



# **NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTRE**

## **20 WEEK INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM HANDBOOK**



**2024**

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## Introduction

Welcome!

The Northcote High School English Language Centre is an intensive English language learning program located at the school that begins in January or July and concludes in July or December each year. Students are offered a twenty week course (two terms) in an Australian high school where they are given the opportunity to develop their English language skills, share cultural understandings and familiarise themselves with a mainstream Australian school environment in preparation for further study with us. Students participate in a full timetable of academic subjects and engage in a program that is designed to, not only prepare them for academic life, but to encourage their social and emotional development and immersion in Australian culture. Your child will interact with local students, International Students from other cultures, members of the wider school community and they will embark on an academic program that will prepare them for entry into Year 10 or 11 the next semester or following year.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child.

Please refer to this handbook for information regarding the program. If you have further questions, there is a Contacts list on page 9 of this booklet.



## Curriculum Outline

Your child will study a full year 9/10 program at the English Language Centre on campus at Northcote High School. They will study as an ELC group in English, Tutorial, Community and Cultural Engagement and Physical and Personal Development. They may be mixed with students from the mainstream Year 9/10 program for the rest of their subjects or they may complete studies in other subjects with other students from the ELC. Students may also study another LOTE (a language other than English) in Year 10. This may be Chinese, Vietnamese or their own first language. The School also offers French, Italian and Greek, but an ELC student would only study one of these in Year 10 **in exceptional circumstances**.

- English 8 periods
- Maths (at Year 10 level) 4 periods
- Food, Design and Technology or Performing Arts 4 periods
- Physical and Personal Development 4 periods
- Science 4 periods
- Enrichment (student choice) 2 periods
- Connect 2 periods x 30 minutes

Below is an example of what a typical ELC student week will look like.

Period/Day	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
1 commencing at 8.55am	Science	English	Maths	English	Visual Art
2	Maths	English	Maths	English	Visual Art
<b>Break</b>					
3a		Connect			Connect
3	Visual Art	Science	Community, Health and Physical Education	English	Maths
<b>Lunch</b>					
4	Community, Health and Physical Education	Visual Art	English	Science	Community, Health and Physical Education
5 finishing at 3.10pm (finish times vary)	Community, Health and Physical Education	Enrichment	English	Science	English

## Reporting and Assessment

### Subject Assessment

Students in the ELC will complete a minimum of three (3) assessments per subject for the Semester. In Years 9 and 10, these are known as **CATs (Common Assessment Tasks)** and your child will complete the same CAT as all other students in the subject if it is a subject integrated with the local students at Year 9 or 10. CATs may be:

- An essay
- A test
- A research project
- A performance or oral presentation
- A product (i.e. an artwork, sculpture, etc.)
- A portfolio ( a number of separate items assessed as one)
- An examination, etc.

**Please note:** ELC students will **not** complete CATs in the Health and Physical Education subject area.

In VCE (subjects usually studied in Year 11 and 12), the assessments are known as **SACs (School Assessed Coursework)**. It is possible that a student may complete a VCE subject when they are in Year 10 but **not** when they are in the ELC.

All assessments, results and teacher feedback comments, will appear on Compass, which is an online program that our school uses internally. As a result, you and your child will access them digitally.

### Reports

Students in the ELC will receive regular reports throughout the Semester. Reports will consist of:

- **LBRs (Learning Behaviour) Reports.** These reports are published once a term (twice a Semester) and provide feedback on your child's progress in the subject classroom.
- **End of Semester Reports.** These reports provide feedback on your child's CAT scores and their general progress in the subject. Results are given as S (satisfactory) or N (not satisfactory) for CATs.

### Feedback

Students will receive regular feedback, both oral and written on their class work during the Semester.

## Subject Selection

A few weeks after your child enters the ELC, they will need to complete their subject selections to enter their next year of study at Northcote High School. For some students this may be Year 11 (VCE) but for most it will be Year 10.

Subject selection takes place over a number of weeks and leads to the student making their subject choices digitally on a dedicated website. For a Year 10 program, students are required to choose from a number of subject areas. These are:

- Health and Physical Education
- English/EAL (English as an Additional Language)
- Humanities or LOTE (Languages other than English)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Art/Food/Performing Arts/Design
- Enrichment (student choice from a range of options)

Student choices should be based on a number of factors, not just which courses they may wish to enter at tertiary level. They should also consider their interests and ability. Your child will work with their tutor, classroom teachers and the Careers Advisor, Ms Karen Burgess, to make appropriate choices and ensure future pathway aspirations remain open.

## Advancement

In some instances, it may be possible for a student to choose a subject in Year 10 that is normally studied at Year 11 (Unit 1 and 2) as part of the VCE, or for a VCE student to study a Year 12 subject at Year 11. For this to occur, students will need to apply during the subject selection process and may be required to show evidence that they are likely to experience success through a combination of:

- Recommendations from their current classroom teacher in that subject area
- Formal assessment/s or testing to measure knowledge and understanding and, therefore, the potential to succeed
- GPA evidence of motivation, organisation and academic potential
- Good attendance
- Strong literacy capability in English

Advancement is not considered 'fast-tracking' but is about the quality of achievement likely for the student. Again, students should consider seeking the advice of their tutor, classroom teachers and NHS Careers Advisor, before making any decisions regarding advancement to prepare them for tertiary courses.



## Co-curricular Opportunities

At Northcote High School, many opportunities exist to support, challenge and enrich the ELC student beyond the academic program. These may include access to:

- Public speaking and debating events
- Sporting and other recreational activities
- Lunchtime and after-school clubs, e.g. Art, reptile and anime clubs.
- Music and other performance options, e.g. the annual School theatre production
- Excursions and incursions (talks, visits, performances in school and outside the school)

In later years, once ELC students move into the mainstream school in Year 10 or 11, they will be able to participate in other activities and experiences such as:

- Leadership roles at a Year Level, in Sport and in Music.
- International and Australia-wide Camps

Activities such as these promote and encourage ELC students to connect with local students at NHS and the broader school and surrounding community.

## Student Wellbeing

It is important to recognise that the School is also devoted to supporting your child to have a healthy mind and body. With this in mind, there is a dedicated team of professionals in our Student Services team who can provide extra care and attention if it is required. The team is led by our Head of Student Services with her staff of Wellbeing professionals including counsellors and a School Nurse.

*Below: Year 10 camp to Parliament House in Canberra*



*Above: Pet Therapy organised by our Student Wellbeing team*

## Glossary of Key Terms

**Advancement:** when a student completes a subject at least one (1) year ahead, e.g. Unit 1 Maths Methods in Year 10 (normally completed in Year 11).

**ATAR:** Australian Tertiary Admission Rank. This is an Australia-wide ranking that each student who completes the VCE examinations will obtain. It will allow them to enter courses at tertiary institutions in Australia.

**AusVELS:** the curriculum standards that students are assessed against in Year 10.

**CAT/CATs:** common assessment tasks. Each student in a class of a subject will complete the same tasks, i.e. a Mathematics CAT will be completed across all classes completing year 10 Maths.

**Compass:** the digital portal that Northcote High School parents, students and staff use to collate information useful to the daily running of the school. Compass is also used to publish student reports.

**ELC:** English Language Centre. A program at Northcote High School where students are immersed in a typical secondary school whilst studying English intensively. The ELC program begins in July and concludes in December of each year. It is completed in one Semester (20 weeks).

**House:** All students are allocated a 'House' or team that includes students from Years 7-12. Students participate in House sport days and other team building activities.

**LBRs:** Learning Behaviour Reports. These are progress reports that are completed and published twice a Semester on Compass and will give an indication of your child's performance in the class room.

**Microsoft Teams:** a learning management system that students and staff use to document courses, assessment and feedback. This will be available to students once they are enrolled.

**SAC/SACs:** school assessed coursework. These VCE assessment tasks are completed in school and marked by the teacher of that subject.

**Tertiary:** education beyond secondary schooling, e.g. university, TAFE.

**Timetable:** a student's daily/weekly/fortnightly class schedule

**Tutorial:** a class that forms the basis of the NHS Connect program. Two days a week, students meet for 29 minutes after recess with their Connect teacher to share the school news of the day, upcoming events in the school calendar or to complete administrative tasks such as subject selection, etc.

**VCE:** Victorian Certificate of Education. Students who satisfactorily complete year 11 and 12 in Victorian schools will receive this certificate.



## Contacts and Support

If you have more questions about the ELC, please see the people (below) at Northcote High School who can provide you with further information.

### People at Northcote High School

Ms Jocelyn Hill                      Director of Global Education                      +61 3 9488 2334  
[Jocelyn.Hill@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:Jocelyn.Hill@education.vic.gov.au)

Northcote High School Reception                      +61 3 9488 2300

## Digital Links

You can also access some information via the school website such as booklists, uniform requirements, etc. This website is available to external users outside of the school community.

[www.nhs.vic.edu.au](http://www.nhs.vic.edu.au)                      Northcote High School website

<https://nhs-vic.compass.education/>                      School Intranet

This website (above) **will only be available** to access once your child has started at the ELC. Your child's timetable and other important information will be found here. Parents and students will be provided with a unique log-in code to access this site.