farm machinery safety</td>
<td>Growing plants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students who are interested in Science may extend their Science studies into the senior years. Physics, Chemistry and Biology have run successfully for many years in Years 11 and 12, although establishment of senior subjects always depends on demand. Senior Science and Earth & Environmental Science are also currently available in the senior years.
Special Religious Education - Scripture

My name is Matt Daly and I am the Chaplain/SRE teacher at Model Farms.

Scripture
Under the authority of CCCA, a local churches association (12 churches from multi denominations including Catholic) scripture is offered to all students in years 7 to 10. Year 7 have scripture (SRE) once a fortnight. The aim of scripture is to allow students to understand the importance of showing love, care, respect for themselves and others through the teachings of the Bible and the life of Jesus. This is taught in such a way that it is mindful and respectful to those students who either have other religious views or no views at all. Through the year, students will be taught lessons based on showing respect for people and the environment, what it means to be a trustworthy person and how to stand up to what is right. Other issues that young teenagers face that will be taught are: peer pressure, bullying and being tempted to do the wrong thing. These lessons will encourage the students to live productive, beneficial lives to make our world a better place.

At the beginning of each year all junior students at MFHS are placed into a scripture class. If you do not want your child to participate in scripture lessons at the beginning of each and every year a note must be supplied to Mr Daly indicating your preference for non-scripture. Students attending non-scripture are to report to the library during scripture periods to complete private study. This may comprise of catching up on missed work, completing homework and assignments or quiet reading.

Chaplaincy
The Chaplaincy program has a focus on student wellbeing. The Chaplain within a school provides support for students who may feel upset, stressed about life at school or life in general. A Chaplain also works closely with the school welfare team and councillors to provide help for students who may be struggling with various issues.

A Chaplain will provide any religious needs to students regardless of their religion, for example finding a room for Muslim students to pray if they feel the need to.

The Chaplain and the welfare team will start a new exciting program in 2014 with year 8 students, called Rock and Water. This is a world-wide program that helps students gain self-confidence, awareness and identity. The Rock and Water program is based on a simple self-defence, boundary and communication exercises to a strong notion of self-confidence. The program offers a framework of exercises and ideas to assist boys and girls to become aware of the purpose and motivation in their life. Topics include: intuition, body language, mental strength, empathic feeling, positive feeling, positive thinking and positive visualising. Discussion topics include bullying, sexual harassment, homophobia, life goals, desires and following an inner compass.
Visual Arts

What will I learn?
Art is a creative subject where you have the opportunity to communicate visually your feelings, thoughts and how you see the world. You will learn to use a range of Art materials and make your own imaginative artwork. Through your art you will experiment, explore and respond. Art encourages you to discuss and form personal opinions about the work of artists, your own work and the work of fellow students.

Art is challenging and also lots of fun

What will I do?
Making Art – introduces you to different techniques – painting, drawing, collage, printmaking, sculpture and claywork. You will make many Artworks, some taking a single lesson, others a few weeks. Through your Art studying you will develop an understanding of how different artworks are made and how artworks can tell us about the society it came from the artist’s world. You will also learn how to write about art using a variety of text types. In Years 7 and 8 both your surroundings and imagination will be used to make your Art! Collecting ideas, photographs, drawings and information about these things is done in your Visual Arts Process Diary. The VAPD is kept by all students in both the junior and senior school.

What homework will I do?
Homework is given regularly in art. It allows you to practise the skills and techniques learnt in class. At times you will also be asked to make drawings or collect things at home which will assist with your artworks being done at school. During Years 7 and 8 you will be given assignments, although some class time is allocated for this they will need to be completed and collated at home.

How will I be assessed?
You will be assessed at the end of each semester by your teacher and your report will indicate your achievements and progress.
Work to be assessed would include:
- Visual Arts Process Diary
- Art Works
- Assignments and written work
- Digitally Generated works