

Montmorency Secondary College

YR 8&9 CHALLENGE LEARNING UNITS

POLICY

Rationale:

At Montmorency Secondary College we firmly believe that:

- All students can learn
- All students can experience success, and
- All students are talented in one area or another. Therefore,
- All students deserve the opportunity to display and extend their talents.

As part of our commitment to provide opportunities for students to extend their learning, the College runs the **Challenge Program** (refer to the separate Challenge Program brochure) that includes the provision of **Challenge Learning Units** within the Year 8&9 elective learning unit blocks.

Aims:

- To provide structured extension opportunities in English, Mathematics and Science.
- To allow individual students to extend their understanding and appreciation of a subject area where they have demonstrated advanced ability and further develop their higher order thinking skills.

Implementation:

- All Year 8 and 9 students undertake the standard core program as outlined in the Year 8&9 Handbook.
- Year 8 and 9 students select four semester-length elective learning units per year.
- All Year 8 and 9 students are required to select at least one elective learning unit from each of the two non-core VELs domains: *The Arts* and *Design, Creativity & Technology*. They also have two unrestricted choices each year.
- The College will offer semester-length English, Maths and Science Challenge Units in the elective block at both Year 8 and Year 9. Only one class of each subject at each level will be offered.
- Entry into the Challenge Units will be by *invitation only* based on student academic results in the previous semester or year in the relevant subject. The determination of the entry requirements is the sole province of the college.
- Students will be ranked in each Challenge subject area using the above determination and the top 25 students will be invited into the Challenge units in each subject at each level.
- Families will receive a written invitation for their son and/or daughter to join the program. This will be sent prior to online Student Subject Selection. Students and families may elect to accept or decline the invitation without prejudice.
- Students invited into, and accepting entry into, Challenge Units still need to choose one elective Learning Unit from each of the two non-core VELs domains of *The Arts* and *Design, Creativity & Technology*. The Challenge Units must come from their unrestricted choices.
- Students are only able to accept entry into a maximum of two Challenge Units per year. If they are offered entry into all three units they will need to choose their preferred two.
- The College may initiate “second round” offers into Challenge Units dependent on the level of initial acceptance and the overall number of students who meet the minimum academic performance criteria.
- The Learning & Teaching team will assess the viability of running Challenge Units in a given year, in conjunction with all other offered elective units, as part of its standard procedures for determining the curriculum program that the college is able to resource. If student acceptance into any Challenge Unit is too low for the class to be considered viable, given funding levels and/or priorities, the class will not go ahead.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle, or as required.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

October 2014