WHY STUDY HOME ECONOMICS?

Senior Home Economics has a unique place in the school curriculum in that it focuses on the well-being of individuals and families in everyday activities. In all cultural contexts, people need to have food, textiles and shelter as well as satisfactory ways of meeting social, emotional, physical, financial and intellectual aspects of well-being.

Home Economics is an academic subject with a strong practical component. The reasoning processes, understandings and attitudes developed in this course of study are those which are fundamental to effective functioning in a wide range of life roles. Students are encouraged to consider issues relating to the well-being of individuals and families from a range of perspectives, such as social, cultural, political, legal, historical, environmental, economic and ethical perspectives.

Home Economics provides balance between theoretical understandings and practical capacities. It recognises the importance of a practical approach to solving everyday living problems, and providing students with the opportunity to develop the practical and management skills involved in the selection and manipulation of resources and the planning and execution of complex practical tasks. In Home Economics, practical skills are extended to include the development of the skills and attitudes required for thoughtful promotion of the well-being of individuals and families.

WHAT IS STUDIED IN HOME ECONOMICS?

Home Economics is a two year course of study. There are three areas of study in a Home Economics course, namely:

- Food Studies – The Health of Individuals and Society – The Impact of Food.
- Living Environment – Individuals and Families in Other Living Environments
- Textile Studies – Consumer Textiles

Students will study the core of each area of study, and a minimum of one elective from two of the three areas of study. The electives expand and complement the core. The core and electives can all contain investigative and practical approaches, thus allowing students to meet the range of general objectives. Elective units can change from year to year to allow for student group differences and teacher preferences.

Electives currently studied include:

- Food, Nutrition and the Life Cycle
- Food Science
- Food Technology and the Consumer
- The Child in the Australian Family
- Creating with Textiles
- Design for Fashion
- Launching and Landing

The core and electives will assist students to develop:

- knowledge and understanding of the diversity of individuals and families, the basic needs that underpin their well-being, and of the range of contexts, perspectives and issues that influence individual and family well-being
- reasoning processes that are fundamental to critical and effective participation in a range of life roles related to food, textiles and living environments
- practical skills in the areas of study, and the understandings and skills to take informed, practical action that promotes the well-being of individuals and families in each area of study.
WORKLOAD
Students should expect a demanding written aspect of the course and are required to revise the work completed in class each night for homework. Various other tasks may be set on a regular basis or over several nights, e.g. background reading, practical activities, report writing and research questions. Documentation of planning for practical work is routine.

Students must have the commitment to be consistently organised for all practical experiences and be prepared to work with motivation independently.

HOW IS HOME ECONOMICS STUDIED?
Home Economics combines investigative and practical approaches to student learning. Students are encouraged to use the full range of planning and decision making processes in both academic and practical tasks. Students will develop their reasoning skills through, for example, research tasks that involve collecting information and analysing and evaluating it, developing arguments and conclusions and supporting them with evidence, and communicating their findings in a variety of forms. In practical tasks, students will plan and organise, make decisions about processes and procedures, produce through the performance of practical skills, and evaluate the effectiveness of processes and products.

HOW ARE STUDENTS ASSESSED?
Assessment in Home Economics is criterion-based and is designed to help students to demonstrate achievement in the objectives of the syllabus. The criteria used are

- Knowledge and Understanding
- Reasoning Processes
- Practical Performance

Assessment caters for the range of students and includes written assessment such as objective and short-responses tests, extended written responses such as research assignments and reports, and response to stimulus tests. Non-written presentations may also be used, such as demonstrations, oral presentations, and audio-visual presentations. Assessment in practical performance will usually involve decision-making, planning and evaluating, as well as the performance of practical skills.

WHERE MIGHT HOME ECONOMICS LEAD?
The underpinning theme of: “The well-being of individuals and families in everyday activities”, indicates that Home Economics is a valuable subject for everyone to follow.

Home Economics may be studied at tertiary level without Senior Home Economics; however it would be useful to have studied the subject. Study of Home Economics at any level is useful for a number of careers.

Some careers include: Dietitian, Food Technologist, Interior designer, Fashion Designer, Secondary Teacher, Design Consultant, Counsellor, Home Economist, Textile Technologist, Physiologist, Health Educator, Quality Controller, Community Welfare Officer, Early Childhood Teacher, Food Stylist