# **YEAR 9 CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP**

# WHY STUDY CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP?

Civics and Citizenship is essential in enabling students to become active and informed citizens who participate in and sustain Australia's democracy. Through the study of Civics and Citizenship, students investigate political and legal systems, and explore the nature of citizenship, diversity and identity in contemporary society.



#### **COURSE AIMS:**

The study of Year 9 Civics & Citizenship ensures that students:

- Examine the ways political parties, interest groups, media and individuals influence government and decision making processes.
- Investigate the features and principles of Australia's court system, including its role in applying and interpreting Australian law.
- Examine global connectedness and how this is shaping contemporary Australian society.

#### **COURSE ORGANISATION:**

Students will study:

- the role of political parties and independent representatives in Australia's system of government, including the formation of governments
- how citizens' choices are shaped at election time, including the influence of the media
- the key features of Australia's court system, including jurisdictions and how courts apply and interpret the law, resolve disputes, and make law through judgments
- the key principles of Australia's justice system, including equality before the law, independent judiciary, and right of appeal
- how and why groups, including religious groups, participate in civic life
- the influence of a range of media, including social media, in shaping identities and attitudes to diversity
- how ideas about and experiences of Australian identity are influenced by global connectedness and mobility

## Semester 1 – Cl633 - Law and Government

- explore the origins of common and statute law
- understand the difference between civil, criminal and family law
- describe the purpose of laws and the process of changing them
- visit the court house and explore how the court system operates
- examine the adversarial system and learn about the role of the court personnel
- investigate what happens when someone is arrested
- listen to a quest speaker from a local law enforcement office
- participate in a study of a contemporary legal issue
- investigate various Australian political parties
- explore the structure of parliament and government, including the roles
- of important people connected with parliament
- learn how our politicians are elected
- find out how elections are run and how votes are counted
- develop your own political party and election campaign

# Semester 2 - CI637 - Politics and Sport Law

- investigate whether Australia is really a democracy
- participate in classroom simulation and role-plays which explore whether all citizens have equal access to power, influence and resources
- ensure your voice as a citizen can be heard
- examine local environmental issues
- examine laws relating to sport
- discuss the duty of care owed to a 'legal' neighbour
- investigate the regulation of the use of drugs in sport
- explore the meaning of 'consent' in sporting assaults
- compare defences available in a negligence action

## **Assessment**

A variety of assessment techniques may be used:

- short and/or extended written responses
- research assignments
- multi-modal presentations







