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CREATIVITY . CURIOSITY . CHALLENGE . CHARACTER
MAKE AN IMPACT

2025 **IMPACT** **HANDBOOK** **9**





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IMPACT9 - Overview

Our Vision

Our Vision is for all students to learn and to develop the intellectual rigour and character required to make a positive impact in their world.

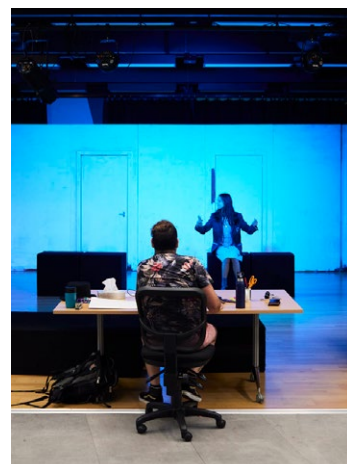
At Prahran High School, our curriculum and Model of Learning is guided by our vision and our four core values: Challenge, Curiosity, Character and Creativity. We believe deeply in nurturing learners who are equipped to Make an Impact on their world – as young people today, and adults in the future. This vision informs learning across the school, and is highly visible in the Middle Years (7-9) where students have the opportunity to explore and learn about their world in rich and deep ways.

Welcome to IMPACT9

Year 9 represents an important moment for our young people. For us, it is the culmination and highlight of learning in the Middle Years and a chance for our students to extend, challenge and apply the core skills and knowledge they have built in Year 7 and 8, and to engage with the community and world beyond the school in more significant and more authentic ways.

However, Year 9 is also a critical step towards the future, both at school and beyond, where learning is characterised by agency, independence and responsibility. We are committed to working in partnership with our Year 9 students, aiming to build their personal and social capabilities to help them become rounded and independent young adults.

IMPACT9 equally values and prioritises learning and wellbeing. We recognise and esteem the unique differences and strengths of each of our students. We provide learners with opportunities to grow, explore and express themselves as learners and citizens. Ultimately, we want our students to see themselves as active contributors and participants in local and global communities, and to know that they have the capacity to Make an Impact, both now and in the future.





IMPACT9 – Core Principles and Beliefs

IMPACT9 is driven by the following core principles

1. Independence and Agency

- We use our PHS values to Make an Impact through our learning, on a personal and community level
- We show agency and independence and take responsibility for driving our own learning
- We engage actively in experiential learning - 'learning by doing'
- Our learning is driven by a desire to deeply explore and engage with the world around us, and to collaborate and work with our peers on authentic projects that help us make sense of that world
- We reflect on our learning habits and strengths, understand the learning process, and seek to become more effective, independent learners
- We start to explore genuine life pathways and extension opportunities

2. Citizenship and Community Engagement

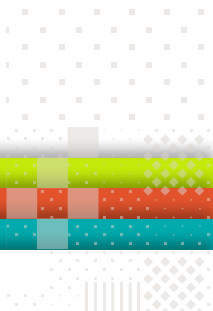
- We become active citizens and participate in our local and global communities
- We develop our understanding of our place in local and global communities
- We learn as an active part of the local community, through activities, projects, collaborations and explorations
- We are leaders within the school, local and global community
- We actively aim to serve and contribute to the school, local and global communities

In Year 9, we aim to challenge our students in new ways, provide them with new experiences, and help them grow and develop their character.

Curriculum

IMPACT9 aims to provide a range of different learning experiences for students. It is built on a consistent foundation of providing deep, largely project-based explorations for students across the full range of Victorian Curriculum subjects and capabilities.

The curriculum is designed for flexibility and for learning experiences to be tailored to the interests and needs of each cohort and individual students. Our aim is to provide students with a strong core knowledge and skill-set, along with opportunities to deeply pursue areas of interest at a high level, and to be guided and supported in independent learning that aligns with their passions and strengths.





The Big Idea/s	IMPACT9	Victorian Curriculum	Learning Sessions per fortnight
<p>Students must be literate and numerate to participate fully in society, explore their world and flourish.</p> <p>These are fundamental skills, important for success at school and in the world.</p>	<p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have choice over a range of elective subjects 	<p>English Critical & Creative Thinking</p>	6
	<p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data literacy • Maths for life 	<p>Mathematics Critical & Creative Thinking</p>	6
<p>Mental and physical health and wellbeing is a vital aspect of living a full, long and well life.</p>	<p>Fitness for Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on practical sport • Choice of Sport programs • Mental strength and wellbeing 	<p>Health & Physical Education Personal & Social Learning</p>	4
<p>Learning a language encourages respect for other cultures, expands students' world view and builds interconnected linguistic understanding.</p>	<p>French</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Vie Française • Le Monde Française 	<p>Languages Intercultural Understanding</p>	5
<p>Students must learn to collaborate, solve complex problems and think critically and creatively if they are to thrive in an ever-changing, uncertain world.</p> <p>Learning in life is not segmented into discrete areas like school subjects. Students should have integrated opportunities to expand their thinking and work on significant projects over time with genuine real-world impact</p> <p>Meaningful local, community and global networking and connection is important to flourish in our world.</p>	<p>IMPACT9 Projects</p> <p>A variety of projects will be undertaken across the year that explore the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entrepreneurship • Creative Arts • Sustainability • Community • Indigenous Perspectives • Industry and the Workplace <p>Inter-disciplinary learning will be shaped by real-world application and connection.</p>	<p>The Humanities Science The Arts Digital Technologies Critical and Creative Thinking Ethical Understandings Intercultural Understanding</p> <p>Personal and Social Learning Mentor Group Passion Projects</p>	4
<p>Students would like to choose to focus their learning in areas of personal interest, particularly in contemporary technologies and the arts.</p> <p>The study of the arts fosters a deep sense of creativity, encourages self-exploration and self-expressions and supports students to interpret the world around them.</p> <p>We live in an age of rapid technological innovation where the (example) skills of making, designing, coding, building have never been more important.</p> <p>'Design to do good' is a philosophy that will underpin the success of our students in the future.</p>	<p>IMPACT9 Specialisations</p> <p>Example Units</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Page to Stage • Inside Out: Interior Design • Global Eats and Future Foods • Materials Design: Wood, Plastic, Metals • Philosophy <p><i>(The full list of choices is in the IMPACT9 Subject Selection Guide)</i></p> <p><i>Students must choose at least one science speciality.</i></p>	<p>The Arts Technologies Digital Technologies Critical and Creative Thinking</p>	5 (Semester-Length Studies)



Re-imagining Learning

Learning Design and Opportunities

IMPACT9 provides students with a range of different learning opportunities. These are explained in more detail below.

IMPACT9 Core

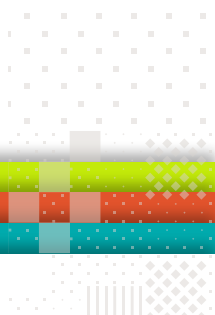
Mathematics, English, French and Healthy Body, Healthy Mind

Within the IMPACT9 Mathematics, English, French and Healthy Body, Healthy Mind curricula, we ensure that students continue to build their fundamental skills and knowledge in literacy, numeracy, health and fitness and languages. This provides all students with the foundation for academic and personal success in the later years of school and beyond. We also provide significant, necessary and planned opportunities for extension and enrichment, including an extension stream for mathematics.

Learning in these areas continues to be driven by BIG IDEAS, with an emphasis on building depth of understanding through real-world application of learning. These subjects combine core skill and knowledge building with opportunities to 'Make an Impact' in purposeful, meaningful and authentic real-world applications.

IMPACT9 Core subjects will be structured in a flexible manner to allow students some opportunities to choose their own learning pathway and continue to build the agency and independence of our learners.

Subject Name:	Core Learning Areas / Description	
Mathematics	Mathematics for Life Future Mathematics Extension Mathematics	
English	Level Up: Game Based Writing So, You Want To Be A Journalist? Debating: What's Your Point? Fight For Your Rights	Literature Talking About A Revolution Are You Afraid Of The Dark? Future Predictions (Speculative Fiction)
Healthy Body, Healthy Mind	Health and Fitness Mental Health and Personal Development Students will choose from a series of practical sport options	
French	La Vie Francaise – French life and culture Le Monde Francaise – Possibilities to use French around the world	





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IMPACT9 Projects

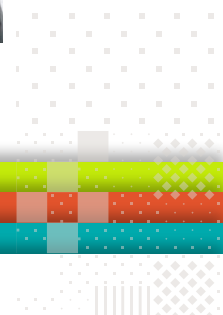
Our IMPACT9 projects are driven by a focus on Inquiry, Industry, Community and Personal and Social learning, with the program operating in a flexible and dynamic way to provide authentic learning opportunities across the sciences, humanities, technology and the arts.

Driven by our principles of independence and agency, students inquire and interact with the world around them. Learning is collaborative, project-based and experiential, and learning tasks are driven by student agency. Projects may draw on a single Victorian Curriculum area or integrate elements from each, and our expert teachers will ensure that students continue to build disciplinary understanding in the Sciences, Humanities, The Arts and Technology.

IMPACT9 also aims for our students to develop a strong sense of their place as part of the local and global community, and our IMPACT9 Projects therefore aim to promote student learning in collaboration with and alongside the community in meaningful and authentic ways. Where possible, our IMPACT9 Projects align with, celebrate and engage with a range of major Melbourne Community events and movements, such as:

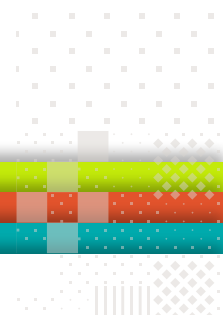
- [NAIDOC Week](#)
- [The Melbourne Rising Arts Festival](#)
- [The Melbourne Digital Innovation Festival](#)

A summary of the major projects and inquiries undertaken in Year 9 in 2025 is included on the next page – these projects will evolve from year to year in response to the needs and interests of each group of students.





Project Name	Project Overview
Inventions, Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Students investigate the way that science and technology come together in the world of innovation and invention. They construct their own inventions, to solve problems identified at home, school, or the community before participating in a presentation to an audience of their peers, experts and family.
The Sustainability Project	Students explore ways to live more sustainability in our changing climate. They consider a range of sustainability problems along with the social and global impacts and these problems. They then plan, develop and lead sustainability initiatives in the local community.
The World of Work	Students investigate and learn about the world of work, including searching for a job, preparing a CV and becoming interview ready. Students learn about workplace rights and responsibilities. They learn how to budget and manage their money so as to become financially literate.
An Outdoor Life	Connected to our School camp program, students learn to live in, explore, and appreciate the natural environment. They learn about biomes and conduct scientific and geographic fieldwork, while participating in excursions and camps.
Find Your Passion	Students find their passion and explore and consider different ways that their passions and identity can inform their future pathways and life's work. They inquire and explore the changing world of the 21st century and consider the relationships, connections and careers that will provide them with happiness.





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Find your passion project

Our Passion Project is a crucial part of IMPACT9. Students, supported by a mentor teacher, will uncover and explore what it is that inspires and motivates them.

Passion Projects have a learning focus, scope and outcome co-designed by the student. Passion Projects offer them a chance to develop a skill, talent, or knowledge which for them might forge pathways into a fulfilling life. Student projects and outcomes will vary depending on student interests and needs. Students will present their projects to an audience of their peers and families.

Successful Passion Projects could draw on a curriculum area and provide extension or enrichment, but could also align with interests from outside school, or with future interests and pathways.

Camps, Excursions and Activities

IMPACT9 aims for learning to take place beyond the classroom in as many ways as possible. The program is designed to incorporate the flexibility needed to make this a reality.

The IMPACT9 Projects are timetabled for a full afternoon every week, allowing maximum flexibility in planning excursions and community engagement. This also provides the flexible time required for students to undertake Passion Projects. IMPACT9 will therefore include a broad range of excursions, activities, workshops, and community connections.

Our main Year 9 Camp will likely be held in Term 2, with an emphasis on outdoor education and leadership development. Students in Year 9 will also have the choice to apply for the Alpine School, a term long residential camp program.





IMPACT9 Specialisations

Our IMPACT9 specialisations allow students to undertake depth studies in areas of personal interest, delving further into unique learning areas. Students can try new learning pathways, build their technical capability with specialised programs in the Arts and Technology areas, or undertake substantial enrichment, connected to their core curriculum learning.

Students choose two specialisations in each semester and are encouraged to explore their interests and passions. The list of specialisations available in 2025 are on the next page - more detailed information on each subject is available in the 'Subject Selection Guide' at the end of this document.

Specialisation Name:	Learning Area:
From Page to Stage: Acting	Performing Arts: Drama / English / Media
From Page to Stage: Theatre Production	Performing Arts: Drama
Music Remix: Industry and Production	Performing Arts: Music
Music Performance	Performing Arts: Music
Interior Design	The Arts: VCD / Digital Technologies
The Artists Studio	The Arts: Visual Art
Product Design: Workshop Wonders	Technology: Materials
Systems: Functional Electronic Art & Robots	Technology: Materials / Digital Technologies
Commis Chef	Food Technology
Fashion and Textiles	Materials Technology
Lights, Camera, Action	Digital Technologies
Philosophy	The Humanities / English / Mathematics
Psychology of the Self	Science and Technology
Forensic Science	Science and Technology
Experimental Science	Science and Technology
Matter and Movement	Science and Technology
Mathematics Investigations	Mathematics
Conquests and Conflicts	Humanities
How to Get Away with Murder	Humanities



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IMPACT9 Opportunities

Students in Year 9 will participate in the full range of Life@PHS clubs and activities and will be encouraged to take a leadership role in existing clubs.

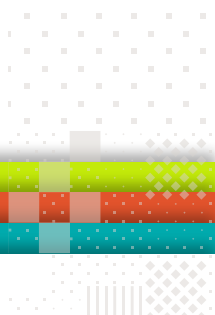
Students in Year 9 will also be supported to establish and run their own clubs for Year 9 students and to lead the participation and involvement of students from younger year levels.

Examples of Life@PHS clubs and opportunities expected to be available in 2025 include:

- The PHS Basketball Academy
- Interschool Sports (various, across the year)
- Instrumental Music
- Music Ensembles
- Art and Design Club
- Enviro Club
- Tournament of Minds
- Debating
- E-Sports Club
- Book Club

The IMPACT9 Precinct and Learning Spaces

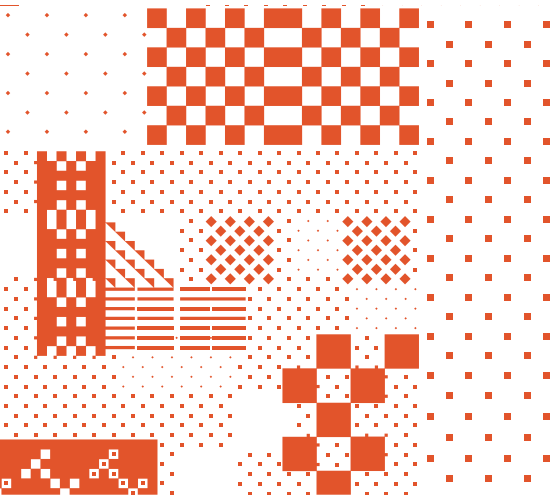
A further key aspect of IMPACT9 is our bespoke, distinct learning precinct for our students. The IMPACT9 Precinct is on Level 2. It is comprised of flexible learning spaces, connected co-lab spaces, a board room, spaces for individual learning and high-level technology integration. Our approach to IMPACT9 requires students and staff to collaborate and work together in a flexible manner and our unique learning space is built and developed to support this.





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