

QUEECHY HIGH SCHOOL



GRADE 8

PERSONAL PURSUITS 2026



# GRADE 8 PERSONAL PURSUITS

In Grade 8, students study Personal Pursuits alongside compulsory learning areas.

In Grade 8 students can select:

2 full year courses and 2 half year courses or 1 full year and 4 half year courses or 6 half year courses

- ▶ Grade 7 students are now asked to make their selection for Grade 8 in 2026
- ▶ Students should consider their *interests, strengths, learning and career pathways* when making their **Personal Pursuit** choices for Grade 8.
- ▶ Students are encouraged to read the selection book and discuss choices with their families and guardians.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES



In 2026, the school will continue to provide the opportunity for students to participate in **NHSSA Thursday afternoon sporting rosters**.



Students can choose if they wish to participate in this roster as it will run concurrently with one option line.



Students will need to indicate which sport they will play or, if they do not wish to play a sport select another half year option. The available sports are **soccer, netball (boys and girls), and football (boys and girls)**. Students need to indicate their choice of sport on the selection form.

## RETURNING THE SELECTION FORM



Students are asked to **select their 2026 personal pursuit classes via the link provided**. Students will then **print a receipt which will need to be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to their Tutor Group teacher**.

Students will need to **select 10 courses in order of preference** in case an area of study becomes unavailable at a later date, after the choices are made.

Please note - while the school would like to be able to run all the optional choices on the list in 2026, we can only run courses which have sufficient enrolments.

## ADVICE ON COURSE SELECTION



If parents/guardians would like to discuss a **subject or subject selections**, they are encouraged to contact the school. The **Tutor Group teacher** can provide advice; however, if there are specific queries regarding selection, the following staff can be contacted by phone on **6341 4455**, or by email.

| Curriculum Area               | Coordinator | Email                             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Digital Technologies          | Mr Clark    | kaleb.clark@decyp.tas.gov.au      |
| English                       | Mrs Baylis  | emmalie.baylis@decyp.tas.gov.au   |
| Food Technology               | Ms Antypas  | megan.antypas@decyp.tas.gov.au    |
| Health and Physical Education | Mr Goss     | hadyn.goss@decyp.tas.gov.au       |
| Mathematics                   | Mr Bent     | nigel.bent@decyp.tas.gov.au       |
| Performing Arts               |             |                                   |
| Drama                         | Mr King     | joel.king@decyp.tas.gov.au        |
| Music                         | Mr Woods    | michael.g.woods@decyp.tas.gov.au  |
| Technology                    | Mr Johnston | terence.johnston@decyp.tas.gov.au |
| Visual Art                    | Ms Markland | nicola.markland@decyp.tas.gov.au  |



## Digital Technologies

### Digital Technologies – Full Year

Think like a coder and play like a pro as you design algorithms, test digital solutions, and evaluate strategies while exploring the fast-growing world of Esports. You'll not only sharpen your coding and problem-solving skills, but also apply digital citizenship and cyber safety knowledge to team-based Esports tournaments where strategy, collaboration, and innovation are key.

### Graphics and Animation – Half Year

Create the worlds you imagine by developing and communicating digital design solutions in Photoshop, Blender, and TinkerCAD. From designing and animating your own game characters to producing short films and photography albums, 3D models, and logos, you'll discover how professional creators use graphics to influence audiences through storytelling and advertising.

### STEM – Half Year

Design, build, and race your ideas as you work with CAD, 3D printers, and laser cutters to develop and test design solutions. You'll collaborate on projects using Micro:bit and Arduino to bring electronics to life. Along the way, you'll be introduced to exciting programs like STEM Racing, where your cars hit the track, First Lego League, where robots take on real-world challenges, and GreenSTEM, where sustainability drives innovation. You may even be selected to represent the school at the State Science and Engineering Challenge.

## English

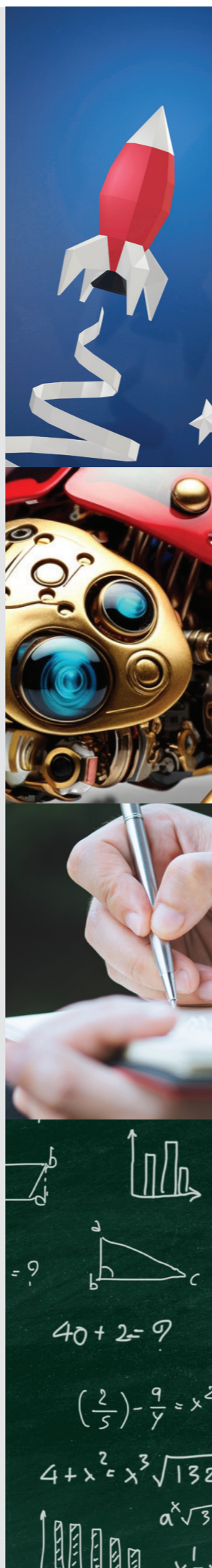
### Writer's Workshop – Full Year or Half Year

This personal pursuit is designed for students to explore a range of techniques to develop their creative thinking and writing skills. Students will read and write a range of texts including picture books, media texts, wordless books and short stories, and will be introduced to the Writer's Notebook method of journaling and exploring ideas. This course adopts a workshop method, where the focus is on exploring and developing ideas, conferencing with peers and using a range of media and techniques (visual art resources and technology) to create a variety of texts.

## Mathematics

### Extended Mathematics – Half Year

Extended Mathematics is a course aimed at students wishing to develop their mathematical skills to a level that will assist them in successfully undertaking Extended Mathematics subjects in future years. Students will explore a variety of problem-solving techniques, further develop their algebraic skills and consolidate their understanding of linear functions and graphing. Students will be given the opportunity to extend their skills by competing in the Maths Olympiad and Australian Maths Competition.



## Food Technology

### Year 8 Foods - Part 1 – Terms 1 + 2

In this half year Personal Pursuit, we will explore all aspects of food 'health'. From safely working in a kitchen, to understanding food labels; what it means to eat a healthy diet, to the impacts of food on a healthy planet. This learning will be built around delicious, nutritious food which we will make and, of course, get to enjoy.

### Year 8 Foods - Part 2 – Terms 3 + 4

For those wanting to develop a deeper look into the aspects of food 'health', this half year Personal Pursuit will build on Part 1 with a new set of recipes and different perspectives. We will build both our practical kitchen skills and apply our understanding to create dishes that both inspire and nourish us.

### Sweets and Treats – Half Year

For those with a sweet tooth, learn the tricks of how to make delicious cakes, slices, biscuits and other treats while understanding the role of carbohydrates, including sugar, in the diet. You will also learn simple food presentation techniques that will impress family and friends.

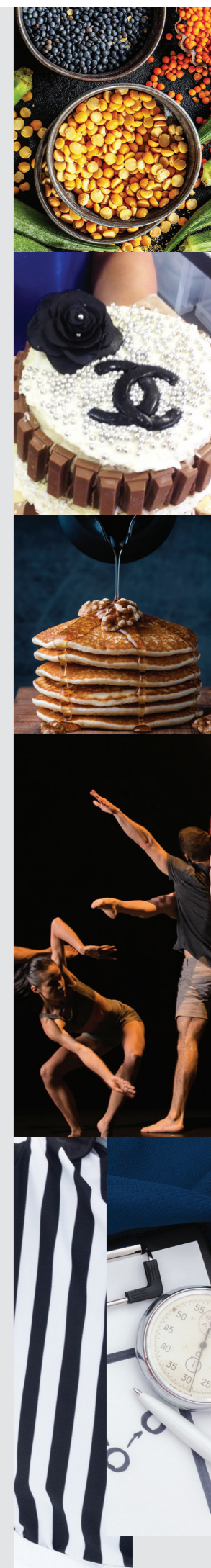
## Health and Physical Education

### Dance – Half Year

We will explore dance as an art form through choreography, performance and appreciation. Students will have the opportunity to choreograph and perform in whole class, small group and individual situations. Students will also learn about styles and choreographic intent, detailing how movement communicates ideas and concepts. Students will be expected to reflect upon and evaluate their own and other performances which will enhance performance capabilities and movement skills.

### Sport Studies and Leadership – Full Year

Students will investigate a variety of sports and the role that they play in communities around the world. They will develop their leadership skills in a variety of roles, including coaching, umpiring, scoring, playing and statistical analysis. Sports chosen will be selected by the participants and training and coaching will occur for each specific sport. Training and coaching principles will also be studied to maximise sporting performance. This course would be ideal for students wishing to pursue leadership opportunities in the sporting field.



## Basketball Academy – Half Year

This course is designed to extend students with a particular interest in developing their knowledge as a basketball player or official. Students will not only develop their individual basketball skills, but participate in umpiring courses and learn how athletes prepare for games through aspects such as nutrition, biomechanical analysis and psychological development. Students will also be given the opportunity to have local basketball players and coaches as special guests. Teams within this subject may form during the unit and could potentially represent the school in extracurricular opportunities after school such as the Northern Basketball School Championship held in October, or the State High School Competition held in different locations around the state. The course will consist of approximately 80% practical and 20% theory based components.

## Junior Athlete Development – Full Year

Students should expect to build upon their theoretical understanding on what it takes to be an athlete whilst also learning and undertaking sport specific training. Topics studied in Athlete Development include but are not limited to, sports psychology, nutrition, training types, and training methods. This subject is perfect for committed students who currently participate in organised sport that are looking to enhance their training to give themselves a boost towards taking the next step in their chosen sport.

## Adventure Education – Half Year

This personal pursuit provides students with the opportunity to experience physical activity in an outdoor and recreational setting. A major focus will be on bushwalking including cooking activities using a portable stove. Many other land based activities such as orienteering and rock-climbing will be experienced. There is a theory component to this course which includes research tasks based on recreational activities in our local area as well as basic outdoor/recreational safety.

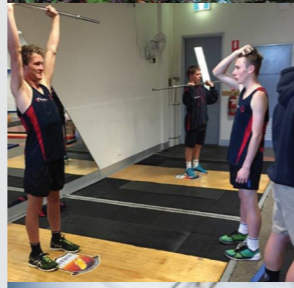
## Sport, Fun and Fitness – Half Year

This course is designed for students to have the opportunity to participate and lead a range of physical activities. This class will focus on a range of sports, with students having the opportunity to be involved in activities that will enhance their physical, social and mental wellbeing.

## NHSSA Sport (TAA) – Half Year

Students will be given the opportunity to participate in the NHSSA winter sport competition on Thursday afternoons. If choosing this option please indicate on the form which sport you intend to play:

- Football (boys)
- Football (girls)
- Soccer (mixed)
- Netball (girls)
- Netball (boys)



## Performing Arts

### Drama – Full Year

Drama students will perform a number of different dramatic styles to different audiences. The main focus of grade 8 Drama is to help students continue to develop their collaboration skills and improve their communication skills. Drama also helps students improve their mental creativity and encourages them to be confident enough to showcase their talents. Units studied in Drama include scripted plays, movement and mime, the history of theatre, the elements of comedy and an introduction to Shakespeare and his works. So, whether you are interested in a career in the Performing Arts, just want to build your confidence or want a break from a heavy academic curriculum, then Drama may be for you!

### Drama – Half Year

This half year Personal Pursuit provides students with an opportunity to continue to enjoy Drama. Students will be involved in a range of performance situations and practical group activities, including improvisation, whole class dramas and scripted performances.

### Music – Full Year

Music students develop their application of the elements of music to a wide range of activities including composition, improvisation and listening. Song writing skills are enhanced through examining common chord progressions and analysing high quality music examples. Students develop technique on their chosen instrument through goal setting and the acquisition of good practice habits. Performance of personally relevant material is of great importance and leads to self-expression and creativity. Class discussions examine trends in historical and contemporary music and the psychological, social and political issues that influence them.

### Music Extra – Half Year

Music Extra is for students who want extra practical time to play in bands or work on their instrumental skills, singing or electronic music. Emphasis is placed on student choice when selecting material to play and in forming bands or groups. Strategies to maximise practise quality and stagecraft are taught. Trends in music culture, navigating the social media landscape and building a career in the performing arts industry for musicians are all investigated. No previous experience is required. Music Extra is a half year option offered in either Terms 1 and 4 or Terms 2 and 3.



## Design & Technology

### Wood • Design and Make with Purpose – Half Year

In this hands-on course, students build on their foundational skills in woodwork by designing and creating functional and decorative items. Through engaging projects, students explore safe tool use, material selection, and basic construction techniques while developing creativity, problem-solving, and design thinking. They will learn to plan, measure, cut, and assemble with care, aiming for the highest quality craftsmanship. This course encourages students to express ideas through practical outcomes and provides a strong base for further learning in design and technologies.



### Metal • Explore, Create, Build – Half Year

This course will enable students to develop skills in technical drawing using a This dynamic course invites students to unleash their creativity and craftsmanship as they design and build their own metalwork projects. Along the way, they'll gain hands-on experience in key skills such as hand marking out and cutting, introductory welding, sheet metal work, and basic machining. Whether shaping sleek designs or crafting practical tools, students will discover the possibilities of working with metal. This course offers a taste of the metalworking trade and serves as a springboard for further study or a potential career in the industry.



## Visual Art

### Year 8 - My Art – Half Year

Do you enjoy doing your own thing in art lessons? Are you a dedicated art student who can work independently? In this course you get to negotiate your own theme or focus for your work and with the support of your teacher further develop your ideas and techniques. You will use a journal to plan out ideas, experiment with materials and reflect on learning experiences. At the conclusion of this course the expectation will be for you to present your body of work for display.

### Cartooning and Digital Art – Half Year

Ignite your creativity! Explore the exciting worlds of cartooning and digital art. Master traditional drawing techniques and then dive into the digital realm. Experiment with various art forms, from lifelike sketches to abstract masterpieces. Develop your unique artistic style as you bring your imagination to life through practical projects and reflective exercises.

### Year 8 - Visual Art – Half Year

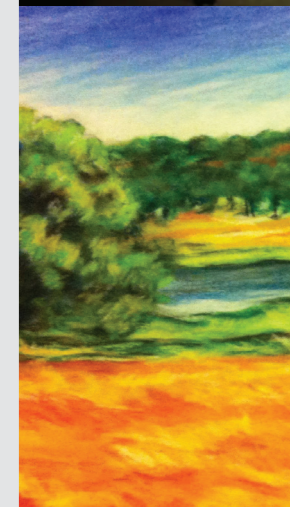
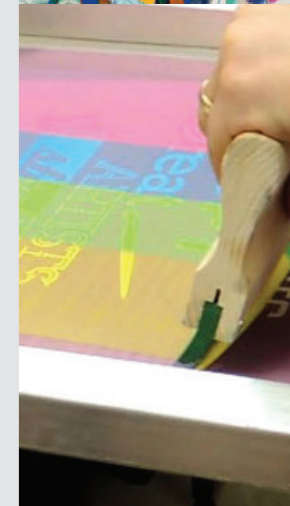
Did you enjoy Visual Art in Grade 7? Are you feeling more serious about developing your art skills and want to experience a wide variety of art materials and create both 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional artworks? Then this course is for you! You will get to dabble in drawing, printing, painting, sculpture, and pottery. You will have the opportunity to further your artistic skills while continuing to build on prior knowledge. This program will open your mind to different concepts and art styles from different eras. Your art journal will be used to research, experiment with techniques, develop ideas, and reflect on learning experiences.

### Street Art – Half Year

Do you find street art, graffiti or tagging appealing? In this course we will explore all the different aspects of art which can be found on the streets, with no art gallery in sight! You will learn the unique art of graffiti lettering styles and also get to create your own 'tag' which we will add to the wall of the skate park on our class excursion. You will have the opportunity to learn stencil and paint application techniques to inspire you to develop your own colourful street style.







### Drawing and Painting – Half Year

Do you enjoy drawing and painting and want to further develop your skills? Get your paint brushes and pencils at the ready, you are about to gain confidence using a wide variety of art materials and new techniques with how to use them. You will have the opportunity to experiment in your visual journal, before commencing the teacher directed tasks.





## Contact Us

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