WHY STUDY CIVICS & CITIZENSHIP and LEGAL STUDIES

Civics and Citizenship and Legal Studies 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 and Legal Studies, students investigate political and legal systems, and explore the nature of citizenship, diversity and identity in contemporary society.

Subject Pathway

Semester 1
Civics and Citizenship

Semester 2
Introduction to Legal Studies

St Pat’s College Legal Studies

COURSE AIMS:
The study of Year 10 Civics and Citizenship and Introduction to Legal Studies ensures that students:

- understand Australia’s system of government through comparison with another system of government in the Asian region.
- examine Australia’s roles and responsibilities within the international context, such as its involvement with the United Nations.
- study the purpose and work of the High Court.
- investigate the values and practices that enable a democratic society to be sustained.

COURSE ORGANISATION:
Students will study:

- the key features and values of Australia’s system of government compared with ONE other system of government in the Asia region
- Australia’s roles and responsibilities at a global level, for example provision of foreign aid, peacekeeping, participation in international organisations and the United Nations
- the role of the High Court, including in interpreting the Constitution
- how Australia’s international legal obligations shape Australian law and government policies, including in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- the challenges to and ways of sustaining a resilient democracy and cohesive society

Semester 1 CI737 - Law and Order

- 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
Imagine if there were no laws and people could do anything they wanted. It’s safe to say the world would be a pretty chaotic place! Every society needs some form of regulation to ensure peace not only in daily life but also in broader areas, such as business, family disputes, traffic violations, and the protection of children. Laws are essential to preserving our way of life and must be established and upheld in everyone’s best interest.

In Law and Order: Introduction to Legal Studies, you’ll delve deeper into the importance of laws and consider how their application affects us as individuals and communities. Through understanding the court system and how laws are actually enacted, you will learn to appreciate the larger legal process and how it safeguards us all. This unit will also focus on Youth Justice, the role of the United Nations and Australia’s international obligations.

**PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE**

Legal Studies is a general subject suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond Year 12 that lead to work, vocational education or tertiary studies. A course of study in Legal Studies can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of law, law enforcement, criminology, justice studies and politics. The knowledge, skills and attitudes gained by Legal Studies students are transferable to all discipline areas and post-schooling tertiary pathways because the research and analytical skills developed by this course are universally valued in business, health, science and engineering industries.

Future careers:
- Research
- Policy development
- Social planning
- Teaching
- Advocacy
- Corrective services
- Legal administration/paralegal
- Community education
- Lawyer/solicitor
- Probation officer
- Social worker
- Magistrate
- Criminology

**Assessment**

A variety of assessment techniques may be used:
- short and/or extended written responses
- research assignments
- multi-modal presentations