



Term 3, 2026
Year 7 Learning Overview



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to Term 3 in Year 7! We hope you and your children enjoyed a well-deserved and restful break. We're looking forward to another term filled with challenge, growth, and meaningful learning alongside your wonderful children. As always, it promises to be a busy and exciting few weeks ahead.

Each week, the school focuses on a theme designed to build character and strengthen key competencies. We introduce the theme with a message in Monday's Chapel, and throughout the week, students are encouraged to reflect and engage with it. We further discuss the theme on Wednesday at Assembly with students sharing their thoughts, and we will often display examples of great role models.

The themes for this coming Term are:

Week 1 **Being a Team Player**

Week 2 **Being Courteous**

Week 3 **Being Encouraging**

Week 4 **Being Optimistic**

Week 5 **Being Purposeful**

Week 6 **Being Reflective**

Week 7 **Being Tolerant**

Week 8 **Being Reliable**

Week 9 **Thinking Positively**

School Calendar

Click [HERE](#) for the Term 3 School Calendar. Please note this is updated regularly.

Week Ahead

Please remember to check your inbox every Friday for The Week Ahead. It includes important information about upcoming events and activities, so be sure to read it carefully to stay up to date.

Learning Conferences - Week 3, Term 3

The purpose of the upcoming Learning Conference is for your child to share their learning progress and current goals with you. Further details about how to book a conference will be emailed shortly. To support the conversation, we encourage you to bring a copy of your child's school report with you for reference.



Please note:

- There will be no after-school sports practices this week.
- All Year 3-8 children attend their conferences.
- Conferences are 10 minutes. If you would like to spend some time with your child's teacher without your child present, please mention this to the teacher at the beginning of the interview.
- Friday bookings are for Boarding families only.

Maths and Specialist Learning Conferences - Week 6, Term 3

These conferences take place in Week 6 with Specialist and Maths Teachers in the Performing Arts Centre. These meetings are a brief 5-minute opportunity to have a catch-up regarding your child's learning. If you feel you will need more than 5 minutes, please contact your child's teacher by email to arrange an alternative time.



ICAS Competitions

Southwell students in Year 4-8 have the opportunity to participate in the 2026 ICAS Competitions. Information and registration details for ICAS were emailed out mid-last term as well as reminders during the holidays. For those who register, ICAS competitions are scheduled to take place in Weeks 4-6, Term 3.

House Chapel Service - Evensong

This Term we will be celebrating All Hallows Chapel's Centenary. We will not be holding our regular House Chapel Service this term; instead, all families are invited to attend a special service to commemorate this occasion on Wednesday, 2 September at 6pm.

Health and Sexuality

In Term 3, students will take part in learning focused on Health and Sexuality. The programme will explore the physical and emotional changes that occur during puberty, helping students understand and navigate this important stage of development. A letter with further details will be sent home this week. Lessons will begin in Week 3, led by class teachers. If you would like to discuss the programme or view the teaching materials, please feel free to contact your child's teacher directly.

Opera

Term 3 is an exciting time for many of our students who are involved in the Opera. This is a remarkable opportunity that requires dedication, focus, and energy. During this busy period, students must prioritise their wellbeing by maintaining healthy routines—eating well, getting enough sleep, and staying active. We also encourage our Year 7 students to speak with their teachers if they need help balancing their Opera commitments with schoolwork.

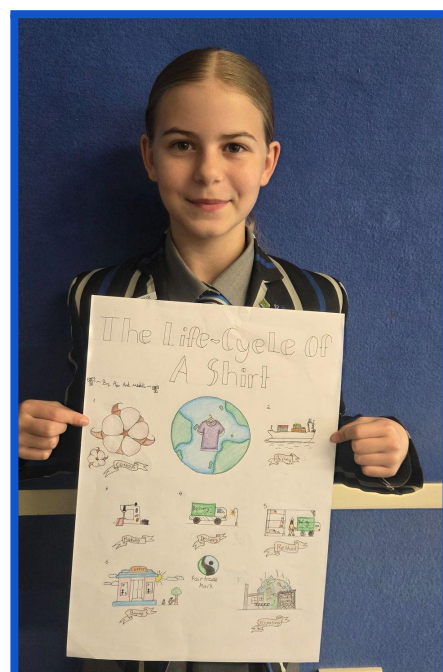
Learning in Year 7

Social Sciences - Year 7 Teachers

This term, our inquiry, "Building Bridges," falls under the transdisciplinary themes of **'Sharing the planet'** and **'Where we are in place and time.'** Guided by the central idea that understanding conflict can help us to find peaceful solutions, students will explore the concept of conflict by investigating its meaning through historical and cultural examples specific to New Zealand, as well as broader global conflicts.

To deepen our understanding, our learning will be guided by three key lines of inquiry:

- **The causes and consequences of conflict (Causation):** Students will define different types of conflict—including interpersonal, societal, and historical struggles—and analyse the causes and effects of local and global conflicts on communities and individuals.
- **How diverse perspectives shape conflict and resolution (Perspective):** Students will identify diverse perspectives to recognise that there can be multiple valid viewpoints in any disagreement.



- **How learning from past conflict helps to inform future actions (Responsibility):**
Students will examine historical events, ranging from the Springbok Tour and local iwi land rights issues to global peaceful protests. Through these case studies, they will realise the significance of conflict in shaping societies and its potential to lead to positive change.

By unpacking these lines of inquiry, students will learn how addressing systemic imbalances can foster peace and understand the vital role they can play in finding sustainable solutions for the future.



As part of this learning, we would love to connect students with real-world experiences. If anyone in our parent community has knowledge, experience, or involvement related to conflict resolution, community advocacy, mediation, local or global history, or peacebuilding, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

If you would be willing to come into school and speak with our Year 7 students about how managing conflict and fostering peace relate to your work, community role, or personal experiences, it would provide a valuable perspective and help bring our learning to life. Talks could be short and informal, and we are happy to work around your availability. If you're interested, please email your child's teacher with a brief description of your area of expertise.

Thank you for supporting our learning community. We look forward to hearing from anyone who may be able to contribute.

Writing - Year 7 Teachers

To make our learning connected and authentic, our inquiry topic will also provide the rich context for our Reading and Writing programs this term. Students will continue to develop their understanding of the writing process and will be encouraged to build greater stamina and confidence in their writing. They will apply their knowledge of the Seven Steps to create more dynamic, purposeful, and engaging pieces.

Reading - Year 7 Teachers

This term, students will continue to strengthen their comprehension skills to deepen their understanding of texts and grow as confident, capable readers. Daily reading remains a key part of our homework expectations, and many students will have novels they are working through. We encourage you to support your child by monitoring their reading habits and letting their teacher know if they need help accessing additional reading material.

Maths - Year 7 Teachers, Mr Walch, Mrs Rudduck

Students will be focusing on the Measurement and Algebra strands. In Measurement, they will develop efficiency in estimating, measuring, and calculating using appropriate standard units, with a strong focus on applying this learning to real-life contexts and using formulas. In Algebra, students will explore relationships and patterns and apply simple formulae to solve problems and represent mathematical situations.

Christian Education – Chaplain Blythe Cody

This term, we will be exploring what it means to follow Jesus' way of peace. We'll see how Christians throughout history have worked for peace, faced conflict, and sought reconciliation — and consider what peace-making might look like in our own lives, school, and world.

Technology - Mr Williams

Students will use STEM and the engineering design process to solve fun challenges.

Science - Ms Voss

Students will be learning about microscopes, how to use them and what their component parts do. They will also learn about cellular structure, make their own slides to observe, and will be introduced to the skill of scientific drawing.

Music - Mrs Albery

This term, Year 7 students are going to explore the instruments of the orchestra. They will investigate how the physical properties of materials create unique musical voices and how these instruments have evolved over time. Following this, our learning will directly connect with the Year 7 classroom inquiry. Students will explore how music acts as a powerful vehicle for peace and social change by looking into historical and contemporary protest music.

Physical Education - Year 7 Teachers, Mr Botha, Miss Lovell, Mr Norman***Empty the tank! (Cross Country)***

This unit is designed to empower students to achieve personal growth, regardless of their individual fitness abilities, working towards our school cross country.

The Engine Room (Fitness)

This unit encourages students to explore different training methods and discover what it means to “exercise well”. Through a range of engaging training experiences, students will be inspired to find ways of exercising that motivate them and develop intrinsic motivation to challenge themselves.

Athletics

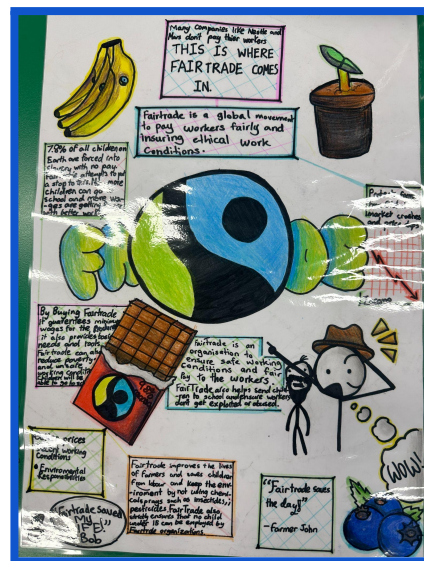
The aim of the unit is for students to participate in a variety of field and track events. Through video, peer and teacher feedback, students are able to implement this knowledge to improve their performance.

Art - Mrs Wing

This year in art, students will be exploring the imaginative world of Dr. Seuss. They'll be drawing, painting, and creating artworks inspired by his whimsical characters, playful landscapes, and bold use of colour. Each lesson is a chance for students to try out different materials and techniques, build their confidence in art-making, and be inspired to think creatively along the way.

Pottery - Mrs Wathen

Students will explore pottery techniques to create imaginative ceramic artworks inspired by the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss. Using slab, coil, and pinch pot construction, they will experiment with form, texture, and surface decoration while bringing playful characters and creative ideas to life. Students will also be introduced to the extruder and slab roller throughout the term.



Healthy Choices - Ms Hazlett

This term, our inquiry focuses on learning how to live harmonious and respectful lives, with an emphasis on personal health. Through targeted activities, students will learn to communicate boundaries clearly and resolve conflicts in ways that protect both their well-being and their relationships. We will also explore and experiment in the Food Tech lab, making a variety of different dishes.

Languages - Mrs Grant

안녕하세요! Annyeong haseyo! Our focus language for Term 3 is Korean. Throughout the term, students will develop their skills in Hangul, the Korean writing system. Our learning will also connect with the Year 7 Inquiry, exploring how language and understanding different perspectives can help build bridges between people. In the meantime, we begin the term by celebrating Matariki, reflecting on the themes of remembrance, gratitude and renewal, before celebrating Languages Week in Week 5, recognising the many cultures and languages across our Southwell community.

Library - Mrs Walch

Our time in the library is split between supporting the students and the teachers, with developing inquiry skills and learner profile attributes, book talking new books, and giving students time to browse, issue, and read for pleasure.

We always aim to respond to the needs of individual classes, with specific reference to encouraging reading for pleasure, inquiry skills, and library skills.

Near the start of Term 3, we will feature the 2026 New Zealand Book Award finalists.

Please remember that learning is a partnership involving your child, you as parents, and the teacher. If you have any questions regarding your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

We are looking forward to a great term together in Year 7. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Diane Hazlett	Rachel Peterson
Joel Fleming	Gayle McLean
Bridget Hawthorn	Tamsyn Riggins
Year 7 Teachers	

