



SCHOOL OF NOW

SUBJECT SELECTION
HANDBOOK

SCHOOLOFNOW.PARRA.CATHOLIC.EDU.AU

2026



Catholic Schools
Parramatta Diocese

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR
CURRICULUM LEADER OF LEARNING
IN YOUR HOME SCHOOL**



SUBJECT SELECTION

2026 SUMMARY

About the School of Now

- Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese offers blended learning courses that may not be available at your school utilising virtual and face-to-face delivery methods.

Key Dates

- Term 3 Week 1 (21/07/2025): Expression of Interest applications open.
- Term 3 Week 10 (26/09/2025): Expression of Interest applications close for 2026 HSC Extension courses and 2026 Preliminary courses.

Stage 6 Specialist Courses*

Preliminary & HSC Courses:

- Economics
- Engineering Studies
- Enterprise Computing
- Industrial Technology - Multimedia
- Physics
- Software Engineering

Preliminary & HSC Extension Courses:

- English Extension 1
- Mathematics Extension 1

HSC Extension Only Courses:

- English Extension 2
- History Extension
- Mathematics Extension 2
- Science Extension

VET Courses:

- ICT30120 Certificate III in Information Technology

Course Information

- Board Developed Courses that count towards an ATAR.
- Most courses are 2 units, Extension courses are 1 unit and have co-requisites.

*Specialist Courses offered are subject to change based on support requests and availability.



ABOUT SCHOOL OF NOW

2026

Catholic Schools Parramatta Diocese (CSPD)

The Learning Outcomes Directorate is offering students the opportunity to study a number of courses that may not be available within their current local school community. Technology allows students, regardless of location, to work with expert teachers in an online classroom with other students across the Diocese, to complete Stage 6 Preliminary and HSC courses.

How it works?

- Each course is assigned a School of Now (SoN) teacher who will be responsible for the delivery of the online course.
- Students have set timetabled times each week with the SoN teacher and fellow students where the online lesson will be delivered.
- Students will also complete learning activities between sessions at their own pace and ongoing feedback and assistance will be provided by the SoN teacher.
- Students will have face-to-face Masterclass days with their SoN teacher for 1 or 2 days per term at CathWest Innovation College, Mount Druitt.
- The assessment of skills and knowledge is content-based focusing on subject-specific areas.

Features of a Blended Model





GENERAL INFORMATION

2026

Board Developed Courses

Courses with a syllabus written by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) syllabus committees are known as **Board Developed Courses**. These may be used to count towards the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) and are defined in terms of:

- the course objectives, structure, content and outcomes
- specific course requirements
- assessment requirements
- sample examination papers and marking guidelines
- a performance scale (except for VET courses).

Most courses are divided into two parts – Year 11 Preliminary course and Year 12 HSC course. Those courses designated as Year 11 must be successfully studied before the HSC course may be attempted. All courses offered for the HSC have a unit value. Most are 2 unit courses, involving at least 240 hours of study over the Preliminary and HSC years. There are extension courses in the subject areas of English and Mathematics, which are available at Preliminary and HSC levels.

Preliminary Courses commence in Week 3 of the Year 11 academic year and concludes with the Year 11 examinations at the end of Term 3. HSC Courses commences at the beginning of Term 4, Year 11, and continues until the HSC examinations, with formal classes concluding at the end of Term 3, Year 12.

Content Endorsed Courses

All **Content Endorsed Courses** count towards the Higher School Certificate and appear on the student's Record of Achievement. However, Content Endorsed Courses do not count in the calculation of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Content Endorsed Courses may be studied as 1 or 2 units and as Preliminary and/or HSC courses, and there is no external examination (delivered by NESA) for Content Endorsed Courses. Assessment is school-based and teachers award an assessment mark using the Performance Descriptions for reporting achievement in HSC Board Endorsed Courses.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TIMELINE

2026

2026 SoN Expression of Interest Timeline

2026 HSC Extension Courses Close

Term 3 Week 10 - 26/09/2025

Expression of Interest applications close for the HSC English Extension 2, History Extension, Mathematics Extension 2 and Science Extension courses.

2026 HSC & Prelim Courses Open

Term 3 Week 1 - 21/07/2025

Expression of Interest applications open for HSC and Preliminary courses.

2026 Year 11 Preliminary Course Close

Term 3 Week 10 - 26/09/2025

Expression of Interest applications close and final Preliminary 2026 courses confirmed.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Courses offered by School of Now are subject to change based on support requests and availability.
- Where enrolments exceed maximum student numbers, applicants will be placed on a waiting list.

ECONOMICS

(Preliminary & HSC)

Number of Units: 2
 Exclusions/Pre-Requisites: None
 External Assessment: Examination
 Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

Economics provides an understanding for students about many aspects of the economy and its operation that are frequently reported in the media. It investigates issues such as why unemployment or inflation rates change and how these changes will impact on individuals in society. Economics develops students' knowledge and understanding of the operation of the global and Australian economy. It develops the analytical, problem-solving and communication skills of students. There is a strong emphasis on the problems and issues in a contemporary Australian economic context within the course.

Why study this course

Economic decisions have a crucial influence on the quality of life experienced by people throughout the world. The study of economics can help individuals, groups and societies make choices that assist them to improve their quality of life. It will also help in understanding the behaviours of individuals, firms, and governments in Australia, and globally. Discussion of economic issues dominates the media and politics. By understanding economics, students learn to make informed judgments about issues and policies and participate responsibly in decision-making processes.

Topics - Preliminary Course

Introduction to Economics (10%) – the nature of economics and the operation of an economy
 Consumers and Business (10%) – the role of consumers and business in the economy
 Markets (20%) – the role of markets, demand, supply and competition
 Labour Markets – (20%) the workforce and role of labour in the economy
 Financial Markets (20%) – the financial market in Australia including the share market
 Government in the Economy – (20%) the role of government in the Australian economy

Topics - HSC Course

The Global Economy (25%) – Features of the global economy and globalisation
 Australia's Place in the Global Economy (25%) – Australia's trade and finance
 Economic Issues (25%) – issues including growth, unemployment, inflation, wealth and management.
 Economic Policies and Management (25%) – the range of policies to manage the economy

Post School Options

If selected as a specialisation at university, Economics can lead to careers in: share, finance or commodities markets; business, economic forecasting; banking; insurance; tourism; resource management; property development and management; government; environmental management; town planning; foreign affairs; law or economic policy development, education, or of course as an economist either in the government or at corporate level in the private sector.

ENGINEERING STUDIES

(Preliminary & HSC)

Number of Units: 2

Exclusions/Pre-Requisites: None

External Assessment: Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

The aim of Engineering Studies Stage 6 is to develop students' understanding and appreciation of the nature and significance of engineering and its impact on society with an emphasis on the application of engineering methodology. Engineering Studies Stage 6 is directed towards the application and advancement of skills associated with mathematics, science and technology in order to solve problems that provide infrastructure, goods and services needed for industry and the community. This subject is recommended to students that are capable at mathematics and science, and are curious about how things are made and why they are constructed.

Why study this course

Engineering Studies will provide students with the skills, knowledge and understanding associated with the study of engineering, its practices and associated methodologies. Students will gain knowledge and skills through the study of engineering modules.

Topics - Preliminary Course

The Year 11 course consists of 4 compulsory modules – Engineering Fundamentals, Engineered Products, Braking Systems and Biomedical Engineering. These modules focus on polymers, electricity, electronics, applied mathematics, metals, hydraulics, joining materials, casting and forging of metals and engineering drawings.

Topics - HSC Course

The Year 12 course consists of 4 compulsory modules – Civil Structures, Personal and Public Transport, Aeronautical Engineering and Telecommunications Engineering. These modules further develop the focus of the preliminary modules as well as looking into frictional forces, corrosion, composites and ceramic materials.

Post School Options

Engineering Studies develops knowledge and understanding of the profession of Engineering. It provides the foundation for further study in Engineering fields such as Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Electronic, Aeronautical, Chemical and Metallurgical as well as applied sciences such as Architecture, Surveying and Industrial Design.

ENGLISH EXTENSION 1

(Preliminary & HSC)

Number of Units: 1

Exclusions: none

Co-Requisites: Must also study English Advanced

External Assessment: Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

The English Extension 1 course provides students who undertake English Advanced with the opportunity to extend their use of language and self-expression in critical and creative ways. Through engaging with increasingly complex concepts from a range of literary contexts, students refine their understanding and appreciation of literature as the expression and construction of culture.

Students independently pursue areas of interest with complex texts that challenge them to think critically and creatively about the way literature shapes and reflects the world. They learn to use research methodology to undertake investigation in English and develop extended compositions. Throughout the course, students explore and evaluate the meanings of texts and compare the value of texts. They investigate a range of conceptual contexts for the reading and composition of texts and explore and adopt a range of reading practices to develop awareness of the assumptions that guide interpretation and evaluation.

Topics - Preliminary Course and HSC Course

- **Texts, Culture and Value** - Students examine a key text from the past and its manifestations in a range of texts from more recent social, cultural and historical contexts to explore how and why texts reflect and challenge cultural values over time. They explore, analyse and critically evaluate different examples of such texts in a range of forms and media, including texts of their choice.
- **Literary Worlds** - Literary worlds are textual creations of imagination through which a complex relationship is established between author, reader and text. Literary worlds are the narrative representations of people and events; they transcend time and space, and offer depictions that are realistic or metaphoric, possible or fictional, public or private. Students engage with, interpret and experiment with the complex relationship between texts, authors, readers and contexts. They explore a range of short texts and extracts from larger works that construct literary worlds.

Students are required to demonstrate:

- Knowledge and understanding of complex texts and how and why they are valued
- Skills in complex analysis, sustained composition and independent investigation

HSC ENGLISH EXTENSION 2

(HSC only)

Number of Units: 1

Exclusions: Year 12 course only

Co-Requisites: Also be studying Advanced English & English Extension I

External Assessment: Major Work

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

The English Extension 2 course enables students who are accomplished in their use of English with the opportunity to craft language and refine their personal voice in critical and creative ways. They can master skills in the composition process to create a substantial and original Major Work that extends their knowledge, understanding and skills developed throughout Stage 6 English courses.

Through the creative process they pursue areas of interest independently, develop deep knowledge and manipulate language in their own extended compositions. Through the experimentation with and exploration of form, style and media students express complex concepts and values in innovative, insightful and powerful ways. The creative process involves the exploration and expression of complex human experiences, connects individuals to wider visions and perspectives, and enhances a student's enjoyment of literature and the aesthetics of language.

This course provides students with the opportunity to apply and extend research skills developed in the English Extension Year 11 course to their own extensive investigation and develop autonomy and skills as a learner and composer. English Extension 2 develops independent and collaborative learning skills and higher-order critical thinking that are essential at tertiary levels of study and in the workplace. The course is designed for students who are independent learners with an interest in literature and a desire to pursue specialised study of English.

Topics - HSC Course

Major Work - The Major work is a sustained, cohesive and extended composition that demonstrates mastery of the composition process. Students may choose to compose in ONE of the following forms: short fiction; creative nonfiction; poetry; critical response; script (short film, television, drama); podcasts (drama, storytelling, speeches, performance poetry); or multimedia.

Students are required to:

- Complete a Major Work which involves students undertaking extensive independent investigation involving a range of complex texts during the composition process and document this in their Major Work Journal and Reflection Statement.

ENTERPRISE COMPUTING

(Preliminary & HSC)

Number of Units: 2

Exclusions/Pre-Requisites: None

External Assessment: Online Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

The study of Enterprise Computing 11–12 enables students to develop an understanding of the function and purpose of digital tools and processes, and the importance of data in enterprise information systems. This allows students to effectively use and manage digital tools and technologies in commercial and other settings.

Students are encouraged to develop an entrepreneurial mindset by working collaboratively, growing specialised communication skills, and applying system, design and computational thinking skills. The knowledge and skills developed in this course ensure students can contribute to a world increasingly reliant on the manipulation and use of digital systems.

Why study this course

Enterprise Computing encourages the understanding of the implications of responsible and ethical application of digital systems, and the application of appropriate standards in the development of solutions. Students learn about the technologies that support enterprise-based information systems. As they develop digital solutions, students investigate social and safety issues relating to cyber safety, cybersecurity and digital footprints. They engage with technologies that improve access to, and participation in, computing technologies across a range of enterprises.

Topics - Preliminary Course

- Networking Systems and Social Computing
- Interactive Media and the User Experiences
- Principles of Cybersecurity

Topics - HSC Course

- Data science
- Data visualisation
- Intelligent systems
- Enterprise project

Post School Options

Students who successfully complete Enterprise Computing will be confident, competent and discriminating users of information processes and information technology. They will appreciate the nature of information, its ethical use and its impact on many aspects of life. As such, they will be well prepared to pursue further education and employment across an especially wide range of contexts.

HSC HISTORY EXTENSION

(HSC only)

Number of Units: 1

Exclusions: Year 12 course only

Co-Requisites & Prerequisites: Ancient History or Modern History

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

The History Extension Syllabus focuses on the nature of history as a discipline and how and why differing historical interpretations have been produced. It requires students to critically examine how history is constructed and analyse the role of historians and other producers of history in this process. This involves a close examination of a range of historical works, considering how context, methodology and purpose have shaped their development. Students explore historiographical ideas through the works of historians, writers and others involved in the practice of history in different eras.

History Extension appeals to students who appreciate the intellectual rigour and challenge of historical debate and the construction and defence of a position through reasoned and cohesive argument. The course requires students to engage with complex historiographical ideas, methodologies and sources. It encourages them to communicate perceptive, sustained and coherent arguments about the nature and construction of history. Students work independently in researching and applying their historiographical understanding developed through the course to an individual project of personal interest.

The History Extension course is designed to enhance the development of critical and reflective thinking and research skills which are essential for effective participation in further learning, including tertiary study, work and the broader community. It fosters students' ability to approach complex tasks flexibly, analyse and synthesise information from a range of sources and contexts, explore a range of perspectives, develop considered responses, work independently, and reflect on the methodologies with which they engage.

Through the study of History Extension, students:

- develop an understanding of how context, methodology and purpose can shape the ways in which historians and other producers of history have constructed their accounts
- examine the complexity of factors that shape historiographical perspectives
- develop their own views, and challenge those of others, on a variety of historical and historiographical issues.

Students are required to:

- Complete a History Project which involves students undertaking extensive independent historiographical investigations involving a range of texts and sources.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY MULTIMEDIA TECHNOLOGIES

(Preliminary & HSC)

Number of Units: 2

**Exclusions: Only one technology area can be studied by the student and
Industrial Technology cannot be studied at Home School**

External Assessment: Major Project & Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

Industrial Technology Stage 6 consists of project work and an Industry Study that develop a broad range of skills and knowledge related to the Multimedia Industry, and an introduction to industrial processes and practices. This subject develops a high level of industry-standard practical processes through the production of a practical project. The emphasis of the course is on the development of practical multimedia skills.

Why study this course

In the Preliminary course, students must design, develop and construct a number of projects. Each project must include a management folio. In the HSC course, students must design, develop and construct a major project with a management folio. This practical-based course allows students to develop industry-level skills through the production of projects. Students in this subject complete a major work, which allows them to select areas of interest within their option topics, and follow their passions in the development of their project.

Topics - Preliminary Course

- Industry Study
- Design and Management
- Workplace Communication
- Industry-Specific Content and Production

Topics - HSC Course

- Industry Study
- Design and Management
- Workplace Communication
- Industry-Specific Content and Production

Post School Options

Multimedia: Graphic design, photography, art, musician, industrial design, animator, film editing, special effects, or any creative field. The skills learned in this subject would also complement careers in business or in any field where you would need to present your ideas. The Industry study component also complements Business Studies.

MATHEMATICS EXTENSION 1

(Preliminary & HSC)

Number of Units: 1

Exclusions: none

Co-requisites: Students must be doing Mathematics Advanced

External Assessment: Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

This course is designed to form a continuum to provide students with opportunities to acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in mathematical concepts at progressively higher levels and with applications in an increasing number of contexts. This course provide students with opportunities to learn about the interconnected nature of mathematics, its beauty and its functionality. The concepts and techniques of differential and integral calculus are the basis of the courses. Mathematics Extension 1 enables students to develop a thorough knowledge and understanding of and competence in further aspects of mathematics as an extension of the Mathematics Advanced course. The course provides opportunities to develop rigorous mathematical arguments and proofs, and to use mathematical models more extensively.

Why study this course

Through the study of Mathematics Extension 1, students:

- develop thorough knowledge, understanding and skills in working mathematically and in communicating concisely and precisely
- develop rigorous mathematical arguments and proofs, and use mathematical models extensively
- develop awareness of the interconnected nature of mathematics, its beauty and its functionality
- gain an appropriate mathematical background for future pathways that may involve mathematics and its applications.

Topics - Preliminary Course

- Further work with Functions
- Polynomials
- Further Trigonometry
- Permutations and Combinations
- The Binomial Theorem

Topics - HSC Course

- Proof by Mathematical Induction
- Introduction to Vectors
- Inverse Trigonometric Functions
- Further Calculus Skills
- Further Applications of Calculus
- The Binomial Distribution and Sampling Distribution of the Mean

HSC MATHEMATICS EXTENSION 2

(HSC only)

Number of Units: 1

Exclusions: Year 12 course only

Co-Requisites: Students must be studying Mathematics Advanced & Extension I

External Assessment: Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

Mathematics Extension 2 provides students with the opportunity to develop strong mathematical manipulation skills and a deep understanding of the fundamental ideas of algebra and calculus. Students strengthen their appreciation of mathematics as an activity with its own intrinsic value, involving invention, intuition and exploration. Mathematics Extension 2 extends students' conceptual knowledge and understanding through the exploration of new areas of mathematics not seen in Mathematics Advanced and Mathematics Extension 1. Mathematics Extension 2 provides a basis for a wide range of applications of mathematics as well as a strong foundation for further study of the subject at tertiary level.

Why study this course

Through the study of Mathematics Extension 2, students:

- develop strong knowledge, understanding and skills in working mathematically and in communicating concisely and precisely
- acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to mathematical concepts that have applications in an increasing number of contexts
- gain an appropriate mathematical background for future pathways which are founded in mathematics and its applications.

Topics - HSC Course

- Proof
- Vectors
- Complex Numbers
- Calculus
- Mechanics

For this course:

- The Mathematics Extension 1 Year 12 course should be taught prior to or concurrently with this course.
- Students should experience content in the course in familiar and routine situations as well as unfamiliar situations.
- Students should be provided with regular opportunities involving the integration of technology to enrich the learning experience.

PHYSICS

(Preliminary & HSC)

Number of Units: 2

Exclusions/Pre-Requisites: You can only study six units of Science in Year 11

External Assessment: Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

The Year 11 course develops students' knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the study of motion, how we describe it and what causes it. The course also examines energy in its different forms and how we describe and measure electricity and magnetism and their interrelated effects.

The Year 12 course provides avenues for students to apply the concepts introduced in Year 11 and to motion in two dimensions, electromagnetism, the nature of light, and the atomic properties of matter.

Why study this course

Study this course if you want to find out how objects move and how we use that knowledge to our advantage, how important light and its interactions with the world around us are, the basics for electronics, the application of electromagnetism and the fundamentals of quantum physics.

Topics - Preliminary Course

- Module 1 Kinematics
- Module 2 Dynamics
- Module 3 Waves and Thermodynamics
- Module 4 Electricity and Magnetism

Topics - HSC Course

- Module 5 Advanced Mechanics
- Module 6 Electromagnetism
- Module 7 The Nature of Light
- Module 8 From the Universe to the Atom

Post School Options

There are numerous post-school options for Physics including aviation, aeronautical design, astronomy, engineering, electronics, innovation, robotics, communication systems, automated vehicles, sports analytics. That's just to name a few. There will even be other post-school options that currently do not exist but will when you graduate.

HSC SCIENCE EXTENSION

(HSC only)

Number of Units: 1

Exclusions: Year 12 course only

Co-Requisites: Students must be studying at least one HSC Science KLA subject

External Assessment: Scientific Research Report and an Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

The Science Extension Stage 6 Syllabus focuses on the nature, development and processes of science. The course requires students to engage with complex concepts and theories and to critically evaluate new ideas, discoveries and contemporary scientific research. Students are challenged to examine a scientific research question influenced by their study of one or more of the scientific disciplines. In doing this, students extend their knowledge of the discipline(s), conduct further analysis and authentic scientific investigations, and uniquely for this course, produce a detailed scientific research report that reflects the standards generally required for publication in a scientific journal.

Why study this course

Through designing and conducting their own scientific research, initially using small datasets, students deepen and build upon their understanding of analysing and interpreting data. They are provided with opportunities to refine and extend their skills of working scientifically by applying these interrelated processes to contemporary authentic scientific research reflecting the skills used by practising research scientists.

Topics - HSC Course

- The Foundations of Scientific Thinking
- The Scientific Research Proposal
- The Data, Evidence and Decisions
- The Scientific Research Report

This course has a Mandatory Scientific Research Report and Portfolio.

For this course:

- Students must propose and develop a research question, formulate a hypothesis and develop evidence-based responses in the form of a Scientific Research Report, which is supported by a Scientific Research Portfolio.
- Undertake a written examination

Post School Options

Science Extension is designed for students with an interest in scientific research. The course lays a foundation for students planning to pursue further study in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) based courses offered at the tertiary level and to engage in new and emerging industries.

SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

(Preliminary & HSC)

Number of Units: 2

Exclusions/Pre-Requisites: None

External Assessment: Online Examination

Contribution to ATAR: Yes

Course Description

The Preliminary course introduces students to the basic concepts of computer software design and development. It does this by looking at the different ways in which software can be developed and the tools that can be used to assist in this process. The course provides students with opportunities to develop and apply an understanding of the fundamental elements involved in creating software. The HSC course provides students with opportunities to extend their knowledge, understanding and skills in the development of software. A major software engineering project provides students with the opportunity to further develop project management skills.

Why study this course

The study of Software Engineering 11-12 enables students to develop an understanding of software engineering as a facet of computer science. Students have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of software engineering, hardware and software integration and the development, implementation and evaluation of computer programs. They focus on a systematic approach to problem-solving when designing and developing creative software solutions.

Topics - Preliminary Course

- Programming Fundamentals
- The Object-Oriented Paradigm
- Programming Mechatronics

Topics - HSC Course

- Secure Software Architecture
- Programming for the Web
- Software Automation
- Software Engineering Project

Post School Options

Software Engineering lays a foundation for access into a variety of different computer-related fields including – software programmer, software engineer, system architect, system analyst and graphic designer. This course also helps foster business-related skills and practices which may also be of benefit in all areas such as business, accounting and engineering.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING COURSES

The following Vocational Education and Training (VET) Courses will be offered through School of Now:

- **ICT30120 Certificate III in Information Technology**

For the most up-to-date information regarding these courses, please visit the 2026 VET Subject Selection, which can be found in the link below:

[2026 VET Subject Selection Information](#)

For information regarding the delivery of learning and an explanation between VET Cluster and School of Now classes, please visit the link below:

[Methods for Delivery of Learning in VET](#)

SCHOOL OF NOW

Other Resources

Student Testimonials

The following contains some students sharing their learning journey with School of Now.

https://youtu.be/hyHPIALs_cQ?feature=shared



Home School Testimonials

The following contains some Home School Mentor Teachers sharing their perspectives on School of Now.

<https://youtu.be/N4wxZKqplgA?feature=shared>



For any further information pertaining to School of Now please email:

schoolofnow@parra.catholic.edu.au

or visit:

<https://schoolofnow.parra.catholic.edu.au>

[School of Now Expression of Interest Application Link](#)
