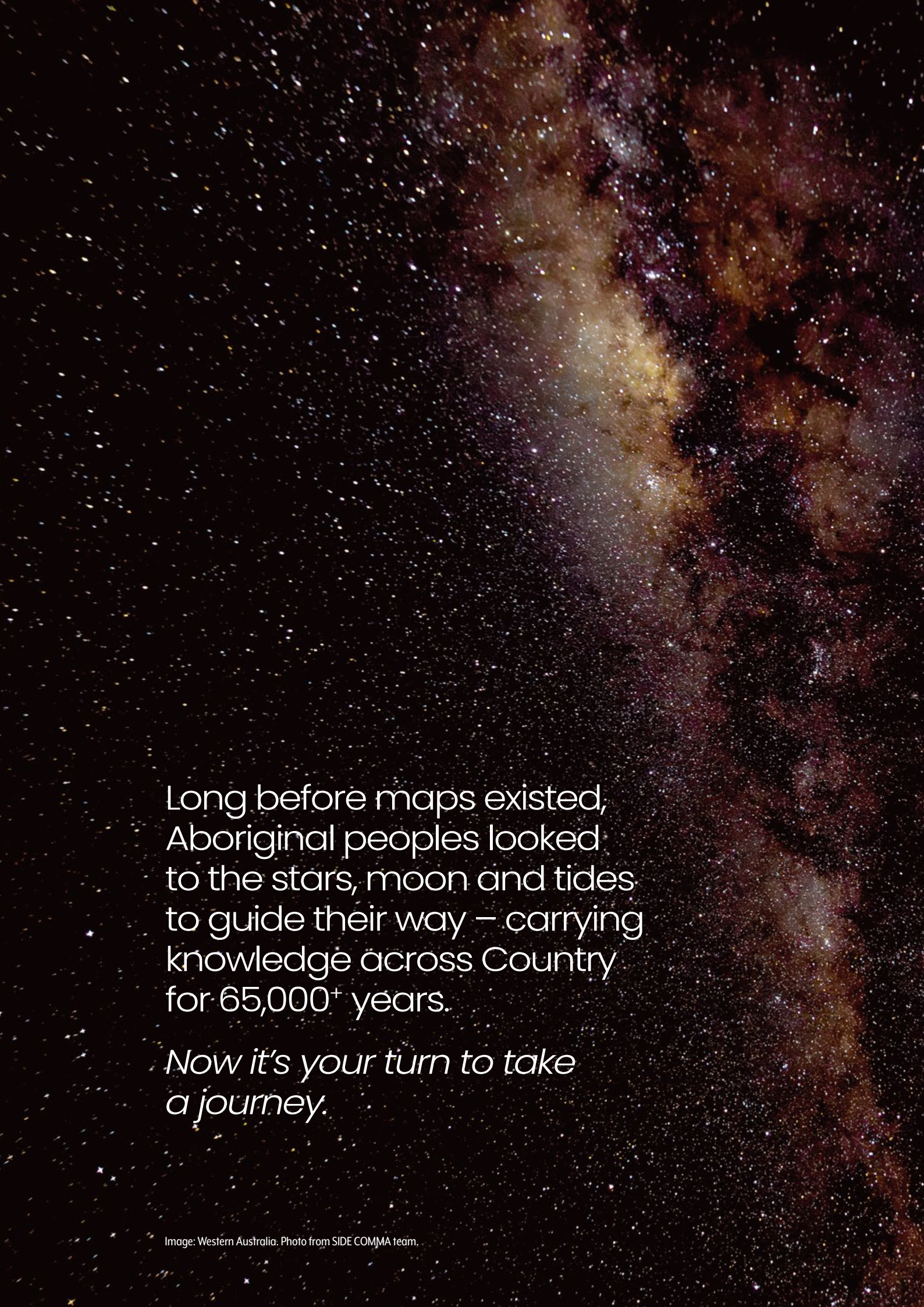
2027 SENIOR PATHWAYS INFORMATION

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SIDE
SCHOOL OF ISOLATED & DISTANCE EDUCATION

Campuses: **Leederville | Canning | Clarkson | Eaton**
Midland Learning Academy | North Lake

(08) 9311 1400
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Long before maps existed, Aboriginal peoples looked to the stars, moon and tides to guide their way – carrying knowledge across Country for 65,000+ years.

Now it's your turn to take a journey.

Image: Western Australia. Photo from SIDE COMMA team.



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WACE and WASSA

The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) is the certificate that students in Western Australia achieve when they have met specified requirements in their senior secondary education. If achieved, the WACE certificate is included in the Folio of Achievement.

At the completion of Year 12 all students will be able to download a digital Folio of Achievement which includes the Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA).

The WASSA provides a formal record of what students leaving in Year 12 have achieved in their schooling. Students can use their school achievements to apply to enter university, training programs or employment. Students can download digital copies of the certificates at:
Student portal (scsa.wa.edu.au)
Years 11 and 12 | WASSA



Types of Courses

There are four types of courses and two programs developed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA).

COURSE/PROGRAMS	GENERAL FEATURES
Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) courses	ATAR courses are offered in Years 11 and 12, with Units 1–2 studied in Year 11 and Units 3–4 (completed together) in Year 12. Year 12 courses are examined by SCSA and are designed for students preparing for direct entry to university.
General courses	General courses are offered in Years 11 and 12, with Units 1–2 studied in Year 11 and Units 3–4 (completed together) in Year 12. They are not examined by SCSA, but Year 12 students complete compulsory externally set tasks (ESTs) worth 15% of their assessment. These courses suit students aiming for vocational training, work, or alternative university pathways.
Foundation courses	Foundation courses are offered in Years 11 and 12, with Units 1–2 studied in Year 11 and Units 3–4 (completed together) in Year 12. They provide a focus on functional literacy and numeracy skills, practical work-related experience and the opportunity to build personal skills that are important for life and work. Foundation courses are not designed, nor intended, to be an alternative senior secondary pathway.
Preliminary courses	Preliminary courses are for students who have been identified as having a learning difficulty and/or an intellectual disability. Preliminary courses do not contribute to achievement of the WACE.
Vocational Education and Training (VET) Industry Specific Courses	VET qualifications are for students wishing to participate in nationally recognized training. All VET qualifications require registered training organisation(RTO) delivery, assessment and quality control under the relevant VET regulatory body.
Endorsed programs	These programs provide access to areas of learning not covered by WACE courses or VET programs and contribute to the WACE as unit equivalents. Endorsed programs are for students wishing to participate in programs which are delivered in a variety of settings by schools, workplaces, universities and community organisations.

Students can mix and match these options to provide themselves with the best platform to meet the requirements to achieve their WACE – and for life beyond school.



Image: Western Australia. Photo from SIDE COMMA team.

Achieving WACE

To achieve the Western Australia Certificate of Education (WACE), a student must meet the following requirements:

- **Literacy and Numeracy:**
  Meet the minimum standard through **NAPLAN** or **OLNA**.
- **Course Completion:**
  Complete a **minimum of 20 units** (or equivalents) across Years 11 and 12, including at least **10 Year 12 units**.
- **English Requirement:**
  - Two **Year 11 English** units, and
  - One **Year 12 English** pair of units
- **Breadth of Study:**
  - One **List A** Year 12 pair (Arts, Languages, Social Sciences)
  - One **List B** Year 12 pair (Maths, Science, Technology)

Each Year 11 course consists of one unit per semester. Each Year 12 course consists of a pair of semester-long units.

Achievement Standard

- A minimum of **fourteen C grades (or equivalents)** across Year 11 and 12**.**
- At least **six C grades in Year 12 units.**
- **VET, endorsed programs** and tertiary preparation endorsed programs can contribute up to **eight unit equivalents** (maximum four in Year 11 and four in Year 12).
  - e.g., a Certificate II usually provides two equivalent units in Year 11 and two in Year 12; Curtin UniReady is an endorsed program and provides two equivalent units in Year 11 and two in Year 12.

To achieve the Western Australia Certificate of Education (WACE), a student must complete the equivalence of five Year 11 courses and five Year 12 courses in their secondary studies.

Note: Completing a course means meeting all coursework requirements. For ATAR courses, this includes sitting the final examination.

The courses could be ATAR, General, Foundation, endorsed or VET courses. Selection of courses should be made in consultation with Regional Coordinators.



Courses and Programs Overview

CLICK ON LINK ICON IN EACH LEARNING AREA TO GO TO THE WEBSITE

LEARNING AREA	COURSES	PRELIMINARY		FOUNDATION		GENERAL		ATAR	
YEAR 11 UNITS: FE, GE, AE = UNIT PAIR		P1/2	P3/4	FE	FT	GE	GT	AE	AT
The Arts	Media Production & Analysis							A	A
	Visual Arts					A	A	A	A
Career Development	Career & Employability					A	A		
	Career & Enterprise			A	A				
English	English	●	●	A	A	A	A	A	A
	EALD			A	A	A	A	A	A
	Literature							A	A
Health & Physical Education	Health Studies					A	A	A	A
	Health, Physical and Outdoor Education			B	B				
	Physical Education Studies *					B	B		
Humanities and Social Sciences	Accounting & Finance							B	B
	Business Management & Enterprise					A	A		
	Economics							A	A
	Geography					A	A	A	A
	Modern History					A	A	A	A
	Politics & Law							A	A
Languages	Chinese: Second Language							A	A
	French: Second Language							A	A
	Indonesian: Second Language							A	A
	Italian: Second Language							A	A
	Japanese: Second Language					A		A	A

A = List A | B = List B | ● = Course on offer | * = Students may only enrol in the course with approval from the Head of Learning Area (HOLA), please contact the HOLA to discuss eligibility and obtain approval.

** = Only available to schools with an approved workshop.



Courses and Programs Overview (Continued)

Image: Western Australia. Photo from SIDE COMMA team.

CLICK ON LINK ICON IN EACH LEARNING AREA TO GO TO THE WEBSITE

LEARNING AREA	COURSES	PRELIMINARY		FOUNDATION		GENERAL		ATAR	
YEAR 11 UNITS: FE, GE, AE = UNIT PAIR		P1/2	P3/4	FE	FT	GE	GT	AE	AT
Mathematics	Mathematics	●	●	B	B				
	Mathematics Essential					B	B		
	Mathematics Applications							B	B
	Mathematics Methods							B	B
	Mathematics Specialist							B	B
Science	Biology							B	B
	Chemistry							B	B
	Human Biology					B	B	B	B
	Science in Practice					B	B		
	Physics							B	B
	Psychology					B	B	B	B
Technologies	Applied Information Technologies					B	B	B	B
	Automotive Engineering					B	B		
	Children Family & Community					A	A		
	Computer Science					B	B	B	B
	Design: Photography					B	B		
	Design: Technical Graphics					B	B		
	Materials Design Technology Wood**	●	●			B	B		

A = List A | B = List B | ● = Course on offer | * = Students may only enrol in the course with approval from the Head of Learning Area (HOLA), please contact the HOLA to discuss eligibility and obtain approval.

** = Only available to schools with an approved workshop.

VET Endorsed programs and Qualifications

ENDORSED PROGRAMS

Endorsed programs are significant learning opportunities for senior secondary students, delivered through lessons or activities to achieve specific outcomes. They may be part of the school curriculum or extra-curricular, with a maximum of four unit equivalents counting toward the WACE (two in Year 11 and two in Year 12). Further information is available on the SCSA website ***Years 11 and 12 | Endorsed Programs***

COURSE NAME	KEY CONTENT
ASDAN	ASDAN offers curriculum award programs that combine activity-based learning with the development, assessment, and accreditation of key personal and social skills. They focus on rewarding achievement while helping young people prepare for the transition to adult life.
Community Arts Performance	This program recognises students' learning through community-based arts activities (dance, drama, media, music, visual arts). Students develop skills through lessons, practice, rehearsals, and performances.
Community Service	This 55 hour program requires at least 50 hours of community service plus up to 5 hours of induction and reflection, allowing students to develop skills and understanding through one or more service activities.
Elite Sports Performance	This program recognises students selected for state or higher-level competitive sports, requiring at least 110 hours of skill and knowledge development. It builds technical ability, discipline, and interpersonal skills through training and competitions.
Off Campus Enrichment	This program recognises learning from extended excursions or off-campus experiences of at least five days, with at least 5 hours of related pre- and post-trip activities. Examples include study tours, sporting events, or interstate educational trips.
Recreational Pursuits	This program recognises student learning through organised recreational activities involving lessons or classes, usually within a club or organisation, to develop technical and specialist skills.
Keys for Life - Plus	This is a 40 lesson driver education program for Year 10-12 students focusing on safe driving, licensing, and decision making. Eligible students (aged 15+, 80% attendance, completed journal) take the official Learner's Permit Theory Test at school.
Workplace Learning	This program lets students gain transferable skills through real work experience. Students log hours and tasks in a Workplace Learning Logbook and complete a Skills Journal after every 55 hours worked.
Tertiary preparation endorsed program (TPEP)	TPEPs, developed by universities and other providers, offer structured learning leading to a quality assured certificate that helps prepare students for tertiary studies. SIDE offers the Curtin UniReady program.



VET Endorsed programs and Qualifications
(Continued)

Image: Western Australia. Photo from SIDE COMMA team.

VET COURSES ARE GENERALLY TWO YEAR COURSES

QUALIFICATION	DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH RTO
VET CERTIFICATES These are knowledge and skills based. They are hands on units.	
AHC10222 Certificate I in Agriculture	**SIDE RTO 52891**
AHC10322 Certificate I in Horticulture	**SIDE RTO 52891**
AHC10124 Certificate I in Conservation and Ecosystem Management	**SIDE RTO 52891**
AHC21024 Certificate II in Conservation and Ecosystem Management	**SIDE RTO 52891**
BSB10120 Certificate I in Workplace Skills	**SIDE RTO 52891**
BSB20120 Certificate II in Workplace Skills	**SIDE RTO 52891**
CHC24015 Certificate II in Active Volunteering	**TBC**
CUA20720 Certificate II in Visual Arts	**SIDE RTO 52891**
FNS10120 Certificate I in Basic Financial Literacy	**SIDE RTO 52891**
FNS20120 Certificate II in Financial Services	**TBC**
FSK10219 Certificate I in Skills for Vocational Pathways	**SIDE RTO 52891**
FSK20119 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways	**SIDE RTO 52891**
ICT20120 Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies	**SIDE RTO 52891**
SIS20122 Certificate II in Sport and Recreation	**SIDE RTO 52891**
School Based Apprenticeships & Traineeships	

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What textbooks and materials need to be purchased?

Students are required to purchase SIDE required texts and materials as per the school booklist. Detailed information is on the SIDE website:
SIDE > Enrolments > Booklist (side.wa.edu.au)

What do I need to study ATAR in Year 11?

To select ATAR courses in Year 11, students should be on track to achieve high C or B grades in subjects in Year 10. Students must also have a strong work ethic, motivation and a clear goal to attend university. Further information about the costs for all Senior Secondary courses can be found on the SIDE website:
SIDE > Enrolments > Costs > Contributions and charges (side.wa.edu.au)

How can parents/carers support their child?

Every student requires support and guidance in their schooling. Online learning at SIDE is a different style of learning requiring IT skills and a high level of independence.

Parents and supervisors are encouraged to read and access support materials and resources located at:
SIDE > Help and Resources > Secondary Supervisor Guides (side.wa.edu.au)

Who is the best person at SIDE to contact if parents/carers have concerns, or want to find out how their child is progressing?

Contact details for each child's teachers are available to students and parents, who may get in touch directly by email or phone. Students' progress can also be monitored via Parent Connect.

Every secondary student at SIDE also has a Regional Coordinator whose responsibilities include monitoring the student's academic progress and providing a contact point for parents.

What is OLNA and NAPLAN and how does it link with the minimum literacy and numeracy standards?

To ensure students are well prepared for work and study after school, a minimum literacy and numeracy standard has been established for all WA students. In order to demonstrate the Literacy and Numeracy standard necessary to gain the WACE by the end of Year 12, students either:

- prequalify through the reading, writing and numeracy tests of the Year 9 National Assessment Program – Literacy & Numeracy (NAPLAN) or
- pass the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

Meeting this standard (OLNA) is valued by employers and post-school training providers.

This standard is required for students to:

- be eligible for university admission, and
- enrol in training and pre-apprenticeship courses.



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) (Continued)

Image: Western Australia. Photo from SIDE COMMA team.

Q Can a student change from one study pathway to another?

Students can move between course types (eg ATAR to General). The relevant SIDE Regional Coordinator assists to determine the enrolment that best meets student interests, aspirations and needs.

There are points in the semester after which students should not change courses, as it would be unlikely they could complete the coursework. After Term 1 of Year 12 students cannot enrol in new courses.

Q Do Year 12 students have to sit examinations/ external assessments?

Year 12 students who are enrolled in a Year 12 ATAR course are required to sit the ATAR examination for that course. If students do not sit the examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for the course, the pair of units completed in that year will not contribute to **any** of the WACE requirements.

Year 12 students enrolled in Foundation and General courses are required to complete an Externally Set Task (EST). The EST is administered by the school under standard test conditions. Sample EST papers are independently marked by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority(SCSA).

Q Is it compulsory for my child to study mathematics in Year 11 and 12?

Whilst the study of mathematics is not compulsory in Year 11 & 12, it is recommended for all students. If students have not achieved the minimum standard of numeracy through OLNA or NAPLAN, then they will be required to complete a mathematics course.

Q Why would a student choose Workplace Learning?

- It takes place on-the-job in a chosen industry workplace.
- It includes voluntary work, paid work and school organised placements.
- Some students may also undertake a school-based apprenticeship/ traineeship.
- It is a valuable option for all students as a key aspect of improving employment prospects.

Q Why would a student choose VET?

- Allows development of workplace specific skills and knowledge designed to meet current and future employment demands.
- Nationally recognised which means it can be taken anywhere in Australia.
- Qualification can be combined with WACE (via a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship), giving students a head start on becoming a qualified tradesperson.
- Contributes significantly towards WACE and may provide an alternative pathway towards university.



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For further Information:

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