

Frequently Asked Questions

Senior School | Future Ready



TYNDALE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
God's Truth Prevails

INTENTIONALLY
CHRISTIAN
INCLUSIVE
EXCELLENT

Senior School aims to work in partnership with students and parents to develop learners who are resilient, responsible and resourceful. Senior School is about equipping students with the attitudes and skills to open pathways to your best self, personally, spiritually, physically and socially. These attributes will help you face the challenges of work, learning and life.

Does it matter that I do not know what I want to be when I leave school?

Senior School will give you many opportunities to explore possible Pathways. You will start with undertaking the Morrisby Profiling Tool in Year 10, designed to identify your strengths and aptitudes. There is a specialised subject called the Personal Learning Plan which helps students prepare for the world of work. Year 10s also undertake a week of Work Experience. All Senior School students meet with a Careers Counsellor in Year 10 and 12, and by appointment in Year 11. Students have access to specialised subject counselling. Tertiary Expos, Vocation Educational and Training courses, (VET), University Extension subjects, and a wide range of specialised subjects can all help to shape direction for the future.

Can I do an apprenticeship while at Tyndale?

Yes, you can. Students who find an apprenticeship through their work-experience or their community connections can partner with the employer, an Apprenticeship Network provider and the School to complete their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) while starting their apprenticeship. School Based Apprenticeship students will often spend at least one day a week with their employer and another day at TAFE.

Can I do a VET course as part of my studies?

Yes. Senior School students can apply for VET while at school. These courses usually take place off-campus at a provider but there are several on-site courses including Construction, Fitness and Christian Ministry.. Students are supported with a supervised study line at school. VET has SACE credit and, in some circumstances, may be used towards an ATAR. Students on a VET course can replace a school subject with their VET studies. Students then have a supervised study line.

Is there a cost to VET?

Depending on the course. Some courses receive generous government subsidies. The Pathways Centre staff will advise you of costs.

Who do I see about VET?

The Pathways Team, headed by Ms Kristen Thomas (kristenthomas@tyndale.sa.edu.au) can help you with your inquiries regarding VET, Work Placement and School Based Apprenticeships.

Does learning only happen during school hours?

We certainly recommend that you continue your learning at home. Home Learning strengthens your learning muscles. It reinforces concepts taught in class and gives you the time needed to research and craft your best work. Particularly for students who want to create a competitive ATAR, our recommendations are:

Year 10: 1-2 hours a week per subject, 10-12 hours a week in total.

Year 11: 2-3 hours a week per subject, 12-18 hours a week in total.

Year 12: 3 - 5 hours a week per subject 15-20 hours a week in total.

The upper range is recommended for students seeking a high ATAR.

Are there exams?

Yes, but not in every subject. Where a Year 12 subject has an end of year exam, like Maths, English, Science and History, we have mid-year and end of year exams to help students develop good revision habits and to get used to the normal feelings of exam nerves.

Can I change a subject if I do not like it?

The answer to this is 'yes', 'no' and 'maybe'. Subject changes can be made for the first two weeks of the semester. Students need to apply through a Subject Change form. The teacher whose subject you want to do, will need to see that you have met the pre-requisite grade, usually a C+. There needs to be space in the class and the class needs to happen at a time that works on the Timetable.

What happens if I fail a subject?

If you get less than a C+ grade, then you will not be able to choose the subject again. Subjects increase in difficulty with each year level, and you must show that you can manage the knowledge, skills and demands of a subject. Where a student has failed a Maths or English subject then the Curriculum Leader will consult with the teachers as to the appropriate level of Maths or English based on ability, attitude and application. In Year 12, there may be a non ATAR version of the subject you are struggling with but this is only available to students who are actively engaged in their learning.

What if I am doing really well, how can I be extended?

For students consistently achieving in the A band, if there is a higher level of Math and English, you can talk to your teacher about changing classes at the end of a semester. You might like to apply for the University Extension programmes for Year 12 or set yourself a goal of achieving a SACE Merit. High achieving Year 11 students can also apply for the full Certificate III in Theology.

Can I do Year 12 over 2 years?

Almost all students will complete Year 12 in one year. Students may apply for part-time Year 12 where there is a significant impacting factor affecting their study such as high-level sport demanding many hours of training or a significant health concern. These applications are on a case-by-case basis.

What if the school does not have a Year 12 subject that I really want?

Students are able to use several providers for alternative subject offerings: Marden or Thebarton Senior College Twilight classes, Adelaide School of Languages or University Extension Studies. Applications are made direct to the alternative provider who handles the enrolment. Tyndale may be the examination centre for the subject. These subjects often have separate fees.

What is an ATAR? Do I need one?

You need an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) if you intend to apply for university within two years of finishing school using your school grades. It is a national ranking of results used for university selection and is highly competitive. To get an ATAR of 98 means only 2% of the Year 12s in the country achieved more highly than you. As and Bs to achieve an ATAR that is useful for most university courses. There are other ways to apply for university and we can help you with all of them. Some of those ways are:

- A Certificate IV or Diploma
- A university STAT (Special Tertiary Admissions Test) Grade Based Entry (UniSA)
- Some Year 11 entry schemes that also require SACE completion.

How can I be involved in Senior School?

There is so much more going on outside of lessons. Lunchtime clubs are happening on most days of the week in a variety of areas such as Robotics, Bible Study, Dance and Board Games. Students are encouraged to join the sporting tryouts. There is a leadership programme with opportunities to serve the community through Student Voice, House and School Captaincy. Students are encouraged to connect with their House competitions and carnival days.



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