Catering for hungry minds. A differentiated curriculum for fourteen to sixteen year old boys.

Trinity Grammar School Kew. Melbourne, Australia.
Where is Trinity Grammar?
• 1280 students – 3 to 18 years of age. Open entry school.
• VCE coordinate learning program with Ruyton Girls School
• 99% of boys expected to complete Year 12
• Tablet laptop school – Years 5-12
  IWB in every classroom
VCE

• Victorian Certificate of Education.
• Year 12 is both internally and externally assessed
• English + 4 other subjects. An extra 10% can be added to the final result by taking a fifth and sixth subject.
• ATAR – used to qualify for tertiary entry.
Trinity VCE

- In 2010 15/170 students scored 99 ATAR or better (top score is 99.9)
- 43% scored 90 or better
- Median score was 86.85
Years 7-10

• Curriculum creativity is relegated to Years 7 – 10.

• The philosophy of the Year 9/10 program is create a level playing field in school experience.

• To maximise individual learning needs and experiences through subject tiering rather than streaming (except in Maths) towards VCE.
Year 9/10 program structure

- Years 9&10 students complete a number of compulsory and optional units of study from each area of the curriculum – approx. 36 units in total.
Geography

- Students need to complete 3 semester units over 2 years.
- Hazards
- Sustainability
- Living in the Extremes
- Australia and its Asian neighbours
- Out in the Field
History

• Students need to complete 4 semester units over 2 years.
• 2 units are selected from a compulsory range, the rest optional eg.
  • Espionage
  • People and power in the Medieval World
  • Politics: Democracies and Dictatorships
  • History of Flight
  • War and Religion
  • Beginner’s Guide to Ideas
Religion

- Students need to complete 2 semester units
- Ethics
- Jesus goes to Hollywood
- God and Art
- Living Faiths
Science

- Students are required to complete 4 semesters of study over 2 years.
- Chemistry, Biology + Physics
- Science of Conflict
- Robotics
- Thinking like an Electrical Engineer
- Psychology
- Genetics
- Bad Science
- Space Science
- **Magic of Science**
Arts

• 2 units of study over 2 years
  Advanced Painting Methods
• Digital Animation
• Post modern Drama.
• Music production
• Modern Band Techniques
Enhancement Subjects

- Faculties are encouraged to develop at least one unit of study
- English – Literary Legends/Plays and Playwrights
- Mathematics – Discrete Mathematics
- Science – Stretching the Boundaries
- Geography – Research unit Out in the Field
Enhancement pathway to VCE Year 11

**Geography**
- Y9 Semester 1: Hazards
- Y10 Semester 1: Meteorology
- Y10 Semester 2: Out in the field (enhancement Unit)
- Y11 VCE Geography 3/4

**History**
- Y9 Semester 2: Espionage
- Y10 Semester 2: Power and political world (enhancement unit)
- Y11 VCE Revolutions 3/4
Enhancement pathway to VCE Year 11

**English**

- **Y9 Semester 2**
  - From page to screen
  - (enhancement unit)

- **Y10 Semester 1**
  - Advanced Literature
  - (enhancement unit)

- **Y11 VCE Literature 1/2**

**Mathematics**

- **Y9 Semester 1/2**
  - Accelerated Maths

- **Y10 Semester 1/2**
  - Accelerated Maths

- **Y11 VCE Maths Methods 3/4 and Specialist Maths 3/4**
Year 10 Certificate

- 27/50 in English and Maths plus an overall subject average of 27/50.
- Students who achieve higher scores are awarded Certificates with Credit/Distinction and High Distinction.
- Some students choose to move to apprenticeships post Year 10 – very useful formal award of achievement.
Advantages of the Year 9/10 program

• Encourages students to pursue personal passions
• Allows flexibility for students with learning needs
• Freedom of choice increases sense of personal responsibility
• Staff enthusiastic about freedom to teach units of interest
• Takes pressure off demand for early access to VCE studies
**Administration (aka disadvantages!)**

- Timetable – blocking is straightforward as subjects fall into 5/10 class units. Combinations and variety of units (140?) challenging to coordinate. Parents need help!
- Current programming requires subject selection for two years – students select at the end of Year 8.
- Ensuring students complete required formula – needs monitoring
- Over supply for certain classes – Year 10 get priority.
- Under supply – when can a class run (15+ students)
- Units lifespan – is change necessary and when?
The Future

- Possibility of connecting LOTE courses with TAFE certification.
- Development of certified TAFE style units in areas such as car maintenance, outdoor education, industrial design etc.
- Field studies in Ecology/Art - Licola
- Give students greater ‘hands on’ options pre VCE.
The Future

• Creation of Enrichment subject tier where there are more flexible prerequisites but clearer pathway to meeting growing demand for VCE subjects in Year 11

• English – Plays and Playwrights change in status to prepare for Year 11 Literature
Co-curricular program

- Keeping the philosophy of opportunities for all ‘level playing field approach’
- Three Leadership programs – Leppitt, Learning Journeys and Somers
  - Leppitt Leaders (Years 7&8) – 60 students
  - Somers Leadership Program – 100+ students – leadership for Learning Journeys (Year 8) + Somers Leaders
Somers Program

• ‘Everyone at some point in their life needs to contribute and lead’.

• Students complete a range of team building activities which are both competitive and non-competitive.

• Students encouraged to sign up for a wide variety of workshops designed to teach skills relevant to the House program.
Outcomes of Somers program

- Students can apply for Year 8 Learning Journeys camp (25 applicants)
- Students can apply to return to Somers as House leaders (32 applicants)
- Students commit to completing one House or community service activity for the following school year