

# Mareeba State High School



# 2026 Year 7 Curriculum Information





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We cannot outline all the positive learning experiences we provide in this booklet. Should you require more information please telephone the school on 4086 2777. Further information about Mareeba State High School and its policies can be found at [www.mareebashs.eq.edu.au](http://www.mareebashs.eq.edu.au)



## Message from the Principal

Student, Parents and Carers

This Year 7 Curriculum Information and the Enrolment Handbook has been prepared to introduce you and your parents to aspects of life at Mareeba State High School.

We hope that it will help you to understand more about the High School - both academically and socially - and help you to settle in quickly and happily.

Mareeba State High School is your school. Everything in the school is planned, provided and organised for you. We want you to have every opportunity to benefit from the many excellent experiences available to you at this school.

Our school is a school of which we can all be proud of. Past teachers and students and those who are here now have worked hard to establish high standards and high ideals. We hope that you will support your school with loyalty and enthusiasm and help us to continue in our pursuit of excellence.

Welcome to Mareeba State High School

Regan Gant  
Principal



## What is different about High School?

At present, entering high school may seem a very big step - but really it isn't. Entering high school represents another step in your education - a process which goes on throughout your life.

No doubt, you have heard rumours about high school. Friends, relatives and neighbours may have told you many stories. You may now be finding it difficult to tell fact from fiction. HERE ARE SOME FACTS:

- ✓ You will be treated as a young adult with ideas and beliefs of your own.
- ✓ YOU are responsible for your own actions and conduct.
- ✓ You will be expected to make your own decisions.
- ✓ You are expected to be in the right place at the right time with the right materials.
- ✓ You will be treated in a personal, friendly way and you will be expected to be courteous and friendly in return.
- ✓ You will be attending different classes, in different rooms with a variety of teachers.
- ✓ You will be encouraged to discover your talents, develop them and perform them to the highest level possible.
- ✓ You will be guided, with help from many people, into your future career.

Our school uses four main positive behaviour practices that all students are expected to follow:

**We are Respectful, We are Organised, We are Learners and We are Safe**



## Tips for Students

Starting High School can be a big deal but here are some tips that will help you as you move from primary to secondary school.

### What can I do while I'm still in Year 6?

- ✓ **Talk about high school with your friends and other Year 6 or 7 students**  
They may be feeling the same as you and chances are someone in your school will be going to the same high school as you.
- ✓ **See if you can talk to someone who is already in Year 7 at high school**  
Anybody's big brother or sister will do. Who knows, they might actually know something you don't!
- ✓ **Talk things over with the people who care for you most**  
Ask a few questions about the school you will be going to, like what types of subjects you can take, the sports you can play and other activities you can be involved in.
- ✓ **Try to check out your new school before hand**  
It will pay to know where Year 7 parade is held, what the classrooms look like and where the tuckshop and toilets are located.

**Attend school tours and transition days  
offered by the high school.**

### What should I do when I start Year 7?

- ✓ **Don't panic!**  
Write things down as they come to mind and talk to your parents, friends or teachers about your concerns. Check out your school organiser – it is full of useful information.
- ✓ **Stick to a routine**  
This will help you get everything done that you need to get done in a day, especially homework and assignments and still leave you with time to spare. Your school organiser will help you organise your week.
- ✓ **Try to relax**  
Going to high school is a learning experience. You are not supposed to know everything before you get there. It is okay to have questions. Talk through any problems with your teachers or Year Co-ordinator. These people want you to succeed, but they aren't mind readers. If there is something you are concerned about, let them know.
- ✓ **Get into things**  
Sport, music, drama, competitions, public speaking – there will be plenty to do before and after school as well as on the weekend – and a whole group of new friends to meet. Find out about your Student Council and read your school newsletter to keep in touch and stay informed.
- ✓ **Enjoy yourself**  
Look at the positives of being at high school – new school, new teachers, and more choice in what you study.

# Tips for Parents

Starting high school is a big deal for students. It can be a trying time as they learn the ropes and get accustomed to the high school environment.

These tips can help you to help your child make that move into high school as smooth as possible.

## What can I do while my child is still in Year 6?

### ✓ **Do some homework**

Find out information about the high school your child will attend, such as subjects offered and sports played that meet your child's needs and interests. You may also need to give some thought to travel arrangements and care before and after school. Also take some time to learn about the physical, mental, and emotional changes that all adolescents go through as this can affect how your child will handle the move to high school.

### ✓ **Build relationships**

Many high schools have orientation programs to help with the transition process. Attending an orientation evening at the school will give you a valuable opportunity to meet with teachers and administrators, as well as check out school facilities and get an idea of the school layout.

### ✓ **Increase your child's self-reliance**

So much more is expected of students at high school. By gradually increasing their level of responsibility at home, and communicating your expectations to them, you can help them develop self-reliance and coping skills that will kick-in during those critical first few weeks of Year 7. Remind them about the transitions they have already gone through and the strategies that helped them in the past. Encourage them to talk to their friends about the changes ahead.

### ✓ **Provide encouragement**

Some adolescents will surprise you with their resourcefulness and strength during stressful times.

Others benefit from having someone there to give a cheer or a smile from the sideline.

Encourage your child to develop strong links with social, sporting or community-based groups – this will boost their chances of succeeding in other areas of life.

## What should I do once my child starts Year 7?

### ✓ **Get involved**

In Term 2 and Term 3 you will be invited to your first parent-teacher meeting. This will be an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and talk about any concerns you or your child's teachers might have.

### ✓ **Help establish and maintain routine**

This is an ongoing process that starts from day one at high school. It is especially important to establish and maintain a regular homework routine as more after school study is expected of high school students.

### ✓ **Listen**

Provide your child with opportunities to express their feelings about school, sports, dramas, friendships or any other topic, and take a genuine interest in what they say.

### ✓ **Play your part**

Parents and guardians play an important role in the life of a school. As well as being your child's biggest fan and supporter, you can play a part in the quality of schooling your child enjoys:

- Join the Parents and Citizens Association – Meetings held in X01 at 5.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month.
- Volunteer at the canteen or at other extra curriculum activities such as band, sport etc.
- Offer to pass on your vocational or other skills to students.



# How to Succeed at High School

## Study Habits

✓ It is important that you start good study habits right from the beginning of high school. If you do this, you will find the work you do at high school much easier and more enjoyable. It will stand you in good stead right throughout your high school career.

✓ Make sure you use the school's Student Organiser to keep track of what each subject requires each night. A school organiser is given to all students at the beginning of the school year.

- ✓ Work out a study program and stick to it!
- ✓ Work out a personal timetable for homework that suits your lifestyle and family.
- ✓ Spend at least 10 minutes a night on each of the subjects you have had that day and spend no more than one and a half hours a night altogether.
- ✓ In your study programme, there should be time for set homework assignments, revision of the day's work and regular revision of past work.

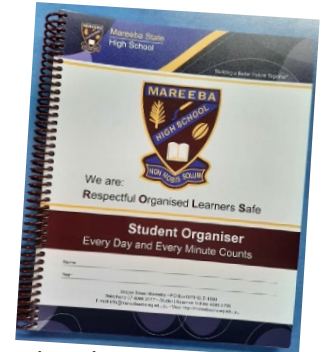
## Study Effectively

- ✓ Realise that study will produce results.
- ✓ Find a place to study that has good ventilation, good lighting, and no distractions. Make this your study corner.
- ✓ Do active revision (scan the work – ask yourself questions – look for the answers – record notes – revise notes).
- ✓ Do active memorising (say the work several times until you know it – discuss the work with a mate – test yourself by writing down what you've learnt – retest it until you know it).
- ✓ Construct summaries of textbook work to learn.
- ✓ Learn vocabulary and spelling.

## Student Organisers

Every student is supplied a student organiser (diary). It is essential that all students at Mareeba State High have an organiser with them each day for a number of reasons -

- ✓ Information on our school expectations, rules and policies.
- ✓ Keeping of the students' timetable – this is used every lesson by students to ensure that they know which subject they have next, and where the room is for that lesson.
- ✓ Map of the school which enables students to find particular rooms or staff.
- ✓ Homework for their subject. Year 7 students should be completing at least 15 minutes per subject.
- ✓ Due dates for assignments.
- ✓ A successful student is a well organised student with an up-to-date organiser!
- ✓ Students also need the organiser for entering the dates for important events.
- ✓ Pass out record if students need to leave the room for any reason, such as the toilet.



### A STUDENT ORGANISER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- pictures
- graffiti
- obscene language

### *Parents can also use the student organiser to...*

1. keep up to date with students' homework & assignments
2. communicate with teachers
3. advise teachers when their student needs to be excused from class early
4. advise student services of late arrivals or early departures

# Subject Descriptions

All students have a subject arrangement similar to the one shown below. Our aim is to offer all Core Subjects including a Language along with a rotation of Specialist Subjects in the Arts and Technology.

## CORE Subjects (all year)

- English (ENG)
- Health and Physical Education (HPE)
- Mathematics (MAT)
- Science (SCI)
- Social Sciences and Humanities (HUM) – History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business

## Specialist Subjects (one term for each rotation)

- Digital Technologies (DIG)
- Food and Fibre Production (TFF)
- AUSLAN (ALN)
- Materials and Technologies Specialisations (TMT)
- Media Arts (MED)
- Music (MUS)
- Performing Arts (PER) - Drama & Dance
- Visual Arts (ART)

## Mareeba State High School

### Student Timetable

Students Name: Year 7, **Gregory, 7E (Mrs Newlands)**

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
CARE	8:50-9:00 7E NEWLAN E15	8:50-9:00 7E NEWLAN E15	8:50-9:00 7E NEWLAN E15	8:50-9:00 7E NEWLAN E15	8:50-9:00 7E NEWLAN E15
P1	9:00-10:10 HIS071B DARLKA X04	9:00-10:10 RES071E NEWLAN E15	9:00-10:10 DIG071A COYLJE C04	9:00-10:10 MAT071B NEWLAN E15	9:00-10:10 ENG071E BAUETA C02
P2	10:10-11:20 SCI071E HODGLE I03	10:10-11:20 ENG071E BAUETA C02	10:10-11:20 MED071B GARGLE C08	10:10-11:20 DIG071A COYLJE C04	10:10-11:20 HPE071E TUFFLU M02
RECES S 1	11:20-12:10	11:20-12:10	11:20-12:10	11:20-12:10	11:20-12:10
P3	12:10-1:20 ENG071E BAUETA C02	12:10-1:20 HPE071E TUFFLU M02	12:10-1:20 MAT071B NEWLAN E15	12:10-1:20 SCI071E HODGLE N05	12:10-1:20 HIS071B SMITJA X04
RECES S 2	1:20-1:50	1:20-1:50	1:20-1:50	1:20-1:50	1:20-1:50
P4	1:50-3:00 MAT071B NEWLAN E15	1:50-3:00 MED071B GARGLE C08	1:50-3:00 HPE071E TUFFLU M02	1:50-3:00 HIS071B DARLKA X04	1:50-3:00 SCI071E HODGLE N03

- Care Class (Care Class Teacher)
- Sports House
- Class Code & Class Name
- Teacher Code & Teacher Name
- Room Number

#### Legend:

Class Code	Class Name	Teacher Code	Teacher
7E	Roll Class	BAUETA	Miss Bauer
DIG071A	Digital Technologies	COYLJE	Mrs Coyle
ENG071E	English	DARLKA	Mrs Wright
HIS071B	History	GARGLE	Mrs Gargan
HPE071E	Health and Physical Education	HODGLE	Mr Hodges
MAT071B	Mathematics	NEWLAN	Mrs Newlands
MED071B	Media Arts	SMITJA	Miss Smith
RES071E	Resilience Project	TUFFLU	Miss Tuffnell
SCI071E	Science		

**On the first day of school, students will receive a timetable that shows lessons, lesson times, teachers and rooms as indicated in the sample above.**

# Curriculum Learning Areas

At Mareeba State High School, our curriculum time is divided between learning areas that come from the Australian Curriculum. Content descriptions form the basis of what is taught in each learning area from Year 1 through to Year 10.

The Learning Areas are:

- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages
- Maths
- Science
- Social Sciences and Humanities
- Technology
- Visual and Performing Arts

These learning areas can be divided between Core subjects and Elective subjects. **Core subjects** are compulsory subjects studied by all students across Years 7 to 10. **Elective** subjects are offered to students at junctures in their education across these years. All subjects provide valuable learning activities derived from the Australian National Curriculum, while our elective areas allow students to better tailor their schooling towards their own preferences or needs.

Parents will be informed when **subject selection** is required. This process usually begins during Term 3 of the year before new subjects are started, and will involve subject selection information sessions for students, send-home information and consent forms.

## Core Subjects

### English

**English** is a core subject derived from the Australian Curriculum. The English curriculum is built around three interrelated strands: *Language*, *Literature* and *Literacy*. The units undertaken in a course of study in English integrate elements of these strands.

In Year 7 English, students will engage with units to:

- identify and explain persuasive techniques used in media texts (including magazines, digital texts and advertising); create a multimodal persuasive text that utilises a range of these techniques
- read and respond to a novel about Australia and Australians; create an imaginative response
- read, engage with, and reflect on a novel about Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia; create an analytical response to issues represented in the novel
- explore perspectives in poetry, and create an anthology of poetic forms
- participate in a wider reading program, and create a multimodal book promotion.

Students will undertake a Library orientation program through English, and participate in a wider reading program developed in conjunction with the Library.

In their course of study, students will create a range of imaginative, informative, expository and persuasive types of texts, in written, spoken and multimodal formats.



## Science

Science education at Mareeba State High School aims to expose students to a wide range of science topics based on the Australian Curriculum. They will also have the opportunity to discuss issues that they will face at a local and global level as active community members. A key aspect of the junior science program is to develop the skills required to work safely in a laboratory and develop their investigative skills in a range of science areas. They will perform science investigations regularly over the year on a range of topics including biology, physics, chemistry and earth science.



Students will be assessed no more than twice a term with a range of assessment tasks including; experimental work, hands on projects, exams and class research tasks. They will use a range of text books including Oxford Science, Amazing Science and Science World in class, with the teacher also using extra resources from a range of texts and websites for class tasks and homework.



Students also have the opportunity to be involved in extra science activities throughout the year. These include a weekly drone and engineering club and a wide range of external competitions and excursions, as well as access to visiting scientists and guest speakers several times a year.

The knowledge and skills developed through their study of Science across their junior years will benefit students in selecting relevant subjects in their senior years, including General subjects: **Biology, Physics, Psychology and Chemistry** or the Applied subject: **Science in Practice and Aquatic Practices**.

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**Workplace Health and Safety – additional requirements for Science:** Science laboratory work requires that students' feet be adequately covered to prevent accidental burning, injury from sharp objects or infection from some cause. Students must wear safety glasses during experimental activities. These will be provided by the Science Department.

*Students may be required to tie back long hair where it is likely to be a fire hazard or come into contact with corrosive materials. Water bottles are also not allowed in science laboratories due to the possible risk of materials being added to them during experimental work and are also a hazard on work benches. During field studies, students will be expected to wear a hat and covered shoes.*



# Health & Physical Education

Across Years 7 to 9, students participate in a range of activities focussing on foundation skills in a variety of sports as well as building upon the knowledge of HPE and improving students' health and fitness. Practical participation is a compulsory part of this subject.

**Theory topics** covered include:

- Approaching Adolescence
- Food and Nutrition for health and sport
- Making good decisions
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Respectful relationships
- Safety and Risk taking
- Benefits of Physical Activity
- Anatomy

**Students must wear a Mareeba SHS Sunsafes hat for all outdoor activities.**

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Hats can be purchased from the Tuckshop

**Practical units:**

- Athletics
- Net and court games
- Fitness activities
- Adventure sports
- Striking sports
- Touch football
- Football (soccer)
- Cricket
- Swimming



The foundation knowledge and skills developed during the junior years of studying HPE allows students to choose senior pathways that include General subjects: **Health Education and Physical Education**, or the Applied subject: **Sport & Recreation Studies and Early Childhood Studies**.



## Elective Subjects

At Mareeba State High School, we value the wide range of subjects offered to our students. It is for this reason that we offer a range of elective subjects organised under their respective learning areas.

During Year 7, students will sample these in a rotational format, whereby students study a short course 'taster' of each subject across the year. Based on their experiences with these subjects, students will be asked to select preferences for the subjects they wish to undertake as a yearlong course of study in Years 8 and 9.

## Visual and Performing Arts

At Mareeba SHS we offer a full range of Arts experiences for your student with specialist teachers. The Visual and Performing Arts challenges students to be creative, work collaboratively in teams and solve complex problems.

### Visual Art

In Visual Art students learn about the elements and principles that underpin art making processes. Students have the opportunity to experiment with a wide range of media and techniques. Experiences may include; drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpting and murals.



### Dance

In Dance students learn how to create movement sequences and perform dance works. Students are given the opportunity to perform the skills they have learned and are encouraged to develop their own dance works both individually and in groups.

### Drama

In Drama students build their self-confidence and communication skills. Students improve their public speaking proficiency, learn how to collaborate with other students and perform scenes from scripted and improvised scenarios.

### Music

Music provides students with the opportunity to learn how to play musical instruments. Classroom experiences are practical lessons that focus on the keyboard, drums, ukulele and guitar. Students have the opportunity to work collaboratively, practice and perform.



### Media

Students are introduced to digital media, such as digital image capture and manipulation. Students use the industry standard Adobe Photoshop image editing software to edit, manipulate, add special effects and effectively present digital images.

### Instrumental Music

Students in Years 7 -12 have the opportunity to join the Instrumental Music Program. An expression of interest form is included in the Enrolment Forms package. Students can learn Brass, Woodwind or Percussion

instruments. Students are able to join the Concert Band as their playing skills progress. They receive individualised tuition and small group lessons every week.

Senior pathways in the Visual and Performing Arts curriculum area include General subjects: ***Drama and Film, TV and New Media*** or the Applied subjects: ***Music in Practice, Media Arts in Practice, Visual Arts in Practice, Dance in Practice and Drama in Practice. Instrumental Music*** is also a senior pathway and contributes towards a QCE.



## Visual and Performing Arts Extension Activities



### Performing Arts Excellence

Students can audition for the Performing Arts Excellence Program. It is an after-school program on Thursday afternoons until 5.00 pm. The program aims to extend student skills in performance including drama, music and dance.

### Musical or Variety Show

Students are able to participate in the annual school Musical or Variety Show. Each year the Visual and Performing Arts faculty organises a large production for the local community. Students have the opportunity to perform on stage, work behind the scenes in the back-stage crew, be part of the technical crew, paint sets and make props for the production.

### Pasifika Pride

Students can join Pasifika Pride and learn about the cultures of the Pacific. Students learn dancing and traditional drumming techniques. Pasifika Pride is an after-school program on Monday afternoons until 5:00 pm. Students have the opportunity to perform at school and at community events.

### Artists in Residency and Public Art Projects

Students have the opportunity to participate in artist in residency programs and work with visiting artists and performers in the classroom. Students also have the opportunity to go on Arts excursions and participate in the public art program that focuses on creating art for outdoor locations.

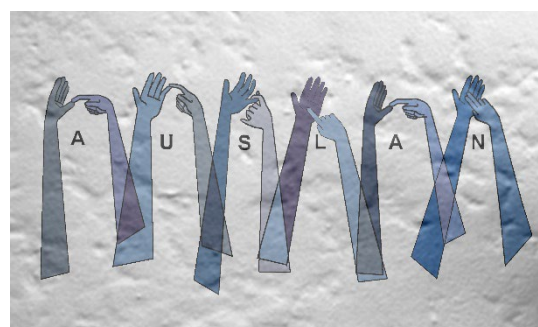
## Languages

### AUSLAN – Australian Sign Language

A study of a language other than English is compulsory for most students in Queensland high schools in years 7 and 8.

Learning AUSLAN provides students with the opportunity to develop communication skills and understand the role of language and culture in communication.

Students will learn handshapes, common lexical signs and fingerspelling to communicate through signing. Students will also reflect on their learning experiences and how AUSLAN creates a community where everyone can connect, participate and learn.



Students who would like to develop their knowledge of languages in years 11 and 12 can select a course of study through the School of Distance Education.

# Technology

## Materials and Technologies Specialisations

Materials and Technologies Specialisations at Mareeba SHS is an introduction to Industrial and Technical skills. Students use various tools, both hand and machine, while working with materials such as wood, plastic and metals to make small projects which are of practical use.

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**Workplace Health and Safety – additional requirements:** For practical technology subjects in workshops, students with long hair will be required to have it restrained at all times. Students must at all times, wear safety glasses and wear the correct school footwear. Safety Glasses are supplied.



## Digital Technologies

The use of Digital Technology has become an essential skill in education, employment and everyday life. Year 7 Digital Technologies covers introductory skills that are not only useful for students across all curriculum areas but also provides an introduction to the area of Digital Technologies that



students may wish to pursue further in Year 8 and onward. Material covered includes hardware, software and programming.

Senior Pathways in the Digital Technologies area include General subject: **Digital Solutions**, or the Applied subject: **Information and Communication Technology**.

## Food and Fibre Production

In this subject, study is related to health and wellbeing and the units are focussed on food and textile product preparation and students look at the impacts of waste created when preparing and making food and textile items.

Jewellery must be removed during practical lessons.

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**Workplace Health and Safety – additional requirements:** Students attending Food and Fibre Production classes must wear their hair tied back. A small head-band (in school colours maroon or blue) or elastic band to keep hair away from their faces is suitable. Aprons and appropriate footwear are required and can be borrowed for each lesson.



## Education Support Services @ Mareeba State High School

At Mareeba State High School every student matters and it is imperative that as part of the enrolment process into our school that we are made aware of any additional needs or support requirements your student may have. Here at Mareeba State High School our ultimate goal is to have every student, in every class everyday learning. This prepares each student to be as independent as they can be and ready for further study or employment at the end of the senior years. Through embedding an inclusive approach to learning, tiers of support are applied with consultation with parents and students to ensure that the learning environment is conducive to individual learning needs.

Through the Multi Learning Centre, known as the MLC, students who receive substantial and extensive adjustments due to a disability are supported with tier 3 intervention and in class support. We are funded through the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) process which identifies students who receive adjustments to address functional impacts to access the curriculum due to a disability defined by the Disability Discrimination Act.

The MLC is staffed by Education Support Staff and is managed by the Deputy Principal (Special Education) Students with Disabilities may be supported in mainstream classes by these staff members.

Programs are developed to support students to access the curriculum through Individual Support Provisions (ISP) and Individual Curriculum Plans (ICP). These plans outline intervention programs students are accessing and modifications required for students to access the curriculum and the learning environment. Personalised Learning Records are developed to record adjustments for students.

Both teaching and non-teaching staff provide support to both curriculum teachers and students so that the curriculum can be accessed at individual student level in an inclusive environment. Students access the curriculum in the broader school environment, in the MLC or in a combination of both.

Programs in the MLC include:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Technology
- AUSLAN
- Cooking and Life Skills
- Study Sessions

We also provide community-based programs designed to assist students in their transition from school to post compulsory schooling life. These include:

- Fitness Programs
- Community Access
- Work Experience
- Linking in with Employment Services

ESS staff members liaise with other resource people and agencies to ensure quality programs for students. These include Advisory Teachers, Therapists, Autism Queensland, the Cerebral Palsy League, EPIC and MAX Employment, Mareeba Flexi Respite, and Disability Support Queensland among others.

