



**Alphington**  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# 2011

## **Senior Secondary Handbook** **<Student Edition>**

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*A guide to Senior School programs*



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## 1. A Message To Current And Prospective VCE Students @ AGS

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Dear Parents and Students,

We wish you a warm welcome and would like to guide you through the many possible opportunities which you will encounter as you continue your journey in the Alphington community. The transition into Years 11 & 12 is a special time for young men and women and their families. It is a time of great excitement tinged with a certain degree of nervousness. Let us assure you that we are well aware of the importance of this time and that we will act to make the transition a positive experience for all of our students.

At Alphington Grammar School we wish to encourage a certain degree of fearlessness in our student's pursuit of academic excellence. As our students enter into the next phase of their secondary education they should do so in a spirit of adventure and with a determination to be the best they can be.

We expect from our students a commitment to personal excellence. We have challenged them throughout 2010 to *Aspire To Do More* and *Aspire To Be More*. These are not just empty slogans, they are attitudes that, if adopted, will help our students to succeed. In the senior years of schooling we encourage students to apply themselves wholeheartedly to their pursuit of learning. We provide unique opportunities to learn more about how to do well through the 40+ Club and class or subject-specific study clubs. Students need to be open to these sorts of extra-curricular learning opportunities as well as the external opportunities that arise throughout the Year 12 year in particular and which are brought to their attention as they arise.

All of us here at Alphington Grammar School look forward to joining with you in this most important of pursuits - the formation and continued education of the young adults of tomorrow.

The following pages provide an outline of the information you will need to make some informed decisions about what subjects your son or daughter will need to undertake in their Year 11 and 12 years. As part of this process your son or daughter will also be given a Subject Selection Form. It is important that students are prepared prior to the deadlines set. We encourage parents and students to start the conversation about what subjects are most suitable well before any deadline.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Mr Mark Stanton (Director of Teaching & Learning), Ms Margaret Huddleston (VCE Coordinator), Mr Con Papoulis (the Year 10 and 11 Coordinator) or Mrs Helen Mallis (the Careers Coordinator).

Mark Stanton  
Director Of Teaching & Learning

Margaret Huddleston  
VCE Coordinator

## 2. Senior School Overview

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### 2.1 Introduction

The Senior School offers an open environment in which our older students can build a more mature ethos and identity. The Senior School is committed to the establishment of a caring and supportive environment for its students. We believe that the senior years are defined by the collaborative journey undertaken by staff, students and families. Senior School students are encouraged to take more responsibility for their learning and to participate actively in the key decisions governing their future.

### 2.2 The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) Years

The VCE years are special years in the lives of students and their families, years when students take more responsibility than ever for the direction of their lives. The final two years represent the culmination of the journey they began in Year 10 when most undertook their first VCE study. The goals and objectives established then are very close to fulfillment. The external assessment of subjects places greater pressure on each student. The question 'What will I do when I leave school?' takes on a greater urgency.

As a school community, we are here to help, support and direct each of our students in their final years. It is our goal that each of our students leaves us with a capacity to look forward with confidence to their future, an ability to work independently and a determination to succeed in their chosen path. The ethos of the Senior School is designed to encourage adult attitudes that will help our students in their transition to the outside world. At the same time, the teachers and members of the school's senior management collectively serve as a support base for students and for their families. The effectiveness of this support is dependent on the success of the three-way partnership between students, families and the school. Throughout the year, close communication between school and home will be maintained.

Year 11 students undertake a full programme of VCE studies at the beginning of Semester One, making adjustments, if necessary, to that programme mid-year. For most students, their Unit 2 studies will be those studied at the Unit 3 and 4 levels the following year. Year 11 is an important year for students both in terms of the academic preparation they undertake for Year 12 and for the opportunity it gives them to develop their skills and self-confidence through participation in the Senior School's co-curricular programme.

Year 12 students will undertake a full programme of either five or six Unit 3 and 4 studies. The school has put in place a special support programme for all Year 12 students based on the belief that success is based on clear learning processes in the classroom, accurate monitoring and assessment practices and early intervention when acceptable progress is not being made.

## 2. Senior School Overview

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### 2.3 What is the VCE?

The Victorian Certificate of Education is an internationally recognised and accredited programme of academic study administered by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA).

Within the Certificate, knowledge has been divided into broad areas called Key Learning Areas such as Mathematics, Science, Technology and the Humanities. Within each area is a range of studies intended to provide comprehensive coverage of the field. Each study (subject) is divided into half-year (semester) units involving class work and homework. Units 1 and 2 are generally undertaken at Year 11 and Units 3 and 4 are generally undertaken at Year 12.

### 2.4 VCE 'Studies'

The VCE consists of a number of 'Units of Study' each designed to take one semester. Units 1 and 2 are designed for Year 11 students, and Units 3 and 4 for Year 12 students. Many students at Alphington Grammar School undertake a Unit 1 and 2 study in Year 10 with many proceeding to the Unit 3 and 4 level of that study in Year 11.

In most subjects, students can begin at Unit 1 or 2 or 3 but there are some exceptions to this (see the section on Entry Points for VCE Studies for more details).

### 2.5 Units 1 & 2 - How does assessment work?

At Unit 1 and 2 level, students are assessed internally by way of tasks developed and marked by the school within the guidelines established by the VCAA Study Designs for each subject. Students are given the criteria for the scoring of these tasks at the beginning of the Unit. Students may receive a letter grade or a numerical score. These scores are not reported to the VCAA. The school will inform the VCAA if the student has gained a satisfactory completion of the Unit. At the end of Year 11, students will receive an interim statement of results from the VCAA listing all units enrolled in for that year and indicating a Satisfactory or Not Satisfactory Completion.

Each Unit of study has a course designed around the notion of Unit Outcomes that must be achieved for the Satisfactory Completion of the Unit (S). Achievement of a Unit Outcome is based on your teacher's assessment of your performance in the assessment tasks designated for the Unit.

## 2. Senior School Overview

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### 2.5 Units 1 & 2 - How does assessment work? (Cont...)

To achieve an Outcome you must:

- > produce work that meets the required standard
- > submit work on time
- > submit work that is clearly your own
- > observe the VCAA and school rules

If all Outcomes are achieved, you will receive S for the Unit. You may not be granted satisfactory completion if:

- > the work is not of the required standard
- > you have failed to meet a school deadline for the assessment task
- > the work cannot be authenticated
- > there has been a substantive breach of rules including school attendance rules

Examinations - All Unit 1 and 2 studies are examined internally at the end of the relevant semester. Although these exams are not externally assessed, they do provide the student with feedback on how they are performing and they can be used to assess student understanding of certain learning outcomes.

If any of the Outcomes are not achieved, you will receive N (Not Satisfactory) for the Unit. If you have completed the work but have failed to meet class attendance requirements, you may be awarded N. In Units 1 and 2, the school informs the VCAA of your results on a Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (N) basis only.

### 2.6 Units 3 & 4 - How does assessment work?

At Unit 3 and 4 level, the VCAA administers the assessment of all students enrolled in Unit 3 and 4 studies. Students will complete a series of assessment tasks in each unit to assess their level of performance on key aspects of the unit and to satisfy the subject's set of Outcomes. This School Assessed Coursework (SAC) is assessed against criteria clearly established in the Study Design for that subject. Students are given copies of the Assessment Criteria for each task at the beginning of the semester. Students must complete each of these tasks satisfactorily to gain a satisfactory completion of the Outcome (see section above for more information on Outcomes).

## 2. Senior School Overview

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### 2.6 Units 3 & 4 - How does assessment work? (Cont...)

Most subjects have three Outcomes, though some subjects divide the corresponding assessment tasks into two or more sections. School Assessed Coursework can take the form of practical exercises, research reports, essays, tests or oral performances. Students receive detailed comments on each of their assessment tasks and an indication of the level of their performance by way of a High, Medium or Low Assessment Sheet. A specific score for individual tasks is not always given as some may change as a result of the statistical moderation process. The student's numerical results for each Outcome are sent to the VCAA at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2.

Examinations - All Unit 3 and 4 studies are examined externally at the end of the year. Mathematics units have two separate examinations in November. A smaller number of studies also have an external examination in June (Accounting, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Psychology).

### 2.7 How is the VCE assessed?

The results of SACs will be reported to the VCAA as grades at the Unit 3 and 4 levels. These scores will be subject to a process called Statistical Moderation by the VCAA (see below).

Students enrolled in Unit 3 and 4 studies must complete external examinations set and marked by the VCAA. Most of these examinations are held in November with a smaller number of studies having another examination period in June. At the end of the year, results of your Unit 3 and 4 coursework are combined to produce a Study Score for each study undertaken.

### 2.8 What is the General Achievement Test (GAT)?

All students undertaking a Unit 3 and 4 study are required to complete the GAT held in June each year. This is a test of general knowledge and skill in writing, mathematics, science, technology, the humanities, the arts and social sciences. It does not count directly towards your results but is part of the assessment process. It is used by the VCAA to check that all schools are applying the same standards in their marking procedures. If you enrol in VCE at the start of Year 11, and are undertaking any Unit 3 and 4 studies, you will be required to complete the GAT in June of that year and again in the following year when you complete your Unit 3 and 4 studies. A student's GAT scores will be used as part of the VCAA's calculation of a Derived Exam Score (see Special Provision Policy) should ill health or other adverse circumstances warrant an application for Special Provision during the examination period.

## 2. Senior School Overview

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### 2.8 What is the General Achievement Test (GAT)? (Cont...)

A student is eligible for exemption from the Gat only in extraordinary circumstances such as vision impairment, accident, illness or adverse personal circumstances or by representing their state or country overseas in an official event. Students must see the Unit 3 and 4 Co-ordinator immediately such circumstances arise and be prepared to supply the required documentary evidence.

### 2.9 What is Statistical Moderation?

For studies with coursework assessment, each school's coursework scores are statistically moderated by the VCAA to match the level and spread of the combined examination and GAT scores for the students in the same school. This process is designed to ensure that student performance is treated evenly no matter which school they are enrolled in.

### 2.10 How do I gain a tertiary offer?

When you receive your final results at the end of Year 12 in December, the Study Scores from your English subject or ESL and from your next three best studies along with 10% of your 5th and 6th subjects, are used by the Victorian Tertiary Admissions Centre (VTAC) to calculate your ATAR (see Glossary).

The ATAR is the primary means by which a student's tertiary (University) offers are determined.

### 2.11 How will I be assessed in units 1 and 2?

In units 1 and 2, you will be assessed on the basis of your performance on a series of Coursework Assessment tasks set by your teachers. These could take the form of tests, research exercises, practical tasks and examinations. You will receive a numerical score or a letter grade for each of these tasks. These scores will be reported on your Semester Reports to your parents or guardians.

The VCAA will not receive information about these scores from the school. The school will indicate to the VCAA at the end of the year whether you have received S or N in each of the studies you have undertaken.

## 2. Senior School Overview

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### 2.12 What kind of commitment will be required of me in Years 11 and 12?

The nature of VCE demands that all students commit themselves to their studies on a consistent basis throughout the entire school year. You will be required to submit all set work punctually as well as to prepare thoroughly at home for your assessment tasks. You should begin your VCE studies determined to be organised and self-disciplined. This will minimise the likelihood of highly stressed periods and will increase your opportunities for success.

You should draw up a Study Timetable early in the school year and commit yourself to the prompt completion of your homework tasks as well as regular revision of the subject matter in each of your studies. Year 12 students should base their timetable on four hours of working time for each day of the week. Year 11 students should allow three hours of working time per day, for every day of the week. Try to distribute your time in such a way as to include the productive use of Study Periods at school and to allow rest breaks during long periods of study.

### 2.13 How should I approach my teachers?

Student and teacher communication is very important to success in the VCE. Your teachers will be willing to help you both in class and other times during the school day by appointment. You should seek advice from your teachers when you need it, ask questions of them when there are areas you are unsure of and request additional work to improve the standard of your academic performance.

### 2.14 What else does VCE offer me?

Successful VCE students are ones who balance their academic commitment with an enthusiastic involvement in the sporting and co-curricular programmes offered by the school and who often commit themselves to part-time employment on the weekend.

On Wednesday afternoon each week, Senior School students have the opportunity to take part in the inter-school sporting competition.

During the VCE years, the school will provide regular sessions offering specific advice for you on Study Technique, Time Management, Examination Technique, Career Pathways and Tertiary Course Information.

### 3. Subjects Offered @ Alphington Grammar School

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#### 3.1 VCAA Requirements

Under the requirements laid down by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) for the successful completion on the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE):

- > all students must complete satisfactorily a minimum of **16 units** including:
  - o An approved combination of three units from the Group of English Studies (with at least one of these being either Unit 3 or 4)
  - o Three sequences of Units 3 and 4 studies other than English

#### 3.2 The English Group of Studies offered at AGS

(Note: not all studies will be offered at AGS in a given year.)

- > English Units 1-4
- > English as a Second Language Units 3-4 (Enrolment subject to strict eligibility requirements)
- > Literature Units 1-4
- > English Language 1-4

#### 3.3 Enrolment in Unit 1 and 2 Subjects

Students may enroll in Unit 1 and 2 studies on a separate basis. For example, students who have completed Unit 1 Theatre Studies in Semester 1 may change to undertake Unit 2 Music Performance in Semester 2. You do not need to have completed Unit 1 of a subject to enroll in Unit 2 of that subject later in the year. Most students will study units 1 and 2 subjects in Year 11.

#### 3.4 Enrolment in Unit 3 and 4 Subjects

These units must be taken together and will be studied during Semester 1 and Semester 2. Most students will be enrolled in Unit 3 and 4 subjects in Year 12. Students, who have successfully completed Unit 1 and 2 of a study in Year 10, must seek approval to undertake the Unit 3 and 4 component of that subject in Year 11.

### 3. Subjects Offered @ Alphington Grammar School

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#### 3.5 VCE Studies at Alphington

<b>Studies of Commerce</b>	<b>Studies of Mathematics</b>
Accounting Units 1-4	Further Mathematics Units 3-4
Economics Units 1-4	General Mathematics A AND B Units 1-2
Legal Studies Units 1-4	Mathematical Methods Units 1-4
	Specialist Mathematics Units 3-4
<b>Studies of English</b>	<b>Studies of Performing Arts</b>
English Units 1-4	Music Performance Units 1-4
English as a Second Language (ESL) Units 1-4	Theatre Studies Units 1-4
English Language Units 1-4	
Literature Units 1-4	
<b>Studies of Humanities</b>	<b>Studies of Physical Education</b>
History (20 <sup>th</sup> Century) Units 1-2	Physical Education Units 1-4
History (Revolutions) Units 3-4	Health and Human Development Units 1-4
International Politics Units 1-2	
International Studies Units 3-4	
Classical Studies Units 1-4	
<b>Studies of Information Technology</b>	<b>Studies of Science</b>
Information Technology Units 1-2	Biology Units 1-4
IT Applications Units 3-4	Chemistry Units 1-4
Software Development Units 3-4	Physics Units 1-4
	Psychology Units 1-4
<b>Studies of Language</b>	<b>Studies of Visual Arts</b>
Greek Units 1-4	Art Units 1-4
Chinese (First Language) Units 1-4	Media Units 1-4

### 3. Subjects Offered @ Alphington Grammar School

#### 3.6 Sample VCE Programmes

These programmes are samples only and a wide range of alternatives is quite possible to arrive at the same destination. Students should seek advice on the alternatives available to them. Remember too, that most students will have already completed one Unit 3 and 4 study in Year 11.

##### *Student wants to get into a course in Medicine*

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
An English Unit 1	An English Unit 2	An English Unit 3	An English Unit 4
Maths Methods 1	Maths Methods 2	Maths Methods 3	Maths Methods 4
Chemistry 1	Chemistry 2	Chemistry 3	Chemistry 4
Physics 1	Physics 2	Physics 3	Physics 4
Humanities Unit	Humanities Unit	Specialist Maths 3	Specialist Maths 4
Additional Choice	Additional Choice		

##### *Student wants to get into a course in Engineering*

*Note: Specialist Maths is not always required; both Chemistry and Physics are not always required.*

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
An English Unit 1	An English Unit 2	An English Unit 3	An English Unit 4
Maths Methods 1	Maths Methods 2	Maths Methods 3	Maths Methods 4
Chemistry 1	Chemistry 2	Chemistry 3	Chemistry 4
Physics 1	Physics 2	Physics 3	Physics 4
General Maths 1	General Maths 2	Specialist Maths 3	Specialist Maths 4
Humanities Unit	Humanities Unit		

##### *Student wants to get into a course in Art and Law*

*Note: the only Unit 3 and 4 prerequisite is English*

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
An English Unit 1	An English Unit 2	An English Unit 3	An English Unit 4
General Maths 1	General Maths 2		
History 1	History 2	History 3	History 4
Psychology 1	Psychology 2	Psychology 3	Psychology 4
International Studies 3/4	International Studies 3/4	Literature 3	Literature 4
Art 1	Art 2	Art 3	Art 4

##### *Student wants to get into a course in Biological Sciences*

*Note: not all tertiary course require Chemistry or Mathematical Methods*

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
An English Unit 1	An English Unit 2	An English Unit 3	An English Unit 4
Maths Methods 1	Maths Methods 2	Maths Methods 3	Maths Methods 4
Chemistry 1	Chemistry 2	Chemistry 3	Chemistry 4
Biology	Biology	Biology	Biology
Humanities Unit	Humanities Unit	Additional Choice	Additional Choice
Additional Choice	Additional Choice		

### 3. Subjects Offered @ Alphington Grammar School

#### 3.6 Sample VCE Programmes (Cont...)

##### *Student wants to get into a course in Commerce*

*Note: Unit 3 and 4 prerequisites for most Commerce course include English and Maths Methods*

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
An English Unit 1	An English Unit 2	An English Unit 3	An English Unit 4
Maths Methods 1	Maths Methods 2	Maths Methods 3	Maths Methods 4
Economics 1	Economics 2	Economics 3	Economics 4
Accounting 1	Accounting 2	Accounting 3	Accounting 4
Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language
Additional Choice eg Music Perf./Legal St.	Additional Choice eg Music, Legal St.		

##### *Student wants to get into a course in Visual Arts*

*Note: Selection requirements for these courses include consideration of ATAR, Folio and interview. Students may be required to undertake an additional course to prepare a Folio.*

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
An English Unit 1	An English Unit 2	An English Unit 3	An English Unit 4
Art 1	Art 2	Art 3	Art 4
Maths Methods 1/ or General Maths 1	Maths Methods 2/ or General Maths 2	Maths Methods 3	Maths Methods 4
History 1	History 2	History 3	History 4
Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language
Additional Choice eg Literature 1	Additional Choice eg Literature 2		

##### *Student wants to get into a course in Computer Science*

*Note: Unit 3 and 4 prerequisites for most IT/Computer courses include English and Maths Methods*

Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
An English Unit 1	An English Unit 2	An English Unit 3	An English Unit 4
Maths Methods 1	Maths Methods 2	Maths Methods 3	Maths Methods 4
IT: Applications 3 & 4	IT: Applications 3 & 4	IT: Software Dev. 3	IT: Software Dev. 4
Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language	Additional Choice eg Language
Additional Choice eg Psychology	Psychology 2	Psychology 3	Psychology 4
Physical Education 1	Physical Education 2		

### 3. Subjects Offered @ Alphington Grammar School

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#### 3.7 Promotion to Year 11 from Year 10

Students will be promoted to Year 11 on passing at least FIVE mainstream subjects including English. These subjects must correspond with their VCE equivalents. For example, a student wishing to study any VCE Science subject in Year 11 must have gained a pass in Year 10 Science. Some subjects may require a higher score than a pass for entry (eg some Maths). See Subject handbook statements for further details.

When a student fails to meet these stipulated requirements, the Promotions review Panel will be convened, comprising the Principal or his nominee, the Year Level Co-ordinator, subject teacher(s), and the Home Room teacher. Due regard to extenuating circumstances will be given.

#### 3.8 Promotion to Year 12 from Year 11

Year 11 students are required to gain a pass in at least FOUR VCE Unit 1 and 2 subjects. These four subjects must correspond with the Unit 3 and 4 studies the student wishes to undertake in Year 12. A student gaining passes in English, Information Technology, Physical Education and Legal Studies would not be given approval to undertake a course selection in Science or Mathematics in Year 12.

A student who passes three VCE Units 1 and 2 and who has established a positive academic record (including a sound attendance record) in his/her other studies may be granted approval to proceed to Year 12 by the VCE Subject Selection Panel.

### 3. Subjects Offered @ Alphington Grammar School

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#### 3.9 VCE Extension Studies

At Alphington, VCE is completed over three years with many Year 10 students invited to undertake one VCE study at the Unit 1 and 2 levels. Should the students progress in the study be satisfactory, they will be invited to continue with the Unit 3 and 4 studies of the same subject in Year 11. This can mean that by the end of their Year 12 programme, students have completed six Unit 3 and 4 subjects rather than five, over two years. This is of assistance to many of our students in the compilation of their ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank). Students need not, of course, continue to the Unit 3 and 4 levels in Year 11. Some students may use the programme to broaden their education and expand their choices of subject area.

Each year Year 9 students have the opportunity to choose from the following options:

1. Students may enrol in the VCE unit International Politics OR
2. Students may enrol in VCE unit Information Technology OR
3. Students may make an application to enrol the following year in ONE of these units:
  - VCE Theatre Studies Unit 1
  - VCE Music Performance Unit 1
  - VCE LOTE: Modern Greek Unit 1
  - VCE Art Unit 1
  - VCE Biology Unit 1
  - VCE Psychology Unit 1
  - or any others by negotiation

Students will undertake Unit 1 in the first semester and Unit 2 in the second semester. At the end of that year, successful students will be given the opportunity to enrol in the Units 3 and 4 of this study in the following year. Students and parents should take into consideration that participation in these classes may be affected by Year 10 timetabling requirements. Students are enrolled in these units on the basis of academic merit and teacher recommendation.

**NB:** Undertaking a second VCE study in Year 10 is NOT to the advantage of all students, including some who are very able. In some cases students would achieve a higher final result at the Unit 3 and 4 levels, by waiting until Year 11 to embark on VCE in a particular study. We will inform students and parents if we believe this to be the case and we reserve the right to decline to enrol a student in an accelerated study.

## 4. Consideration of Life After Alphington Grammar School

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### 4.1 Careers Programme

The Careers Programme operates in a complementary fashion with the school's academic programme and is designed to assist students to find the right path in life after school. The Careers Programme aims to give students the opportunity to develop appropriate research skills to discover what they need to know about different types of work, about different post-secondary options and about the range of options available. The programme aims to encourage students to think carefully about their own strengths and about their own interests at this stage of their lives.

Year 10 students take part in a two-week long Work Experience programme which allows them to encounter some of the realities of life in the workforce. In Years 11 and 12, students will be taken through a series of activities designed to increase their knowledge of career and tertiary options:

- > Students will use Career Voyage to help determine their areas of interest
- > They will look at the Job Outlook website ([www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook](http://www.jobsearch.gov.au/joboutlook)) to investigate career opportunities and conditions
- > Students will be encouraged to find part-time work experience during the holidays to broaden their understanding of the commitment necessary for success
- > Students will hear a range of speakers from key areas in the workforce
- > Students will use the OZJAC programme to research the educational requirements for careers they are interested in
- > Students will use the VTAC Course link website ([www.vtac.edu.au](http://www.vtac.edu.au)) to find out about University and TAFE courses. This website will also provide information about SCALING (see Glossary), the method used to adjust Study Scores across the subject range.

Each student will receive advice and assistance on an individual basis from the Careers Co-ordinator as well as a copy of the Career Pathway Planner (for Year 11 and for Year 12). The Careers Centre at school has a full range of tertiary handbooks, VTAC Guides and individual course information pamphlets. Students should visit the Careers Centre on a regular basis. Students must ensure that they are familiar with the tertiary prerequisite subjects required for their preferred career paths.

Students will receive detailed information about the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR), developed as a means to rank students for the purpose of tertiary selection. The ATAR is calculated from an aggregate, produced by adding:

- The subject score in a study of English and
- The next best three ATAR subject scores permissible and
- 10% of any fifth/sixth permissible ATAR subject score available

The ATAR is an overall percentile ranking, calculated in steps of 0.05 with the highest ranking being 99.95.

## 4. Consideration of Life After Alphington Grammar School

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### 4.2 Pathways

Nearly all of our students aspire to study at tertiary level. For most this means striving to achieve an ATAR gaining them admission to a university course. The goals of some students will be achieved by admission to a TAFE course of their choice. As a school, we are determined to support the choices of all of our students.

### 4.3 TAFE Connections

The school is part of the Inner Melbourne VET cluster that comprises sixty secondary schools. This organisation is Government funded and offers a wide range of programmes based on Vocational Education (VET).

The cluster assists schools in finding places at TAFE Colleges and other providers for secondary students who want to try something different while still going to school and completing their studies.

The following opportunities are available for our students.

- > *VET programmes at TAFE.* Many TAFEs offer short certificate and Pre Apprenticeship courses in various trades. Each year we have a small number of senior students attending TAFEs once a week completing courses in Electrical, Automotive, Hospitality or other fields. These students attend school and complete a full VCE at the same time. At the end of the year they will have the choice of applying for University or TAFE courses like any other VCE student or finding an Apprenticeship. If this is the case, the studies they have completed will count as part of their TAFE qualification.
- > *University and TAFE days.* Many of the universities and TAFEs open their doors to Year 10 students for a day. A range of activities will be provided as well as guided tours and lunch. For example, the 'Experience Swinburne Day', is held in March. The day offers a choice of workshops in Robotics, Science, Social Science, Advertising, Civil Engineering, Sport and Recreation, ICT programming and Games Design, Public Relations and Nursing. Interested Year 10 students should consider attending.
- > *Careers at Work Programmes.* A number of training organisations will take Years 10-12 students for a day and introduce them to a trade. Some of the trades on offer each year include Cabinet Making, Cookery, Plastering, Music, Automotive as well as many more.
- > *Careers: Your Life Expo.* This is a huge interactive Careers Expo aimed at Year 9 and 10 students, held in June. Participating in the Expo's activities has proven to be of enormous help to students, providing them as it does with an opportunity to learn about a wide range of career choices.

## 5. VCE Subject Selection and Enrolment Procedure

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### 5.1 Introduction

Students beginning their final years of schooling, must focus their attention on:

- > Tertiary requirements
- > Career direction
- > Subject specialization

The decisions made now must be well-informed ones. All of you aspire to complete your VCE and then continue to tertiary study. You must set yourselves high standards and do your best to achieve them. Alphington Grammar School shares these objectives with you and will support and assist you in every way it can.

The most successful VCE students are those who are enrolled in a well-rounded and balanced programme of studies. You must think carefully about your own academic strengths and about the areas you would like to study later at the tertiary level of education.

Your Unit 1 and 2 programme should be wide and comprehensive; this will give you an opportunity to discover the subjects in which you are most competent and which you most enjoy studying. A narrow Year 11 programme will restrict the options available to you in Year 12.

### 5.2 Guidelines For Subject Selection at Year 11

Students entering the programme at Year 11 generally enrol in at least SIX Unit 1 and 2 subjects if they are also studying a Unit 3 and 4 sequence. Students who have shown strength in, and a commitment to serious study in a VCE subject in Year 10 may find it beneficial and enriching to continue with that study at the Unit 3 and 4 level in Year 11.

Year 11 students who wish to undertake a Unit 3 and 4 study must:

- > Demonstrate evidence of the skills, understanding and capabilities of the subject in Unit 1 and 2
- > Display the interest, motivation and organisational skills
- > Exhibit the sense of commitment needed to undertake a Year 12 study at the Year 11 level

It is only in exceptional circumstances that a student would be permitted to undertake more than one Unit 3 and 4 study in Year 11.

## 5. VCE Subject Selection and Enrolment Procedure

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### 5.3 What should students do before making their final Unit 1 selection?

- > Review your careers profile and the information you have been given from the Careers' Coordinator
- > Use the OZJAC programme to identify tertiary courses related to your career choices
- > Identify any tertiary prerequisite subjects for these courses. Consult the relevant VICTER guide published by VTAC
- > Review your Year 10 reports and the feedback you have been given from your Year 10 teachers on your progress
- > Consider your own academic strengths and weaknesses
- > Select studies that build on your strengths and on your interests

Make sure you have completed all of these steps before your interview with the Senior School Subject Selection panel in Semester 2. It is important to remember that you will be able to make alterations to your study programme in Semester 2 of Year 11.

### 5.4 Subject selection at Year 12

As students progress to Year 12 of the programme, most will continue with at least three of their Unit 1 and 2 subjects. Normally, students in Year 12 enroll in five Unit 3 and 4 sequences of study. Most students will have completed a Unit 3 and 4 Study in Year 11.

What should students do before making their final Unit 3 and 4 selections?

- > Consider carefully your Semester academic reports. Unsuccessful results in a Year 11 study rarely become successful ones in Year 12.
- > Read the Unit 3 and 4 descriptions in this Handbook and discuss the nature and commitment required of the Unit 3 and 4 studies with the appropriate Year 12 teacher. Make sure your choices are informed ones.
- > Make an appointment to discuss your tertiary options with the Careers' Coordinator.
- > Identify any specific tertiary prerequisite subjects for tertiary courses you are interested in.
- > Refer to the relevant VICTER guide published by the VTAC. Pay particular attention to the middle-band requirements.
- > Make sure you have completed all of these steps before your interview with the Senior School Subject Selection panel in Term 4.

Your study programme for Year 12 will be confirmed after the result of your Unit 3 and 4 studies is released in December.

## 5. VCE Subject Selection and Enrolment Procedure

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### 5.5 Course Advice

The most effective path to success is to choose subjects you enjoy and are good at. These people will give you advice on your choices:

- > Senior School Coordinator -> Mrs Huddleston
- > Senior School Coordinator => Mr Papoulis
- > Careers' Co-ordinator => Mrs Mallis
- > Director of Teaching & Learning => Mr Stanton
- > Your Home Room teachers and your class teachers will also be valuable sources of information as you consider your subject choices.

### 5.6 Eligibility for Credit toward the VCE

Some students enrolling in Year 11 may be eligible to apply for credit towards their VCE. This is particularly applicable to students who have newly arrived at the school and to students who have done some additional studies outside of the school. The following information provides some additional information on eligibility for credit toward the VCE:

- > Credit will only be granted where students have completed a semester or a full year of studying one or more subjects. Partly completed subjects will not be considered for credit.
- > All applications for credit must be made via the school and be accompanied by copies (certified by the Principal) of statements of results or certificates. Original documents must not be submitted.
- > Credit granted will be reported by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority on the Statement of Results
- > Credit is available at Units 1 and 2 level only (Year 11)
- > Credit granted will specify the number and level of units. It will not state the title of studies or subjects except for English.

## 6. VCE Studies and Entry Points

### 6.1 Study Entry Points

The following table provides a list of all of the studies available to be chosen at Alphington Grammar School. It should be noted that not all of these subjects will run next year – the decision to run or not run a subject is based on demand and is determined by the Principal and his nominees.

Study	Offered Year 11	Offered Year 12	Entry Points
Accounting	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Art	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Biology	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Chemistry	1 and 2	3 and 4	1
Chinese (First Language)	1 and 2	3 and 4	1
Classical Studies	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Economics	1 and 2	3 and 4	1 or 2
English	1 and 2	3 and 4	1
English Language	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
English as a Second Language (ESL)	1 and 2	3 and 4	1
Greek	1 and 2	3 and 4	1
Health & Human Development	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
History	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Information Technology	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
IT: Applications	3 and 4	3 and 4	3
IT: Software Development	-	3 and 4	3
International Politics	1 and 2	-	1 or 2
International Studies	-	3 and 4	3
Legal Studies	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Literature	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Mathematical Methods	1 and 2	3 and 4	1
Media Studies	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
General Mathematics A	1 and 2	-	1 or 2
General Mathematics B	1 and 2	-	1 or 2
Further Mathematics	-	3 and 4	3
Specialist Mathematics	-	3 and 4	3
Music Performance	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Physical Education	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Physics	1 and 2	3 and 4	1 or 2
Psychology	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3
Theatre Studies	1 and 2	3 and 4	1, 2 or 3

*It is possible for students to complete some of the subjects (above) a year earlier. See Section 4.9 of this handbook for further information.*

## 7. Further Information

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### 7.1 Details

#### **Information on Subjects Offered @ AGS in 2012**

For further information on Year 11 and Year 12 subjects offered at Alphington Grammar School, please refer to the Subject Information material provided online at:

<http://www.alphington.vic.edu.au/Our-Community/Senior-School/>

and follow the relevant links to sections 8 and 9 of this Handbook.

#### **Information on Scaling, ATAR and Definition of Terms Used**

For further information on Scaling, the ATAR and for a Glossary of terms used, click on

<http://www.alphington.vic.edu.au/Our-Community/Senior-School/>

and follow the relevant links to Section 10 of this Handbook.