



Term 2, 2025

Year 7 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 2 in Year 7. We trust that your child had some wonderful learning experiences in Term 1 and they are excited about continuing their learning journey in Year 7.

Below are some important notices regarding upcoming events and useful things to note about Year 7:

School Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 2 School Calendar. Please note that this is updated regularly.

Week Ahead

This will be emailed every Friday to all Southwell parents from the School Administrator. It is important that you are getting this and you read it carefully as it has important information about what is coming up in the week ahead.

Book Week

Southwell Book Week starts on Monday, May 5th. Our visiting author for the Year 5-8 students is the remarkable Steve Mushin, author of ***Ultrawild - an audacious plan to rewild every city on earth.*** All

students will get the opportunity to hear him speak and then 2 students from each class will have a bonus workshop time with him - they are in for a treat.

There will be many exciting opportunities to embrace reading during the week - including House quizzes, class-based activities, Library competitions - and every class will be encouraged to Just Read for 15 minutes every day throughout the week. The culmination of the week is always the excitement of Book Character Day (Friday, May 9th), when students dress up as their favourite book character and come to school. This is an amazing sight and we can't wait to see it all happen again! Do have a chat with your children about your favourite book. These conversations create interest and highlight the success of being a reader.



And as an added bonus, the Year 7 and 8 students will also enjoy a visit by Brian Falkner on Monday, May 12th. All parents have been sent an email about this, which includes an order form if you would like to purchase any of Brian's books. He will do a book signing at lunchtime when he is here.

Year 7 Drama Performance

We are excited to invite you to the Year 7 Drama Performance, taking place on Tuesday, 27th May. Each class will showcase their learning in Drama with a performance of one of the following productions: Harry Potter, Dracula Spectacula, Grease, or Bugsy Malone.

Students will need to source a simple costume for their performance. More information about costume requirements will be provided by classroom teachers in the coming weeks. We will also make use of some resources from the Opera Storeroom to support this.

All performances will be held in the Auditorium during the school day, with each class performing separately for approximately 30 minutes. Parents and whānau are warmly welcome to attend, and the exact time of each class's performance will be shared in the Week Ahead newsletter.

A video recording of each performance will also be made available. We look forward to celebrating the students' creativity and hard work with you!

Homework

All homework is posted in Google Classroom each week so your child can easily access and keep track of what needs to be completed. Year 7 students are to spend 40 minutes a night on homework (Mon-Thur). Homework tasks support the current classroom learning and can be completed independently. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any concerns.

Reading - Students are encouraged to read for pleasure for 20 minutes each night. The focus for many of our students will be reading mileage and trying to move beyond the type of books they "normally read". All students are well supported by their teachers and the library staff. Occasionally, students will be expected to record and comment on their weekly reading, and continue to finish an activity that has not been completed in class.

Mathematics - Most classes will have Education Perfect/ Maths Buddy homework each night. This will be set to the appropriate level for each student. Some classes may assign worksheet-style work that will be a review of what is covered in the class.

Teacher-Directed Tasks - Each teacher will set some tasks designed to support their learning in class. This will be at the discretion of the teacher and will be varied across the year group according to the needs of each class. Activities may include spelling, current events, or some guided research based on discussions in class.

Finishing Tasks - We encourage students to use any extra time to complete tasks started at school and/or do tasks that will enable them to meet deadlines as they come up. This extra time is at the discretion of each student.



Learning in Year 7

Inquiry - Year 7 Teachers

This term, our inquiry focuses on the transdisciplinary theme "How We Express Ourselves", with the central idea:

"People create messages to target or influence specific audiences."

Students will explore the many ways individuals and organisations use communication to express

ideas and shape thinking. This inquiry encourages students to become more aware of the messages they encounter every day and how they are crafted to inform, entertain, or persuade.

Our key lines of inquiry are:

- How images, text, and music are used to influence the way we think and act (*Function*)
- The critical evaluation of messages presented in media (*Responsibility*)
- How people respond to messages in the media (*Perspective, Responsibility*)

Throughout the inquiry, students will analyse a variety of media—including advertisements, music, visual texts, and digital content—and reflect on their own responses and responsibilities as both consumers and creators of messages. They will also design their own persuasive media pieces for specific audiences, using what they've learned about effective communication.

Writing - Year 7 Teachers

This term, our Year 7 students will be learning to plan, draft, and edit their writing using a range of techniques to enhance clarity, structure, and impact. They will be encouraged to write with a clear purpose and audience in mind, using different mediums to develop their voice and communication skills.

Our writing focus for the beginning of the term will be speech writing and presenting. Students will learn how to craft persuasive and engaging



speeches, and build confidence in their oral presentation skills. Each student will be expected to deliver a speech lasting 3 to 4 minutes to their class in Week 7. The top speakers from each class will go on to compete in the Year 7 Speech Final on Monday, 16th June (Week 8).

Reading - Year 7 Teachers

This term, students will be developing their reading comprehension through a range of purposeful and engaging texts that connect to our current PYP inquiry: "People create messages to target or influence specific audiences." Students will learn and apply a variety of comprehension strategies—such as summarising, making inferences, identifying bias, and analysing author's purpose—to help them better understand what they read and think critically about the messages being presented. The texts chosen will include articles, advertisements, opinion pieces, song lyrics, and visual media, all designed to support students in exploring how language, images, and tone can influence the way people think and act.

Technology - Mr Williams

Students will be learning through STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) using a variety of engineering challenges.

Healthy Choices - Ms Hazlett

Healthy Choices encourages students to inquire into what it means to be healthy through various experiences and cooking.

Christian Education Year 7 - Reverend Canon Troon

Students will be following the Church's season of Easter as it evolves toward the Feast of Pentecost. Coupled with this will be a series of real-life experiences of people adapting to / challenged by issues of Faith in their everyday lives. Each class will begin with "Daily Prayer" in which the classes form to be a student-led worship unit. And, of course, you are very welcome to join us for the House Family Services on Sunday, May 18th.



Mathematics - Mrs Riggins, Mr McCabe, Mrs Hawthorn, Mrs McLean, Mr Walch, Mrs Steffert, Mr McKay

During Term 2, students will be learning concepts from the Algebra strand. Learning experiences will be directed towards applications of algebra and the use of different formulae. Some students will also continue to consolidate their understanding of Number through decimals, fractions, and percentages.

Physical Education - Year 7 Teachers, Mr Botha, Mr Norman and Miss Lovell



Finding my rhythm

In this unit, students will continue to cement their body's capacity for movement with a focus on the fundamental movements of swing, roll, balance, spring, landing, and locomotion, inclusive of an emphasis on flexibility. From this learning, they will add their own creative flair to create a sequence of movements across various apparatuses, enhanced by their own selection of music.

Adapting my Sport

Students will play a variety of sports that have been adapted for athletes with special requirements, and then utilise these experiences to inquire into adapting other sports to be inclusive.

Just let me PLAY!!

Students will have the chance to simply enjoy playing badminton and lacrosse, while also acquiring the basic fundamental skills, understanding of rules, and tactical knowledge necessary for an enjoyable experience.

Science - Ms Voss

This term students will be learning about microscopes and how to use them. In addition to making their own slides to view and draw various samples, students will gain an understanding of basic cellular structures in plants and animals. Students will be introduced to the structure of DNA and investigate other concepts that relate to their class based inquiry unit.



Music - Mrs Albery

In this unit, students will explore the fundamental concept of playing and the theory of chords in keyboard playing. They will learn how to play both chords, including major and minor. Through practical exercises and guided instruction, students will develop proficiency in both constructing chords and playing them within a context of a song. By the end of the unit, students will have a solid foundation in basic keyboard chord theory and the skills to apply it creatively in their musical endeavours.

Drama - Mrs Walker

Students will be learning to use a script and develop a character from page to performance. The student learning will be showcased through whole class performances of the plays: "Harry Potter"; "The Dracula Spectacula"; "Grease"; and "Bugsy Malone".

Art - Mrs Wing

Students are exploring the "Kiwiana" theme by creating artwork inspired by New Zealand artist and Old Boy Sam Mathers. Through scaffolded learning experiences, they will be encouraged to develop and extend their skills in visual arts, with their finished pieces displayed in the school gallery.

Pottery - Mrs Wathen

In Pottery, students will continue exploring the theme of "Kiwiana." This term, the focus will be on developing slab rolling, coil building, and pinch pot techniques, followed by lessons in glazing. Using these skills, students will create their own unique Kiwiana inspired icon.

Te Ao Maaori – Whaea Whetu

Students will continue to build vocabulary around kai with hands-on and digital tasks. Akonga will learn to use poi, raakau and perform a waiata-a-ringa about Matariki.

Languages - Mrs Grant

Students are exploring how different cultural practices influence the way we think, feel, and connect with others. They are also developing their Spanish language skills, learning about the role of language in cultural identity and expression. Each class has chosen its own creative path—through song, dance, art, and more. The Week 4 disco will provide a fun opportunity for self-expression through Spanish music and movement, and the term will conclude with a Spanish Seven Sisters (Pleiades) celebration alongside Matariki.

Library - Mrs Walch

The focus throughout the year in the library is to respond to the needs of individual classes, with specific reference to encouraging a love of literature, inquiry skills and library skills. Each library session will include some time for children to choose their books and read, and also a teaching session. The Year 7s are allocated an hour in the library each week, so that the librarians can support the teacher and the students as they work through the inquiry process.

We are looking forward to a great term together in Year 7. As always, we welcome your input and feedback. If you have any questions regarding your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Tamsyn Riggins (Dean)

Diane Hazlett

Josh McCabe

Rachel van Heuven

Bridget Hawthorn

Gayle McLean

Year 7 Teachers