

MOUNT LAWLEY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Course Information Handbook for Year 9 in 2026



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Upper School Building

YEAR 9

Year 9 is an exciting stage of secondary schooling as students start to be afforded more choice in what they study. It is time for Year 8 students to indicate their preferences for the elective courses they would like to undertake in Year 9 in 2026.

COMPULSORY COURSES

All Year 9 students will study the following year long courses:

- English (4 periods per week)
- Health Education (1 period per week)
- Humanities and Social Sciences (4 periods per week)
- Languages (2 periods per week)
- Mathematics (4 periods per week)
- Physical Education (2 periods per week)
- Science (4 periods per week)

Year 9 students undertake a common course in English, Science and HASS. Students who consistently perform well above the achievement standard in Terms 1-3 of Year 8 in one or more of these subjects earn a place in the English, Science and/or HASS Academic Enrichment courses in Year 9.

There are three Mathematics courses in Year 9 – Mathematics Standard, Mathematics Advanced and Mathematics Academic Enrichment. All Year 9 Students are placed in a Mathematics course according to their learning needs, as evidenced by their prior performance in Terms 1-3 in Year 8 Mathematics.

In Year 9, students will be completing differentiated assessments according to the course they have been placed in. Each course has a slightly different focus based on the *Western Australian Curriculum Judging Standards* as indicated below.

Academic Enrichment	Students are mostly working at the A grade standard.
Advanced Mathematics	Students are mostly working at the B grade standard and some are aiming at the A grade standard.
Standard Mathematics	Students are mostly working at the C grade standard and some are aiming at the B grade standard.

Year 9 students will continue to study the Language they have studied in Years 7 and 8 through to the end of Year 10 (Italian, French, Chinese, Japanese or Korean), unless they are eligible for, and are currently enrolled in, Literacy Support.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Year 9 students (except Specialist Program students) will study two semester long courses from The Arts and two semester long courses from Technologies. Year 8 students are invited to indicate their preferences for these elective courses. Every effort will be made to place students according to their preferences.

The Arts	Technologies
Drama	Design and Technologies
Media	Digital Technologies
Music	
Visual Arts	

SPECIALIST PROGRAMS

Gifted and Talented Languages Program

The Gifted and Talented (GAT) Languages program is a select entry, specialist program commitment from Year 7 through to the end of Year 10.

Year 9 GAT Languages students will be timetabled together in Academic Enrichment courses for either Italian or Chinese as well as English, Science and HASS. Year 9 GAT Languages students will have an additional two Period 0 classes (7.35am - 8.35am) per week to facilitate their specialist Languages program.

There are three Mathematics courses in Year 9 – Mathematics Standard, Mathematics Advanced and Mathematics Academic Enrichment. Year 9 GAT Languages students are placed in the Year 9 Mathematics course most aligned with their learning needs, as evidenced by their prior Mathematics performance in Terms 1-3 of Year 8.

The GAT Languages program does not impact elective courses. Year 8 GAT Languages students are invited to indicate their preferences for the two Arts and two Technologies elective courses they would like to study in Year 9 ; unless they are also a Music student in which case Music will become two of their four choices.

Specialist Visual and Performing Arts Program

The Specialist Visual and Performing Arts (SVAPA) program is a select entry, specialist program commitment from Year 7 to the end of Year 9.

There is no need for SVAPA students to submit elective course preferences. SVAPA students will be automatically enrolled in Specialist Music, Specialist Drama and Specialist Visual Arts/Media as their elective courses in Year 9. These exclusive electives are the culmination of their SVAPA learning journey and are not available to other Year 9 students.

In Year 9, SVAPA students are no longer placed together as a class for Mathematics, English, HASS and Science. This is because by Year 9, SVAPA students benefit from being placed in the courses most aligned to their individual learning needs.

Music Program

The Music program commitment is from Year 7 to the end of Year 9, with an option to continue from Year 10. Year 9 Music program students will be enrolled in the year long Music course as two out of four of their elective courses. Year 8 Music students have a customised Subject Selection Online process and need to choose two additional elective courses, one of which must be from the Technologies learning area.

SUBMITTING YOUR ELECTIVE COURSE PREFERENCES FOR YEAR 9 IN 2026

Parents/Carers and students should undertake the online process together.

1. Read the descriptions in this booklet for each elective course on offer.
2. Follow the instructions in *How to submit your elective course preferences for Year 9 in 2026* published on the Mount Lawley Senior High School website <https://www.lawley.wa.edu.au/view/information/course-handbooks>
 - In Subject Selection Online reset your password and login using your student email address
 - Select your elective course preferences from the drop down menus
 - Enter your 'Parent Pin' to have your Parent/Carer authorise your choices.
 - Print and have both student and parent sign a copy of your *Elective Course Selection Report*
 - Hand in your signed *Elective Course Selection Report* to your Form Teacher

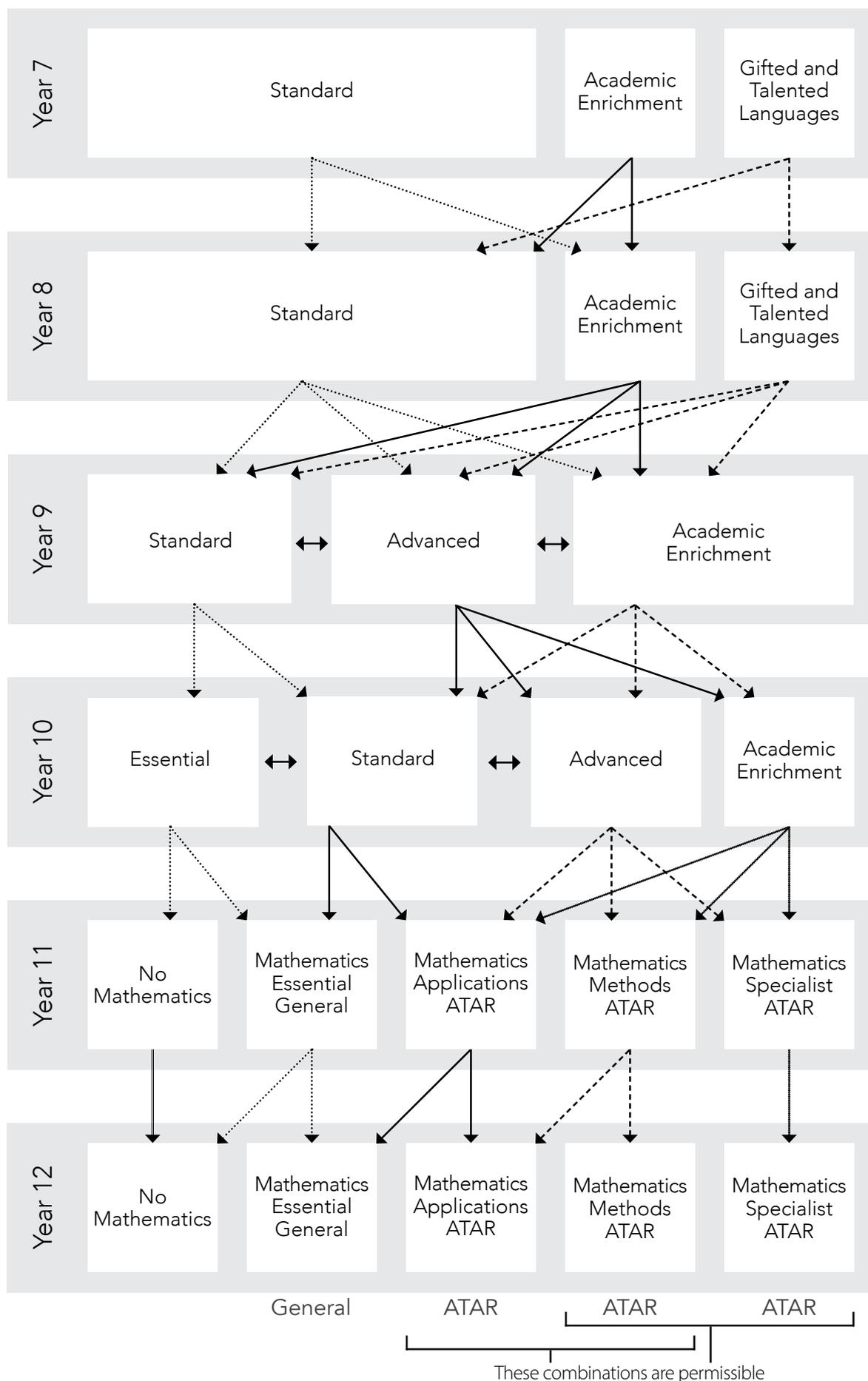
If you have any difficulties with this process, contact the Upper School office on 9265 1543 or email mountlawley.shs.upperschooladmin@education.wa.edu.au

Every effort will be made to place students into their most preferred courses. The timetable is created based on student demand for courses. Due to the complexities in the construction of the timetable it may be necessary for some students to be enrolled in courses that are ranked lower in their preferences so please indicate your ranked preferences and reserves with careful consideration. Once the grid is created, there is limited ability for students to move classes due to change of mind.

COURSE CHANGE REQUESTS

Course changes outside of the elective course preference process are not guaranteed. *Course Change Request Forms* are available in hard copy from the Upper School office or online at <https://www.lawley.wa.edu.au/view/upper/upper-school> and can be submitted back to the Upper School office once signed by a parent. Course change requests need to be received by the Upper School office by the end of the term (Week 9) before the course starts. Course change requests received during school holiday periods or once a course has begun are rarely able to be accommodated.

MATHEMATICS PATHWAYS FLOWCHART



ELECTIVE COURSES



The ARTS

The following courses are on offer in The Arts learning area:

DRAMA	Acting 101	9DRAA	Semester course
	High School Musical	9DRAB	Semester course
MEDIA	Film & Television Production	9MEDA	Semester course
	Advertising and Audiences	9MEDB	Semester course
VISUAL ARTS	Expressive Arts	9ARTA	Semester course
	Creative Design	9ARTB	Semester course
MUSIC*	Music	9MUSA	Year Course
	Music	9MUSB	Year Course
SVAPA*	Visual Arts/Digital Media	9VAMSV	Semester course
	Drama	9DRASV	Semester course
	Music	9MUSSV	Year Course

* Specialist Program Commitment Years 7-9

DRAMA

There are two courses on offer for students interested in studying Drama in Year 9.

Acting 101 (9DRAA)

Now it's time for *proper* acting: You know, the type that makes money. We're going to use acting techniques to dig deeper into characters, using the same rehearsal processes as Heath Ledger, Robert De Niro and Margot Robbie. It will involve close study of films (yes, we'll be watching films!) and rehearsing film scripts to present believable, realistic characters. If you want to go to Drama school and make money, Step One is Acting 101.



High School Musical (9DRAB)

Are you "through with playing by the rules of someone else's game"? Then make sure you're in "The Room Where It Happens"!



This is a call out to anyone who loves a big show with flashy costumes, sharp dance moves and crazy stories. This course delivers all the fun of a Broadway musical without the requirements to be a triple threat. Absolutely no singing or dancing experience necessary, just a willingness to come and have fun, and "get'cha head in the game".



All that work and what does it get you? The best semester of high school ever!

MEDIA

There are two courses on offer for students interested in studying Media in Year 9.

Film and Television Production (9MEDA)

This course looks at both commercial and streamed Television Drama shows that have been produced to target a teen audience. You will analyse how the narrative is constructed, filmed, edited and ultimately produced. The course will give you the opportunity to script and produce your own original pilot for a TV Drama. You will create storylines and characters as well as utilise techniques associated with production – both filming and editing.

Advertising and Audiences (9MEDB)

This course looks at how we as consumers are persuaded to purchase a product. You will investigate advertising techniques in both Commercial and Non-Commercial Advertising and look at how powerful a medium advertising is. This will also be explored through our study of Film Trailers, where you will consider how different film genres create quite different trailers. You will produce your own digital Advertisement for an original product as well as a Film Trailer for a specific genre of movie.



VISUAL ARTS

There are three courses on offer for students interested in studying Visual Arts in Year 9.

Expressive Arts (9ARTA)

Are you interested in becoming an artist? If so, our course is perfect for you! You'll learn how to use space and composition just like the great artists of the past. With this knowledge, you'll be able to create your own contemporary art styles that express your unique vision.

This is a hands-on course that uses a variety of drawing and painting tools. You'll learn how to use different materials and techniques to create original artworks that showcase your creativity. We'll focus on developing your skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, 3D sculptures and ceramics. So, if you're ready to unleash your inner artist and create something amazing, this course is for you! Join us and let's make art together!



Creative Design (9ARTB)

Hey, are you looking to take your drawing skills to the next level? Then you'll definitely want to check out our course on contemporary illustration and graphic communication!

In this course, you'll learn how to create amazing illustrations that are perfect for everything from T-shirts and postcards to labels and other commercial products. We'll show you how to use both traditional and digital media to create images that are packed with detail and colour, and that really grab people's attention.

Our course is all about the design process – you'll learn how to generate awesome ideas and then communicate them visually in ways that are both creative and functional. We'll cover everything from typography to urban art, fashion, comic art, digital arts, stencil printing, and design for industry. So, if you're ready to turn your drawings into eye-catching designs that people will love, sign up for our course today! Let's get creative together!

Digital Arts (9ARTC)

Dive into Digital Arts and explore your personal art style. Are you fascinated by the endless possibilities of digital creativity? If so, our Digital Arts course is your gateway to a world where imagination knows no bounds! In this exciting course, we'll guide you through the realm of digital expression, where pixels become your paintbrush and screens your canvas.

From mastering digital drawing techniques to harnessing the power of creative tools, we'll equip you with the skills to bring your wildest ideas to life in stunning detail and with personal style. Whether you dream of crafting realistic illustrations, or designing character animations, or delving into the realm of improving your personal sketching style, this course is your playground for design innovation.

This program provides opportunity to use both traditional and digital learning tools that provide a foundation for developing drawing skill and confidence and leads to future studies in senior school including GENERAL and ATAR courses.

Learn to draw like a digital master and create artworks that reflect your artistic style!



MUSIC *Specialist Music Program Students Only

Music (9MUSA/9MUSB)

Students in the Music program continue to develop their musicianship, with greater independence and creative freedom. Students hit the ground running. Starting with song writing skills, they get the opportunity to construct, record and experiment with all music elements in finding and developing their own voice. Listening to some of the best storytellers of all time, students will learn to tell their own stories through music.

The Music program is a specialist program commitment from Year 7 to the end of Year 9. Students have the option to continue with Music from Year 10. Students in the Music Program study musicianship during the day in Semester 1 and 2. Music students also receive instrumental music lessons, participate in ensembles and bands and perform for a range of school community audiences.

SVAPA *Specialist Visual and Performing Arts Students Only

There are three compulsory courses for students culminating their SVAPA program. The Specialist Visual and Performing Arts (SVAPA) program is a specialist program commitment from Year 7 to the end of Year 9. Year 9 SVAPA students study Music for the year and Drama and Visual Arts/Digital Media courses for a semester each.

Drama (9DRASV)

Year 9 SVAPA students undergo workshops, provocations and discourse on the nature of theatre and live performance. Students are exposed to ensemble theatre and devising, as well as multidisciplinary performance contexts.

Simulating industry standards and expectations, students write a grant, go through a mentoring feedback program, manage a budget and, produce and perform their own shows to the public.

Music (9MUSSV)

Year 9 SVAPA Music retains the academic rigour of the general music course, however, extends the students through cultural investigation and creative production. Students are asked to question the purpose, aesthetic and importantly the moral implications of artistic choices. This course also offers the SVAPA students the opportunity to integrate music into various contexts with other arts in their final SVAPA production.

9VAMSV - Visual Arts/Digital Media

The Year 9 SVAPA Visual Arts course explores the links between traditional and digital media to explore the ways that contemporary artists have examined issues affecting the world today. Students create digital installations, photography, paintings, drawings and assemblages that examine their environment and our impact on it. These exclusive Elective courses are the culmination of their SVAPA learning journey.

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TECHNOLOGIES

The following courses are on offer in the Technologies Learning Area:

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGIES	Dimensional Design (Prototyping)	9D&TA	Semester course
	Food Fundamentals	9HECA	Semester course
	Materials Design	9D&TB	Semester course
	Textile Technology	9HECB	Semester course

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES	Applied Information Technology	9AIT	Semester course
	Computer Science	9CSC	Semester course
	Robotics	9ROB	Semester course

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGIES

There are four courses on offer for students interested in studying Design and Technologies in Year 9.

Dimensional Design - Prototyping (9D&TA)

In this course students will develop skills in 2D and 3D CAD software (AutoCAD and Fusion) to produce solid modelling drawings that control the rapid prototyping machinery of the modern world. Students will problem solve, design, and produce solutions using the design process to realise their designs. This course has a jewellery making focus where students will use traditional jewellery making techniques and contemporary technology such as 3D Printers, and Laser cutting technology to realise their designs. These skills will form the foundation for future Design courses in the Technology learning area. Dimensional Design projects may include; rapid prototyping, jewellery design, designing for the user.



Food Fundamentals (9HECA)

In this semester long unit you will explore the principles underlying the safety, nutrition, preservation and preparation of food. Students will make links between the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating and the food that they create and develop in the kitchen. Students will also develop an appreciation for the physical and sensory properties of food which serve as a basis for much of the knowledge required in Senior School food subjects.



Materials Design (9D&TB)

In this course the design and manufacture of products is the major focus with students developing a range of hand skills and workshop techniques. Students will develop a good understanding of manipulating materials using a range of hand tools and workshop machinery. Students will be



introduced to Woodworking and joining techniques to manufacture projects. Students will also develop their knowledge and skills in Technical Drawing and 3D modelling software applying this to laser cutting technology. These skills will form the foundation for future Design and Technology courses. Projects for this course may include; frame construction, lathework and or box construction



Textile Technology (9HECB)

In this semester long unit students get the opportunity to build on their textile skills acquired through Years 7 and 8. More in-depth knowledge is focused on properties of materials and we look at sustainability principles of the design process. Students investigate and plan their own design and then produce an item of their own choice.



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

There are three courses on offer for students interested in studying Digital Technologies in Year 9.

Applied Information Technology (9AIT)

This course is a continuation of computer concepts for everyone. The course will explore the topics of digital images, animations and associated media tasks. Students will use the Adobe Suite of applications to create digital solutions. The tasks will develop students' planning, designing and problem-solving abilities, as well as encouraging interdependent learning. The knowledge and skills explored will set them up on a journey to become well prepared for life and careers in the rapidly changing digital world



Computer Science (9CSC)

This course is a continuation of computer science concepts for those more interested in programming and coding. The course will explore programming and coding to develop digital solutions to proposed problems and situations. Students will develop skills in program design, intermediate Python coding, simple game making and other coding environments. Students will understand the needs of the target audience, the importance of project management and the ethical responsibilities of a system developer. They will investigate resources to develop increasingly sophisticated solutions, identifying and considering associated constraints and will develop their planning, designing and problem-solving abilities.



Robotics (9ROB)

This course is a continuation of computer science concepts for those more interested in robotics and the digital control of devices programming. The course will explore the



topics of programmed and autonomous device control. Students will develop skills in controlling robots, drones and stationary devices. Students will gain understanding of the needs of device control and the interactions in a 'people' environment. They will investigate resources to develop increasingly sophisticated solutions, identifying and considering associated constraints, and will develop their planning, designing and problem-solving abilities in a cooperative approach.

For further information contact:

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