



Holy Cross
College

Year 10 Subject Selections

2026

Introduction

Year 10 marks an important stage in your learning journey, providing opportunities to deepen your knowledge, explore new interests and prepare for the pathways available in Years 11 and 12. This is the year to begin thinking carefully about your future studies and career goals, as the subjects you choose now can help support your ideal pathway in the senior years.

Students will study **two electives per semester**, with details of the 2026 offerings outlined in this handbook. Most electives run for one semester; however, classes will only run where there are sufficient student numbers.

Students are required to select eight electives in order of preference, and families are encouraged to choose carefully, as the College timetable has limited flexibility, and changes after selections have been submitted are often difficult to accommodate.

Mr Stewart Crainie
Deputy Principal – Learning

Courses of Study

Courses of study for Year 10 students consists of two components – Compulsory and Elective Studies.

Compulsory Study

The compulsory component is studied by all Year 10 students and includes:

Religious Education
Mathematics
English
Science
Humanities and Social Sciences
Health and Physical Education

Religious Education is a compulsory subject at Holy Cross College, reflecting our identity as a Catholic school and supporting students in developing their faith, values and understanding of the Catholic tradition.

The English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences courses are aligned to the Western Australian Curriculum and will give students a strong foundation for their Senior School studies.

Elective Study

In Year 10, students will select **four main preferences** from the list provided in this handbook, along with **four reserve preferences**.

Each elective course is **one semester in length** and will be studied for **three periods per week**.

The following electives will be offered in 2026.

Technologies	The Arts	Physical Education	Certificates
Applied Information Technology Childcare Studies Custom Jewellery Design Food Innovation and Techniques Materials and Design – Metalwork Materials and Design – Woodwork Photography Textiles Technology	Dance Drama Media Visual Arts – 2D Visual Arts – 3D	Outdoor Education Applied Physical Education	Certificate II Workplace Skills Certificate II Visual Arts

Homework

Homework is an integral component of the learning process. The purpose of homework is to:

- Reinforce learning by practicing and consolidating skills.
- Build study habits like time management and self-discipline.
- Foster accountability, ensuring students take responsibility for their learning.
- Help teachers track progress and provide support.
- Strengthen the link between school and home, encouraging collaboration.
- Prepare for the rigour of Year 11 and Year 12.

More information on the College's homework procedures can be found via the link below:

[Ready to Learn – Homework at Holy Cross College](#)

Christian Service Learning – Giving Life

Year 10 marks the start of a transformative three-year service journey, as students encounter opportunities that empower them to make a tangible, positive difference in their communities. By Year 12, students will have completed at least 50 hours of service and a thoughtful reflection which will earn themselves a component of their School Curriculum and Standards Authority accreditation. This official recognition can be presented to universities and employers, showcasing each graduate's genuine commitment to community, leadership, and a dedication to serving others.

Among the encounters students can experience during this time are Ellenbrook Meals and the Social Justice Immersion. Such experiences seek to connect students deeply to their community, inspire them to belong, contribute and lead with compassion wherever life takes them.

The Giving LIFE program throughout the Senior School years empowers students to serve in ways that are meaningful to them, encouraging each young person to use their unique, God-given gifts and talents to make a genuine difference. By supporting and building community groups they are passionate about, students not only develop leadership and compassion, but also help create stronger, more caring communities.

Subject Descriptions

Religious Education

The general aim of Religious Education within Catholic schools is to provide students with learning experiences and opportunities to reflect on:

- the vision of the human person within a Christian context,
- how the development of this vision is often hampered as a result of human weakness and social conditioning, and
- how, within Christian tradition and practice, one is offered the means by which to rise above all that prevents them from becoming a fully integrated human being.

Students will follow the Perth Archdiocesan Religious Education Course. Year 10 students will study the following topics:

- Vocation – Called to be and Become
- The Search for Freedom
- The Holy Spirit's Action through Conscience and the Church
- Restoring God's Justice in the World

Mathematics

The Mathematics curriculum provides opportunities for students to engage in a range of approaches to learning through the proficiency strands of Understanding, Fluency, Problem-Solving and Reasoning. These reinforce the significance of working mathematically with the content and describe how the content is explored or developed. Students draw on the behaviours of the proficiencies when selecting and using year level content to apply the complete modelling process, leading to an increased understanding of the complexity of the natural environment, society and technology.

In Year 10, students further engage in financial mathematics by calculating and interpreting income tax and compound interest. They explore the effect of error when using approximate rather than exact real values, including in measurement situations. They apply the index laws and extend their algebraic and graphical understanding to include inequalities, simultaneous equations and quadratic and exponential functions.

Students make connections between measurement and geometry by considering the effect on perimeter, area, volume, capacity and surface area when similar figures and objects are enlarged or reduced. Students use geometric reasoning to establish conditions for similar triangles. They find unknown sides and angles in right-angled triangles using Pythagoras' theorem or trigonometry and extend their three-dimensional spatial reasoning and use of formula to include volume, capacity and surface area of composite objects.

Students connect probability and statistics by collecting data from two- and three-stage chance experiments and simulations, both with and without replacement, to model conditional events. They interpret, compare key features and analyse, multiple boxplots. Students broaden their understanding of analysis to include commenting on association in bivariate and categorical data. Students critically analyse statistical reports in the media and identify potential sources of bias.

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Note: the optional content in Year 10 is intended to build and extend students' year-level knowledge according to areas of interest, understanding of content and preparation for subsequent study. The content descriptions are optional. Teachers may choose from optional content according to the needs of the student/s.

English

In Year 10 English, students refine their skills in reading, viewing, writing, speaking and creating as they explore a wide range of texts for learning and enjoyment. They learn how language and text structures can influence values, beliefs and attitudes, and how different perspectives are shaped by context, audience and purpose. Students are encouraged to think critically, questioning and analysing ideas, themes and issues in increasingly complex and sophisticated texts.

Students engage with a variety of literary and media texts, including novels, poetry, plays, non-fiction, and digital or screen-based texts. These may explore themes such as human experiences, relationships, cultural identity and ethical or global issues. Students also create their own texts for different purposes and audiences, such as persuasive and analytical responses, narratives, dramatic performances, reviews and digital presentations. This helps them develop confidence in expressing ideas clearly, creatively and with a deeper understanding of how language shapes meaning.

Science

In Year 10 Science, students deepen their understanding of how science explains the world around them and how scientific discoveries influence society. They learn to ask questions, form hypotheses and plan fair and reliable investigations. Students collect and analyse data, look for patterns and relationships, and use evidence to draw conclusions, while also learning how to communicate their findings clearly to different audiences.

Students explore genetics and natural selection to understand heredity and the continuity of life. They develop a more detailed understanding of atomic theory, chemical bonding and reactions, predicting products and the effects of changing reaction conditions. In physical sciences, students investigate motion, forces and energy conservation, using mathematical models to describe and predict movement. They also study astronomy, exploring the formation of stars, galaxies and solar systems, and how space exploration has expanded our knowledge of the universe and benefited life on Earth.

Humanities and Social Sciences

In Year 10 Humanities and Social Sciences, students develop their skills in critical thinking, questioning, researching and analysing as they explore important historical, geographical, political and economic issues. They learn how events, ideas and decisions shape society and consider their own role as active and informed citizens in a changing world.

Students study Australia's democracy and global responsibilities, investigating how democratic values, justice and human rights are upheld nationally and internationally. In Economics, they explore living standards, economic performance and government decision-making, considering how businesses and governments respond to challenges and change. In Geography, students examine environmental change and human wellbeing at local, national and global levels, comparing Australia with less economically-developed countries. In History, students explore the modern world from World War II to the present, focusing on human rights, freedom and the impact of world events on Australia and other nations.

Health and Physical Education

In Year 10 Health and Physical Education, students strengthen their understanding of how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and contribute to the wellbeing of others. They learn to evaluate health information and media messages, considering how these can shape personal identity and influence community health. Students also develop skills to build respectful relationships, focusing on communication, consent, and understanding emotional responses in different situations.

In Physical Education, students continue to refine and apply their movement skills across a range of sports and activities, using feedback to improve their performance. They learn to plan for lifelong physical activity to enhance fitness, health and wellbeing. Teamwork, leadership and ethical behaviour are key areas of focus, as students develop strategies to motivate others, build strong team relationships and demonstrate fair play in competitive and recreational settings.

Elective Study Descriptions

Technologies

Applied Information Technology

In Year 10 Applied Information Technology, students build on their digital literacy by developing practical skills in using a range of software and technologies. The course focuses on hardware, software, networks, digital design, and the impact of technology on society. Students apply problem-solving and project management skills to create digital products such as websites, graphics, and documents. Ethical use of technology, data security, and responsible digital citizenship are also explored to prepare students for real-world applications in a technology-driven world.

Childcare Studies

Students deepen their understanding of child development by exploring key childcare theories alongside practical caregiving skills. They learn about influential theorists such as to understand children's physical, emotional, and social growth. Through hands-on activities, students apply this knowledge to create safe, nurturing environments that support children's wellbeing and learning. This course develops both critical thinking and practical skills essential for working with children and families.

Custom Jewellery Design

In Year 10 Custom Jewellery Design, students refine their creative and technical skills to produce unique, wearable pieces that reflect personal style and innovation. They explore advanced techniques in metalworking, wirework, and decorative finishes while working with a variety of materials such as metal, resin, beads, and plastics. Design thinking and problem-solving are central as students plan, prototype, and construct custom jewellery pieces. The course encourages originality, attention to detail, and safe, confident use of tools and equipment in a workshop setting.

Food Innovation and Techniques

Students explore the exciting world of modern cooking by experimenting with new ingredients, techniques, and flavours. This course encourages creativity and problem-solving as students develop practical skills in food preparation, safety, and presentation. They learn how to adapt recipes, make healthy choices, and understand the science behind cooking, all while creating delicious and innovative dishes. This hands-on course inspires students to become confident and inventive cooks.

Materials and Design Technology – Metalwork

In Year 10 Metalwork, students explore the properties and applications of both metal and plastic materials through creative and practical projects. They learn safe and effective techniques for cutting, shaping, joining, and finishing a variety of materials using hand tools and workshop machinery. The course encourages innovation and problem-solving as students apply the design process to plan and produce functional, high-quality products. A focus on sustainability and material selection helps students understand real-world manufacturing and design practices.

Materials and Design Technology – Woodwork

In Year 10 Woodwork, students extend their skills in designing and constructing timber projects using a range of tools, machinery, and joining techniques. They apply the design process to plan, produce, and evaluate functional and creative wooden items. With a focus on accuracy, safety, and sustainability, students explore material properties, project planning, and workshop practices. This course encourages problem-solving, craftsmanship, and independent thinking in a hands-on learning environment.

Photography

The focus for this course is to develop an understanding of the design process. Students will learn that design can be used to provide solutions to design problems within the photographic medium. Students will be introduced to basic design skills and a range of techniques within a series of contexts including, but not limited to, poster design, magazine design and calendars just to name a few.

Students explore design elements and principles and the design process in a range of projects communicating something of themselves. Students increase their familiarity with basic production skills and processes, materials and technologies.

Textiles Technology

In Year 10 Textiles Technology, students build on their foundational sewing skills by exploring advanced techniques and technologies used in textile design and production. They gain hands-on experience using overlockers and embroidery machines to enhance the quality and appearance of their projects. Students experiment with design processes, including pattern modification, embellishment, and surface decoration, to create functional and decorative textile items. The course encourages creativity, problem-solving, and precision while promoting safe and confident use of textile equipment.

The Arts

Dance

The Year 10 Dance Course extends and refines students' technical skills in multiple genres of dance, including but not limited to, hip hop, jazz, contemporary and musical theatre.

They will have the opportunity to choreograph, perform to an audience and analyse their own and others' work. Students explore the elements of dance and the use of choreographic devices to help communicate ideas and intent in group work. They will be introduced to the anatomical structure of the body, explore Safe Dance practices and investigate the social, cultural and historical contexts in which dance exists.

Students enrolled in Year 10 Dance are expected to perform in the College's Annual Dance Showcase.

Drama

Students will be given opportunities to develop their knowledge and performance and production skills safely using processes, techniques and conventions of drama. They will develop drama based on devising drama (play-building) and exploring the styles of youth and issues-based theatre, using a range of appropriate script excerpts and stimulus. This will extend into an opportunity to perform in a Youth Performing Arts Competition, YouthFest. Students will also focus on learning about the various design and production roles in the theatre. In reflection and production, students will be encouraged to develop their use of extended answer forms and interviews, using drama terminology, language and different forms of communication, based on their own drama and the drama of others. They will also have the opportunity to reflect on a professional, live performance.

Media

Students will explore music videos and documentary productions as they develop an understanding of how media language is used to create certain responses from the intended audience. Students will analyse, view and interact with popular examples of music videos and pop-culture entertainment. In addition, students will work in groups to extend their production skills with experimental camera work and editing skills to produce creative and engaging music video productions.

Students will be introduced to a range of equipment including video and audio recording devices such as gimbals, portable LED lighting kits and wireless microphones along with applications such as Adobe Photoshop, Premiere Pro and After Effects to produce high-quality media productions.

Visual Art – 2D

This course offers an exciting and immersive experience for students interested in developing their artistic skills and exploring the world of painting and drawing. Students will have the opportunity to work with a wide range of materials and techniques, from traditional 2D media such as pencil, charcoal, ink, watercolour, acrylics, and oil paints, to more contemporary approaches including digital drawing and collage.

Throughout the course, students will build a strong technical foundation by learning key principles such as composition, colour theory, and perspective. They will also develop their observational skills and learn to accurately capture the world around them. Beyond technique, the course encourages students to think creatively and critically about the role of art in society. They will be supported in finding their own artistic voice and exploring how art can be used to express ideas and emotions.

By the end of the course, students will have gained the skills, confidence and understanding needed to continue their artistic journey—whether through further study, a career in the arts, or personal creative practice. This course lays the groundwork for a lifelong appreciation of the visual arts and the creative process.

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Visual Art – 3D

This course offers students an exciting opportunity to focus on the popular and expressive world of three-dimensional art. With a strong emphasis on sculpture and ceramics, students will experiment with a range of materials—such as clay, wire, plaster and mixed media—to design and create original 3D artworks.

Throughout the course, students will explore how form, space, and texture can be used to communicate ideas. They will gain hands-on experience in building and shaping materials, while also learning how to plan, problem-solve, and refine their work through the creative process.

In addition to practical skills, students will develop their ability to understand and interpret the work of other artists—studying both traditional and contemporary sculptors and ceramicists from Australia and around the world. They will be encouraged to reflect on their own artistic decisions and begin to build a personal style.

This course builds on prior learning and contributes to a deeper understanding of the cultural and creative foundations of visual art. It is ideal for students who enjoy working with their hands, thinking in three dimensions, and expressing ideas through form and structure.

Health and Physical Education

Outdoor Education (\$900)

Students discover the world around them through experiential learning, they will attend a two-night camp including abseiling, tubing and hiking. With an integrated approach of practical and theory, students develop ecological consciousness, practical outdoor skills and are empowered to challenge themselves by choice.

Applied Physical Education

Students will explore the relationship between physical activity, health, and society. They will develop an understanding of functional anatomy and exercise physiology. The practical benefits of physical activity and design exercise programs to improve performance and reduce injury risk.

Certification Courses

Certificate II Workplace Skills (Full Year Course)

This certificate is designed for students who want to get a head start on their career and learn how workplaces really work.

This nationally recognised qualification helps students build essential skills for any job – from communication and teamwork to using technology and understanding how businesses operate. Students will take part in practical activities and projects, but there is also a strong written component that supports student learning and helps them meet professional standards.

- **Communication Skills:** Learn how to speak, write, and work effectively with others in a professional setting.
- **Problem Solving and Teamwork:** Develop skills to work in teams, solve problems, and manage tasks.
- **Digital Literacy:** Use workplace technology and software to complete tasks and stay organised.
- **Written Work is Key:** Completion of written tasks and reflections allow students to demonstrate an understanding of workplace practices and help them meet the requirements of a professional qualification.
- **Real-World Knowledge:** Explore how businesses run, what employers expect, and how to prepare for future work.
- **Pathways Forward:** This certificate can lead to further study in business, administration, or other career-focused courses.

Certificate II Visual Arts (Full Year Course)

This certificate is designed for students who are passionate about art and ready to take their creativity to the next level.

This nationally recognised qualification gives students the chance to explore their artistic side while building real-world skills. Students will work with a range of materials and techniques, develop their own ideas, and create original artworks. This certificate not only includes making art – there is also a strong written component that helps students to understand the professional side of the visual arts industry.

- **Build Skills:** Learn the basics of drawing and explore different art styles and materials.
- **Think Like an Artist:** Develop creative ideas and learn how to plan and refine work.
- **Hands-On Projects:** Create artworks using a variety of tools and techniques.
- **Written Work Matters:** As part of this certificate, students will complete written tasks that show their understanding of the creative process, materials and industry practices.
- **Industry Insights:** Discover what it is like to work in the visual arts world, including the business side of being an artist.
- **Future Pathways:** This course can lead to further study in visual arts, design, or other creative industries.

Certificate courses run for two semesters and will require independent learning, self-motivation, and a commitment to a minimum of one-hour of homework each week.

This qualification is nationally recognised and may assist students in accessing further training at TAFE.