

Newcastle Waldorf School
2020

Preliminary & HSC
Information Booklet

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Introduction

Since 2014 Newcastle Waldorf School has been running its own registered and accredited HSC pathway, for both Year 11 and Year 12. We have chosen a pathway that fulfils our aim to bring a quality, balanced education to our senior students; engaging their hearts, minds and wills in purposeful activities. Our range of courses brings them opportunities to be inspired by cultural achievements and to follow their individual inspirations along with academic challenges balanced with creative and physical endeavours. We have full Registration and Accreditation from the Board of Studies to teach the HSC in Years 11 & 12.

Our range of subjects fulfils the Board of Studies requirements for the achievement of an HSC, however, the students are able to choose to sit external exams for just 6 units (out of the minimum 10 unit requirement for an ATAR). Students who choose this pathway will NOT receive an ATAR. For these students, University entrance (at the University of Newcastle) can be obtained through a combination of the HSC and the presentation of the student's Portfolio and Presentation work to a university panel. Alternative pathways into university are gaining popularity around the country. Universities are look for young people who are ready for

the requirements of first year university. Completing year 11 & 12 and being able to communicate effectively with a university panel serves this purpose for all courses except (currently) those in Health, but some of these courses may be accessed through undertaking an additional STAT test, or through beginning studies in a Science course.

The Learning Culture of the Senior School

This includes:

- Steiner based teaching methodologies such as: a broad base of subjects, multidisciplinary studies, use of a phenomenological method (observation-based instruction) and support for breadth of thinking through artistic and musical activities as well as involvement in school outdoor nature events.
- Some application of the Independent Learning Model, particularly for the Individual Major Project and Portfolio, including: teacher as facilitator, self-monitored progress, and independent research.
- Assessment Procedures, including: course assessment schedules, a range of assessment requirements, external HSC exams for English, Mathematics, Music, Visual Arts and Science, and the application of N determinations for non-completion of assessment requirements.

Patterns of Study and University Entrance

The pattern of Study offered by the school is a two-year program, but this can be extended to a three-year program for individuals. The way we deliver Visual Arts and P&P means that students usually don't complete their Preliminary units in one year and then their HSC units in the following year. This has implications for students who may wish to change schools after year 11, or complete their schooling at the end of year 11. In these cases, they will not have completed the Preliminary course.

Over the two years, however, students will complete 12 preliminary units and 10 HSC units which will make them eligible for the award of the HSC.

Students who achieve an HSC that includes Board Endorsed Courses do not qualify for an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank), however there are a number of options for students seeking university entrance. They include:

- Presenting their HSC and Individual Project Portfolio to a university. We currently have an agreement with Newcastle University to assist students through this application process.
- Completing an additional STAT test (in the following year, see Glossary) to supplement the HSC result and generate an ATAR.
- Completing additional units of Board Developed HSC Courses (see list of Board Developed Courses).
- Completing bridging courses offered by universities, such as the 1 year Newstep course.

These options should be discussed with parents and teachers on an individual basis.

Extra Curricula Activities

Our Year 11 and 12 students are a valuable asset to the cultural and social aspects of our school community and their contribution has a huge impact on the younger students. We expect our senior students to attend

all our timetabled extracurricular activities including music groups and excursions, and consider their enrolment in our senior program to include their firm commitment to these school activities.

Overseas Trips

We have been conducting overseas trips every second year including Carrara (Italy) trip in 2012, 2014 and 2016, and have our 2020 trip planned. Students have also been to England and Paris (2018). The Wayfarers took students to Japan and Taiwan in April 2014, and made a return visit to our school in August 2015.

Drama

Prospero Players continue to collaborate with the Newcastle Waldorf School students from Years 10 to 12, to produce plays for the public. Productions include opportunities for students to contribute and/or collaborate on original music, artistic set and costume design, lighting, script editing, movement choreography and speech work. We anticipate a Prospero production in April 2021 after the success of *The Tempest* in April 2015, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in 2017 and *As You Like it* in 2019.

Music

Morning Choir and orchestral groups are one of the School's unique strengths. It supports the students' overall wellbeing and development via the inherent positive qualities of daily group singing and participation in musical experiences. Senior students can take leadership roles in orchestra and chamber music groups and may contribute to the choice of repertoire and the direction of the ensembles and we are looking at organising performances for our Year 9-12 students for the public each year.

Along with our talented individual instrument teachers, students also have the opportunity to work with eminent visiting artists. Visiting artists in the past have included Tony Backhouse, Rachel Hoare, Judy Clingan, The Wayfarers and Francine Bell (for the choir) and Timothy Constable, Fode Mane and Chinta Reiss (drumming), also Monique Claire (cellist) and Jess Randall (violin).

Youth Conferences

Our Year 10 & 11 students attended the first Steiner Education Australia National Youth Conference in Samford valley in 2019. It was a highly successful experience for all the students involved and we intend to participate in all future conferences of this kind.

Courses

Board Developed Courses:

- **2U English (Advanced or Standard plus extension)** *All students must do an English course*
- **2U Mathematics (Advanced or Standard plus extension)**
- **2U Visual Arts** *All students will do this course*
- **2U Music 1**
- **2U Investigating Science (or Biology)**

These subjects have internal and external assessment and count towards an HSC and an ATAR. They will include as much Steiner content as possible, and students will be able to present any creative work to the School Community at the end of the year.

Board Endorsed Courses:

- **2U Philosophy** *It is expected that all students will do at least 1 Module of the Preliminary section of this course*
- **2U Portfolio & Presentation** *All students will do this course in 2021*
- **2U Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation**

These subjects are assessed entirely within the school and count towards an HSC. They are explained in detail below.

Additional Courses:

Camden Haven Distance Education and OTEN/TAFE – other sciences, Modern History, Languages and other subjects. These subjects count towards an HSC and an ATAR. There is a range of subjects available through distance education but they will need approval on an individual basis by the teachers. We try to limit our use of DE courses where possible. TAFE courses include subjects such as Screen and Media

Courses in Detail

Philosophy

The Lorien Novalis School originally developed this course and our teachers have assisted in updating two of the modules, it is now used by a number of Steiner schools for their senior studies. The course covers many of the significant Steiner School Year 11 & 12 Main Lessons. The topics are wide ranging and relevant, covering aspects of Science, Music, Drama, Geometry, Nature Studies, Agriculture, History, Ideology, Literature and Art, with cultural and artistic insight. NESAs has approved the course content, outcomes and assessment procedures and this course is attracting a lot of interest from other Steiner Schools. The following modules have been chosen by the School for inclusion in our Philosophy Course.

Power of Wonder

This is an introductory module addressing questions on the nature and relevance of philosophical enquiry, including the Socratic method and key philosophical movements and debates in history. Students will investigate significant philosophers across the ages and the importance of critical and imaginative thinking in today's society. **Task- Socratic Dialogue/Debate**

Clash of Ideologies

This is a study of revolution and evolution. Students can explore the science of the history of people in relation to clashes in ideologies and belief systems. The module explores world conflicts, the effects of Communism, Nazism and Democratisation, and how new world orders have given rise to new insecurities, new tensions and

major confrontations. Students also look at the powerful work of resistance movements during times of totalitarianism. **Task - Written report**

Zeitgeist (Spirit of our Time)

The concept of Zeitgeist, proponents of the idea and its historical context are explored by engaging students in a journey into the making of the present day world. Students will survey the development of human consciousness, including values, attitudes and perspectives, from the 19th and 20th centuries into the present new millennium. Critical shifts in thinking, feeling and willing will be investigated. Students will engage in a survey of artistic, literary and historical texts, which give insight into contemporary issues such as the environment and racism, technology, medicine, war and entertainment, and their impact on society and human consciousness. **Task - Class Debate**

Beyond Good and Evil

This unit addresses the modern questions of choice and consequences, of moral and ethical discourse, through engagement with the origin, history and tradition of the devil's books and the Dr Faustus narratives. **Task – Short Responses and Creative Composition**

Forms of Space and Time - Projective Geometry

Students will develop an appreciation and understanding of the human experiences and changing thoughts of time and space. It is an enlivening experience investigating the deep artistry of nature. Students develop a portfolio of completed diagrams and writings, which explore the impressive range of geometric shapes found in the natural world. They also explore concepts of movement, time and pattern making and how these impact on shapes. Students discover how the art of projective geometry reveals natural forms and the metamorphoses of these forms. **Task – Portfolio of Completed Projective Geometry Constructions and commentaries**

Spiritual Currents in World History

Here students can find the common threads as well as the differences which arise in the spiritual currents found throughout world history. The aim of this lesson is to gain an understanding of some of the spiritual philosophies of the East and West by studying the origins, the founders, their lives, their spiritual message and code of ethics, and to observe the evolution of the original message in light of the present. Students can review the creation stories of Indigenous Australians and American Indians, and partake in an artistic overview through story, art and music of the spiritual perspectives of a range of cultures which could include: Celtic, Islamic, Hebraic, Christian, Hindi, and/or Buddhist. Students will explore and appreciate the influences of religious and spiritual movements on present day humanity. **Task - Portfolio**

The Universal Language of Music (an elective module)

Students will be given the opportunity to experience music on a number of different levels. They can investigate some exploratory questions relating to music which compare and contrast music unique to a culture with music as a universal language that transcends cultural boundaries.

Students will have a wide range of experiences to develop a broad understanding, but they will choose one of three main questions as their focus including: **The Music of the Spheres; Music and Spirituality; Music, Expression and Emotions:** What can be expressed through music, where do composers find inspiration, and how and why does music affect us so deeply?

Global Issues in Farming and Food (an elective module)

This is a unique opportunity for students to gain practical experience in the increasingly important field of organic agricultural methods including an introduction to biodynamics. Biodynamic agriculture emphasises the link between humans, the earth and the cosmos, creating a sustainable approach to agriculture through the use of manures and composts while excluding the use of artificial chemicals on soil and plants. Methods

unique to the biodynamic approach include the use of a sowing and planting calendar and specially prepared mineral additives for compost and field sprays which reinvigorate the natural forces of growth and decay in the plant world. Class activities will include field studies visiting working farms and talks with active farmers and gardeners. Through these experiences students will increase their positive values and attitudes towards many aspects of the environment. We foresee possible collaboration with other Steiner schools for some of these experiences. **Task - Journal of ideas, research, diagrams**

Portfolio and Presentation

Portfolio and Presentation is a preliminary course and has been developed by the School and approved by NESAs. A form of this course has been taught in many Steiner schools usually going by the name of the Individual or Major Project. The course involves an in-depth exploration into a field of study of the student's own choosing. The course is typically project-based but requires the students to articulate their project through the development of a journal, portfolio, exposition and presentation.

This course is considered to be the apex of a student's journey in Steiner schools in Australia and globally. In the years preceding Year 11 and 12, the student has engaged, through the harmonious balance of lessons and activities, in the development of their mental, artistic and practical capacities. In the final years of their schooling this development reaches its culmination in the course we have called Portfolio and Presentation.

This course is designed to draw from and weave together the three strands of the human being's relationship to the world – thinking, feeling and willing. In the presentation component of this course, delivered to the school and the wider school community, the student makes a personal statement of their striving to become a free-thinking individual in the world.

The way in which this course differs from subjects such as D&T, Visual Art and Science is that the students are not bound by what the syllabus specifies they must study in that field. Instead, they choose the field, what direction to take and the depth of their study. The majority of learning involves gaining knowledge and skills to help them find the information they need, to then make sense of the information, to manage themselves through the work and present their work visually and orally.

A student's Mentor and Supervisor provide specific teaching and learning in the chosen field. A Supervisor from the School will be assigned to work with each student, overseeing how each aspect of the course is being managed. Students will also be assisted to find a suitable Mentor(s) to give them in-depth advice in their chosen field.

In the initial stages of the course the students are required to write a proposal that outlines their intentions for the course. All proposals will be thoroughly scrutinised for any overlap between the student's choice of study for the Portfolio and Presentation Course and other HSC subjects the student is undertaking. Projects and submitted works developed for assessment in one course are not to be used either in full or in part for assessment in any other course.

Examples of projects by past students both at Newcastle and other Steiner schools

- Writing a novel or children's book
- Building a boat
- Fitting out a van and a ute as a form of accommodation
- Producing and marketing a calendar of the year with photographs
- Writing and directing a silent film
- Designing and making musical instruments, timber furniture, mountain bikes, surfboards and skateboards
- The writing, production, direction, music composition, costuming and casting of a dramatic piece or theatrical dances
- An exhibition of photography

- The writing of music, its performance and production of a CD
- The creation & fabrication of a collection of clothing, and the staging of a showing of the collection
- Establishing and organising an ongoing community market
- Designing and constructing a climbing wall
- Designing and constructing a relocatable room/cottage

The course consists of five main modules each concentrating on different learning areas designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to successfully complete a significant individual project. Within each teaching block time will be allotted to teaching the content of each module as well as for practical achievement of student projects.

MODULE 1 – Orientation

This module provides a philosophical underpinning to the course as a whole. The students will have the opportunity to study “The Journeyman” in story and biography to awaken questions on life, purpose and future endeavour. It provides students with the opportunity to think about themselves and ask questions such as “who am I?” “where have I come from?” “where am I going?” in order to see greater reason in their choice of endeavour. Finally, it offers a chance for reflection on how choices in the aspects of the course have contributed enriched, confused, expanded and contracted cerebral, emotional and practical intelligence of the individual and their connection with their fellows and the wider world. In this module, the students will prepare a proposal of their intended scope of study. The students will prepare this in written form and also be expected to present this proposal to a panel of teachers for feedback and approval.

MODULE 2 – Shaping in Imagination (Documentation)

This module provides students with opportunities to explore and produce ways of presenting their work for communication to others. The students will analyse various approaches to presentation by looking at the ideas, designs and techniques of others. This module prepares the students with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop a presentable portfolio that represents the learning undertaken during the course and a journal that documents their progress. They will learn to use a range of presentation methods that involve I.C.T. as well as skills such as book and folio making. Students will learn to use rhetorical modes of writing in the communication of their ideas, reflections and findings throughout the portfolio, journal and exposition.

MODULE 3 - A Voyage of Discovery - Research and Referencing

This module provides students with opportunities to learn and apply methods of research. It takes them on their journey of discovery through the chosen field of study. Students will learn to apply appropriate, ethical research technique, learn to source a variety of reliable information, avoid plagiarism and formally refer to their sources of information. Through the study of outstanding people in various fields of endeavour, students develop a reverence for the work of others and gain inspiration to continue their own work.

MODULE 4 – Managing the Journey

This module provides students with opportunities to learn and apply necessary project management tools, strategies and methods to assist the successful outcome of the project. Students will be taught methods used for project management such as creating schedules for time, material and resource management. They will learn how to monitor and evaluate their management plans. Students will gain knowledge and understanding in the methods and skills required to set goals, prioritise and organise.

MODULE 5 – Communicating with the Community

This module provides students with opportunities to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in the area of public speaking. They will explore a variety of techniques and tools in the preparation of their presentations. This module allows them to develop the ability to structure an engaging presentation for an intended audience.

Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Please note this course is only available to students on approval.

This course provides students with opportunities to engage in a range of physical activities. In the eight selected modules covered over the two years, students will have some choice in selecting activities that meet the module requirements. For example, in 'Individual games and sports Applications' students could choose mountain bike riding or rock climbing among a range of options. Team activities can be selected and organised around the needs and capacities of each cohort. The course consists of both practical and theory components with some modules being slightly more theory focused than others. There is however, the expectation that all modules and course work is comprised of elements of written, verbal and skills based knowledge and understanding, demonstrated through a range of assessment tasks.

The modules in the course are:

- Aquatics
- Games and Sports Applications II (non-contact or sports where teams are separated by a net)
- Outdoor Recreation (hiking and camping based skills)
- Athletics
- Individual games and Sports
- First Aid and Lifesaving
- Games and Sports Applications I (sports where teams occupy same space)
- Healthy Lifestyles (a study and implementation of needs based activity programs)

English and optional Extensions

Preliminary Advanced English

All students will start in the Preliminary Advanced Course and may then elect to change to the HSC Standard English Course for Year 12. Students will study a variety of important developmental texts, which cover a range of themes reflecting the social context of their times as well as the authors' insights into future developments. Through the way these texts are studied, the students will not only learn to value the power and depth of effective communication, but will become familiar with the leading questions of different eras and the evolutionary relationship between them.

COMMON MODULE: READING TO WRITE

(Advanced and Standard)

- Parzival (Fiction)
- *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (poetry);

MODULE A (Advanced): NARRATIVES THAT SHAPE OUR WORLD

- Speeches and Biography (Non fiction)
- Westwind Djarlu's legacy (Film)

MODULE B (Advanced): CRITICAL STUDY OF LITERATURE

- *Much Ado about Nothing* OR *Hamlet* (Shakespearean drama)

HSC (Advanced English)

These studies include five texts from the NSW Board of Studies list. Students will study a variety of text types in depth with specific areas of focus. The school will use the following texts in 2020.

COMMON MODULE: TEXTS AND HUMAN EXPERIENCES (Advanced and Standard)
The Crucible, Arthur Miller (Drama)

MODULE A: TEXTUAL CONVERSATIONS
The Tempest, William Shakespeare & *Hag-Seed*, Margaret Atwood, (Shakespearean drama and Prose-fiction)

MODULE B: CRITICAL STUDY OF LITERATURE
Poems by T. S. Eliot

MODULE C: THE CRAFT OF WRITING
Short texts such as:
The Ghost of Firoza Baag, Rohinton Misty (Prose fiction), 'The Lady of Shallot', Alfred Lord Tennyson (Poetry); *Metamorphosis*, Franz Kafka (Prose Fiction)

HSC (Standard English)

COMMON MODULE: TEXTS AND HUMAN EXPERIENCES (Advanced and Standard)
The Crucible, Arthur Miller (Drama) and ONE related text

MODULE A Henry Lawson Short Stories

MODULE B: Nonfiction, film or media
Nasht, Simon, Frank Hurley: *The Man Who Made History*

MODULE C : The Craft of Writing Short texts such as:
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy evening, Robert Frost (Poetry);

English Extension 1 and 2

Preliminary Extension English 1 explores one module: Text, Culture and Value. This involves investigating ways of reading. In this unit, students learn how and why texts are appropriated into a range of contexts, develop skills in independent investigation and in extended compositions. Prelim Ext is a requisite for HSC Ext 1 and 2.

HSC Extension 1 focuses specifically on a chosen module and requires refining of the above skills and knowledge. Extension 2 requires a Major Work to be composed in the genre of the student's choice. It is only for those willing to dedicate ongoing and rigorous independent study into their project and to refine their work for sophistication and clarity. *Please note these courses are only available to students on approval.*

2U Advanced Mathematics, 2U Standard Mathematics and optional Extension 1 Mathematics

Mathematics, taught using "first principals" methodology, has an incredibly powerful impact on our developing minds, creating abilities to think clearly and laterally while synthesising and connecting in a relevant manner the huge quantities of information we absorb during our lives. Mathematics teaches us as much about logic as it does about numbers. It increases our problem-solving capacities in all areas of life. The Standard Mathematics Course involves more practical and everyday uses of Mathematics. In the more conceptual Advanced Mathematics course, students learn to use sophisticated multi-step reasoning, and to integrate ideas of calculus with strong algebraic, deductive and modelling skills to successfully solve difficult problems.

Students who choose the Extension 1 option learn to synthesise mathematical techniques, results and ideas creatively across the Mathematics and Mathematics Extension 1 courses to solve difficult problems, and use sophisticated multi-step mathematical reasoning. They develop the further capacity to interpret and evaluate the solutions to problems and to translate efficiently between practical problems and their mathematical model. Students choosing Extension Mathematics need to be able to commit themselves to consistent ongoing study and revision. *Please note these courses are only available to students on approval.*

Visual Art

The Preliminary and HSC Visual Art courses provide students with the opportunity to study a wide selection of examples from the field of visual art, craft and design, requiring them to increasingly focus on areas of their own choice. Students work through a range of art making experiences in the Preliminary course covering broad topics within visual art theory, history and criticism that inform their art making and expand their understanding of the art world from different times, places and cultures. Student art making culminates in a 'body of work' for their year 12 Major Artwork. The major work sees students selecting themes and media of their choice and extending their skills and understanding of art concepts through an intensive creative process. The theory component of the course will continue to deepen their understanding of art practice through case studies of artists and art movements from different historical and cultural contexts. We offer this course in a compressed form (Preliminary and HSC course completed in one year in alternate years to the Portfolio and Presentation Course) Our expectation is that all Stage 6 students at our school will complete the Visual Arts Course

Possible media include:

- Painting
- Printmaking
- Drawing
- Photography
- Sculpture in stone, wood, plaster, clay, metal, mixed media and founds objects
- Ceramics
- Textiles
- Photography
- Video
- Installation works

Previous Students have created works in:

- Cast metals
- Puppet making
- Woven and felted textiles
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Painting and Drawing
- Printmaking
- Film Making

Music 1

Music has been part of these students' lives since they started at the School. It is not surprising that we see the fruits of this education in year 11 and 12. Many students develop to be strong individual performers and composers of music at this age and the Music 1 course offers them the chance to explore the subject in more depth. We can spend time getting to know the nuts and bolts of music while exploring a wide variety of repertoire through performance, listening, composition and musicology. Students who choose chamber music options really value the depth of talent in the other students and teachers when it comes to realising their musical ideas. This course lays a solid foundation for those wishing to pursue a career in music and also provides some opportunities for students to start exploring individual and particular areas of interest.

Investigating Science or Biology

There are a number of Science courses available for students to study in Years 11 and 12. These include Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Earth and Environmental Science and Investigating Science. NESA has revised all Science syllabuses and, so, all of these will be new courses for 2018. The school has offered Science in the senior school for the past two years through a study of Biology, however, we have the facilities to offer either Biology, Earth and Environmental Science or the new Investigating Science Course, depending on the consensus of the student group.

In 2018 we opted, in consultation with the students, to offer Investigating Science. This is a brand-new course aimed at giving students a greater opportunity for to learn through investigation, a style more in line with Steiner Philosophy. This means that students will learn the content of the course through carrying out first hand investigations, field studies and research as well as being given the opportunity to plan and conduct many of their own investigations. The idea of the course is to provide opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the 'doing' of Science rather than just learning large amounts of content. The course provides opportunities for students to plan investigations, select equipment, gather and analyse data and information, as well as processing and presenting information in a variety of forms. The content studied is quite broad, including elements of Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Science.

Each year students are required to undertake a depth study of their own choice in which they will fully plan and carry out their own investigation. Students will be given a significant amount of time in class to conduct this study and it will form an integral part of their assessment for the course. The course itself is 2 units and will allow students to gain an ATAR. The school also will continue to offer the opportunity for students to study all of the other Sciences by distance through Camden Haven High School.

Glossary of Terms

- An ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) result can only be achieved by completing 10 units of Board Developed or VET Courses. The external HSC exam results are combined to produce a ranked result out of 99.9. The ATAR result is the main method by which students attain University Entrance
- The HSC (Higher School Certificate) is a Board of Studies qualification awarded by a registered and accredited Senior School. To achieve an HSC, a student needs to complete a minimum of 12 Preliminary units and 10 HSC units. At least 6 of these units of study in both Preliminary and HSC courses need to be Board Developed.
- Board Endorsed Courses (BEC) - these courses have been developed by individual organisations and approved for Year 11 & 12 delivery by the Board of Studies. The courses are overseen by the Board of Studies, but the assessments are conducted and marked internally by the school. These courses contribute towards the HSC, but NOT towards the achievement of an ATAR.
- Board Developed Courses – These courses are developed by the NSW Board of Studies. They have external exams which contribute towards an ATAR.
- Compressed Delivery - Undertaking the Preliminary and HSC Courses in one Year. This is a useful way of delivering some subjects for a combined Year 11 and 12 class. It avoids repetition of material where the content is highly specific, and economises on teaching commitments. We use compressed delivery for 2 unit Visual Art.

- STAT (Special Tertiary Admissions Test) is designed to assess a range of competencies considered important for success in tertiary studies. It is accepted by most Universities and held between May and June each year. Students need to find out whether STAT can be used for admission to the course being considered, and which STAT version is required.

Camden Haven Distance Education link

<http://www.camdenhave-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/7678891/7684894/2018scbooklet.pdf>