



19 July 2024

YEAR 10 2025 SUBJECT SELECTION INFORMATION EVENING AND PROCESSES

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Making decisions about senior schooling is an important step in planning for the future. At Merrimac SHS students undertake a three-year senior pathway, commencing in Year 10. While studying a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) or Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA) in Years 10, 11 and 12, students can choose from a wide range of learning options that will prepare them for the pathway they choose after school — whether it be to undertake tertiary study, take up an apprenticeship or traineeship, or to enter the workforce.

The initial part of this process is to attend the Year 10 2025 Subject Selection Information Evening, where you will be informed about post-schooling pathways of university entry, vocational education or employment.

When: Tuesday 30 July 2024

Format: Faculty, TAFE, University & RTO Stalls 3:00pm - 5:00pm (Hall)

Principal rolling Subject Selection Information Session 3:30pm, 4:15pm & 5:00pm (Q1)

Experience Gold Coast Parent Information Session 3:30pm & 4:00pm (Library)

The subjects' students select for Year 10 2025 will lead to at least one of three post schooling options. The first pathway (ATAR) is an academically rigorous pathway, awarding students an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) for admission to university. The second pathway (Flexible) is either for further vocational study after Year 12 and the attainment of an industry recognised vocational qualification that can be used for university entrance or for entering the work force.

Year 9 students have engaged in career and pathway exploration in their timetabled MMM lessons. This, along with information shared at the Careers Information Evening, will support your student to complete their draft Year 10 2025 subject selections on Wednesday 31 July.

On **Wednesday 28 August**, all parents and caregivers, along with their student, will be invited to attend the compulsory 30 minute Senior Education and Training Plan (SETP) meeting to discuss students chosen subject selections and pathway. Appointment times will be available from 7am – 7pm, interviews will be held in the school Library. **To support your student to plan for and attend their SETP interview, Year 9 students will not be required to attend school on Wednesday 28 August.** Failure to attend this SETP meeting will mean no subject selections can occur for your student for Year 10. Please ensure you organize your interview early.

We look forward to meeting with you to assist with this important decision making process.

Yours faithfully,

Rachel Cutajar
Principal

pride in excellence

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FAQ

Is it necessary to attend the SETP meeting?

Yes, attending the Student Education and Training Plan (SETP) meeting is mandatory. It is the culmination of the subject selection program provided by the school. Students will complete their SETP on the OneSchool website before the meeting with a parent/carer. During the formal SETP meeting, students will finalise their senior subjects and pathway. Failure to attend this meeting means we cannot process subject selection for Year 10.

What is the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)?

The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's senior schooling qualification.

What is the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR)?

The ATAR is a ranking system used for tertiary admissions that reflects a student's overall position relative to other students. More information can be found at <https://myqce.qcaa.qld.edu.au/assessment-and-results/atar>

How do the QCE and ATAR differ?

The QCE is Queensland's senior schooling qualification, whereas the ATAR is a ranking used for tertiary admissions reflecting a student's position compared to peers. We aim to ensure every student graduates with a QCE. There are requirements a student must meet to ensure this can occur and students graduate Year 12 successfully.

What is Vocational Education and Training in Schools (VETiS)?

VETiS is a learning pathway that Years 10-12 students can undertake whilst completing senior secondary. These are funded or fee for service courses; delivered by registered training providers (RTOs); they provide students with a nationally recognised qualification on completion; and, most provide credit towards your Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

What type of VETiS can my student participate in?

1. VETiS funded Certificate I or II courses with an accredited training provider (RTO)
2. Fee for Service Certificate I, II, III, IV or (partial or full) Diploma courses

How long does it take to complete VETiS?

This varies depending qualification type and level. Some industry areas and/or higher-level courses require vocational placement (student workplace volunteering and sampling). Approximately:

- Certificate I/II: 6-12 months
- Certificate III: 12-month duration
- Certificate IV: 12-18 months
- Diploma: 18-24 months

What are School-based Apprentice-Traineeships (SATs)?

These are earning and learning contracts that students can commence from Year 10, that sees them complete:

- School timetable subjects on campus
- Participate in paid work with a local employer one school day and outside school hours (e.g., weekends, holidays)
- Enrol and complete a Certificate III qualification aligned to workplace tasks and industry at that level

How does VET benefit my Year 10-12 student?

Once completed, your qualification is recognised nationally for future training and employment pathways. Successful completion of VET will award students points to their QCE or QCIA. For Certificate III, IV and Diploma courses, students will be awarded an ATAR rank equivalent which may provide entry to eligible university courses.

What is the benefit of completing VET in Year 10?

Students who complete a Certificate III, IV or Diploma will be awarded a study line on completion. This affords students an additional 210 minutes per week of study, supporting the academic rigour of Years 11 and 12.

Can my student change their pathway?

Year 10 students will have the opportunity to review their senior pathway at the end of Semester 1, following reporting results, by appointment with HOD Senior or Deputy Principal Middle School. Students undertake a three year senior pathway. Any pathway changes need to occur in Year 10 as students begin collecting QCE points in Year 11. Students will not change subjects to 'try new electives'. This only occurs in the Junior Secondary years.

Where can I access more information?

More information can be found at the Merrimac State High School website using the following [link](#).