

Planning Backwards

Subject selection starts by planning backwards. We think about how we want our lives to be in the future, set goals, and take the actions that help us get there. It looks something like this:

My Big Picture Goals

It's alright if you're not sure how to answer these questions yet, but have a go anyway: What are my life goals? What sort of future do I want for myself? At 18, 23, and 30 years old I will...

Pathways to Get There

What kinds of work would I like to do? What education, training, and experiences will I need? What are the different ways to get there? What are my other options if I change my mind?

Prepare for My Journey

Plan for the trip of a lifetime! Speak to people, do your research, try things out, and get involved. It's your responsibility to be informed and to make a Career Plan.

Select My Subjects

Now you know where you're going and how to get there you're ready to choose the subjects that point you in the right direction!



Selecting Subjects

I Still Don't Know What I Want to Do!

No idea what you want to do? Can't imagine your adult self and futures life? Don't let these things get the better of you. You can still make wise and satisfying subject choices by identifying what you do and don't like, and what you are and aren't so good at.

Think of it like this

- If you choose subjects based on what you like and enjoy, you'll be more motivated.
- When you're motivated you give your best efforts.
- Your best efforts are likely to result in better marks.
- Doing well helps you feel more confident, which means you'll be excited to explore different careers.
- The more careers you explore, the more likely you are to find you study and work choices satisfying.

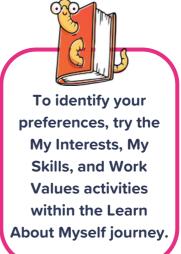
Informed Decisions Matter

The more you investigate your options, the more satisfying your pathway choices are likely to be.

Change is Constant

What you do next is just a starting point and you will need to keep learning throughout your entire life. Every Experience Counts No education or work is pointless - all our experiences add to our skills and strengths.

The Future is Flexible It's not set in stone and you can change directions if you change your mind.





Selecting Subjects

The Right Ways to Choose Subjects

Consider your pathway

Are you aiming for a high ATAR or developing practical skills for the workforce? Multiple options exist beyond school, including vocational training, apprenticeships, or university via ATAR or non-ATAR pathways, so choose subjects to support your pathway.

Select subjects you're good at

When you give your best effort, you're more likely to do well. If you're choosing a subject because it's a prerequisite, reflect on whether your previous learning indicates you're likely to succeed.

Balance your workload

Aim for a combination of subjects that challenge you without overwhelming you and that fit with your other commitments.

Keep your options open

If you're unsure about your pathway, keep your subject choices broad and diverse so you have flexibility in your future studies and career choices. Select subjects you enjoy You are more likely to put your full effort in if you like what you are learning.

Be realistic about your results

Be sure to review your results and speak to your teachers. Being realistic about your abilities and skills helps you choose subjects at the right challenge level.

Know what you're signing up for Speak to the subject teachers, read the textbook, talk to students taking the class. Read the subject handbook and attend 'taster' lessons or subject information sessions so you really know what each subject involves and if it's for you.

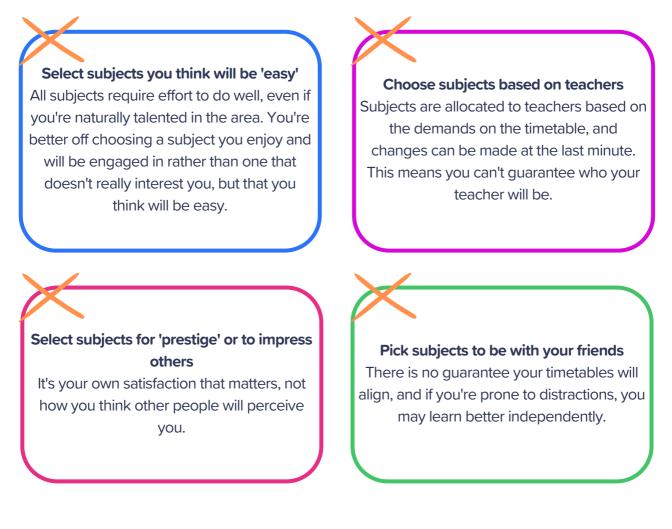
Seek guidance from your allies Your teachers, coordinators, and Careers Advisor can help you develop a plan aligned with your aspirations. Ask them questions and listen to their advice, as they really are there to help you.

Remember the big picture

School isn't just about academics. Consider extracurricular activities, sports, arts, or community service which provide valuable skills and learning, contribute to personal growth, and enhance your overall school experience.



The Wrong Ways to Choose Subjects



What If I choose a 'wrong' subject?

Putting time and effort into picking the right subjects matters because once you've chosen them, you may not be able to make changes. If, despite your best efforts to choose wisely, you find yourself in a subject you don't like or aren't doing well in, use the challenge as an opportunity to develop:

- Perseverance by giving it your best anyway.
- The attitude that you get out what you put in.
- Skills in something that doesn't come naturally which demonstrates maturity and discipline.
- A growth mindset by realising that learning what we don't like or what we're not good at helps us to know ourselves better.

Use your new self-knowledge to inform your future decisions. For example, if you thought you'd love Food Tech but just found yourself in a mess, cross it off your list and confidently know careers in a kitchen aren't for you.



Am I Ready to Select My Subjects?

Use this checklist to see when you're ready to make your subject choices. If you answer 'no' or 'unsure' to any of the statements, do a bit more research before you lock in your selections. If you can answer 'yes' to all of them, select your subjects with confidence, knowing you've made informed choices.

Am I ready to select my subjects?	\checkmark	×	?
I like the subjects I'm choosing enough to study them every day.			
The subjects I'm choosing cover prerequisites for courses I'm interested in.			
I have spoken to the subject teachers.			
I understand what each subject is about and how I will be assessed.			
I can realistically manage the workload given my other commitments.			
I'm aware of other requirements I need to meet e.g. folio, audition, etc.			
I meet the recommended subjects or grades for selecting these subject.			