



BISHOPS
DIOCESAN COLLEGE

Dear Parents

September 2019

Subject choice for those entering Grade 8 in 2020

Grade 8 offers a wonderful change in academic engagement, starting the journey to matric with a shift to greater abstract and conceptual thinking. In terms of the breadth of subjects taken in Grade 8, it is a continuation of the Senior Phase started in Grade 7.

At Bishops the subject Arts & Culture requires the boys to choose a specific course. While some schools offer this as a broad arts subject, because we offer a number of arts and language subjects through to matric, we require an early choice of one of the subjects: French, IsiXhosa, Music, Art or Drama. Accordingly, each boy should opt for one of those five courses, which is then his Arts & Culture component. Please see page 2 to 4 for more detail about each course. In particular, note the difference between Music I and Music II. French or IsiXhosa beginners can be accommodated as well as those with previous experience.

There are some boys, who are immigrants, who have exemption from the second official language requirement, and in most cases, they study French. Those boys would not take Arts & Culture:French, but would opt for one of the other courses. Most other boys will take Afrikaans as their additional language, and some may opt for IsiXhosa as their additional South African Language. This is not encouraged if they are new in the subject as it is at First Additional Language level. If they do offer it they may not also offer it in the Arts & Culture component.

We require a decision about which course your son will choose for Arts & Culture.

The maximum number of boys that can be accommodated in any one course is 50, and if more than that apply, then boys will unfortunately have to be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. In the case of Music II, the maximum number of boys that can be accommodated is 20. While the associated subjects (not Music II) can be continued in Grade 10 and beyond, it is perfectly normal for a boy to take one for the richness of the learning opportunity and then not after Grade 9.

Please indicate your preferences on the online form by Friday 11 October 2019. If you have any queries or issues you would like to talk through, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in learning,

Michelle van Schalkwyk (Mrs)
Deputy Head: Academics
e-mail: mvanschalkwyk@bishops.org.za



ARTS & CULTURE Grades 8 & 9

At Bishops the subject, Arts and Culture, is divided into five separate courses and all scholars have to choose one of them:

Art, Drama, French, IsiXhosa or Music.

Art, Drama, French, Xhosa and Music I may be continued to Grade 12, but Music II is only offered through to Grade 9. Below is a short explanation of what the scholars can expect in each course: if further details are required, please approach the staff member indicated. While it is possible to change course during the two years, this is ill advised because it limits the richness of the experience since most boys do not take these subjects to Matric.

ART:

The Grade 8 boys are introduced to the formal elements: line, tone, texture, shape and colour, and also to a variety of art disciplines and techniques.

In Grade 9, practical projects focus initially on perspective, and later on in the year, the boys undertake exercises in sculpture and in more advanced painting techniques.

There is an internal practical test (either painting or drawing) in May/June and in November for both Grades 8 & 9, and this provides an important indicator of the level attained in the course. The overall mid-year mark is derived from coursework (60%), with the practical test counting for the other 40%.

Using the sketchbook/journal is an integral part of the course, and very clear guidelines about this are provided in a Power Point presentation on the Bishops Visual Arts Intranet page.

Peter Hyslop physlop@bishops.org.za

DRAMA:

This course seeks to provide the scholars with skills needed to work creatively and confidently, both as individuals and as part of a group, and to develop an appreciation for the dramatic arts.

At Grade 8 level, the scholars are introduced to: basic warm-up techniques; improvisation; script-writing and performance; puppetry and an elementary course on the theatrical application of sound and lighting.

The Grade 9 course expands on the previous year's experiences by including: an appreciation and analysis of film; direction technique; characterization; short film making; basic choreography and the research and performance of a monologue.

Continuous Assessment is based on both practical and theoretical applications and a formal practical exam at the culmination of each semester.

Wayne Tucker wtucker@bishops.org.za

FRENCH:

This course gives boys, beginners or not, the ability to communicate in one of the most widely used foreign languages on the African continent and around the world. The communicative approach dictates all that is undertaken in the classroom and pupils quickly learn to listen, speak, read and write on important themes. They are also exposed to French culture, history and way of life through songs, films and presentations.

In Grade 8, the topics covered include greetings, numbers, family, animals, school, daily routine, time and weather, likes and dislikes, directions. The boys start to use computer technology to produce oral and written presentations, as well as to practise the simple vocabulary and grammar introduced.

The grade 9 course expands on the previous year's content and continues to use computer technology for the boys to practice and produce their work. The topics covered include physical descriptions, holidays and travel, shopping, ordering food and drinks, leisure activities.

A formal written exam and an oral exam are undertaken at the end of each year while regular evaluation takes place during lesson times. French can be chosen as an option to Matric.

Alexandra van Selm avanselm@bishops.org.za

IsiXHOSA:

Our studies in Xhosa are designed to enable scholars to: acquire the language skills necessary to communicate appropriately; focus on listening, speaking, reading and writing; use IsiXhosa as a language and at the same time learn about the culture of the 'Amaxhosa'; learn more about the traditional 'Iintsomi' (short stories) as part of literature.

Boys develop vocabulary, learn how to form sentences and eventually write shorter paragraphs and dialogues. Emphasis is on a relaxed environment to encourage boys to be listening, speaking, reading as well as writing IsiXhosa with confidence and enjoyment. From the third term Grade 8s use laptops to create advertisements and flyers as well as homework assignments such as dialogues and picture labelling.

The Grade 9 course expands on the previous year's content and continues to use computer technology for the boys to practise and produce their work. The topics covered include physical descriptions, holidays, shopping, ordering food and drinks, leisure activities.

A formal written exam and an oral exam are undertaken at the end of each year while regular evaluation takes place during lesson times.

IsiXhosa as an Additional Language is offered at Bishops to Matric. It will give each and every boy the ability and opportunity to communicate in IsiXhosa, not only in the Western Cape, but in so many other beautiful parts of our country.

Aneen Kritzinger akritzinger@bishops.org.za

MUSIC:

Music is offered as two different options. Both courses will include general music and arts appreciation, and music technology. Pupils will be required to attend internal lunchtime concerts as part of their musical experience and development.

Music I: available only to pupils who have completed Grade 2 level on their instrument of choice. Each pupil would be required to have 1-hour lessons each week on their instrument (but 30-minute lessons for voice) charged at only 50% of the normal cost for Music lessons. Boys choosing this option **MUST** also complete a Music Lesson Application form. Pupils will be taken through a comprehensive music theoretical course.

Practical and written exams take place in June and November; the practical exam counts 50% of the total mark. Continuous assessment is ongoing throughout the year.

Music II: no previous practical experience is necessary and pupils will not need to have individual practical music lessons. This course will include group marimba work. The basics of music theory will also be covered in this course. A written exam takes place in June and November. Continuous assessment is ongoing throughout the year.

A maximum of 20 boys can be accepted for this course, and selection will be on a first-come-first-served basis.

Gloria Bassett gbassett@bishops.org.za