



# Pathways

## Pathways - Senior School

YEAR 11 (2026) - YEAR 12 (2027)

ATAR | APPLIED | VOCATIONAL



**CALVARY**  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



centre  
for innovative  
learning design

Fearlessly *Authentic* Learners



# Making Choices!

Dear Students,

Perhaps one of the most exciting things about being in Year 10 is you find yourselves not only wearing a Senior School uniform, but you also find a growing maturity in your approach to your life at school. Along with this, comes the privilege of being able to select even more of your learning program for the next two years. In our daily lives we have become accustomed to a lot of choice – just think of all the chocolate bars or breakfast cereals you could choose from on the supermarket shelves! It's almost too hard to make up your mind. This can have two outcomes:

We expect unlimited choice with everything we choose (which is not possible)

We can't make up our minds as there's too much to choose from. When it comes to subject selection there are a few things I would like you to remember:

## 1. Consider your passions and strengths

When you choose a course. Look at the SKILLS you will build as a learner and how the course may challenge you to grow as a person (forget what your friends are choosing – they will still be there in breaks and holidays!)

## 2. Make choices that opens more doors

When you can't decide. You want to keep the future wide open and full of possibility. After all, none of us can predict with certainty what that future will look like.

## 3. The world has changed.

Courses that existed at University and jobs that were available when your parents' generation were young as you are now, may not even exist today. If they do, they are probably very different from the way they were before.

## 4. Literacy and Numeracy

Not studying a particular course at school very seldom means you can't study it later in your life (at university or anywhere else). The exception is the important foundation for your future provided by the Maths and English you choose. This is why we make it possible for EVERYONE to choose the best Maths and English course for them by keeping them on the same gridline. Literacy and Numeracy skills development has always underpinned your learning at Calvary and it will continue to do so until you graduate.

## 5. Choose to build your skills

Finally, I would like to end on a personal note:

- In High School I took only Science subjects and English.
- At University I picked up three languages, continued with English literature (no Science!).
- Then I became interested in Education so I studied a bit about that.
- Later in my life I returned to university study – I learned about Leadership.
- Recently I have been learning about running a business. I've had to study some Law and some Finance.

What did I get from my school days? A love of learning - I learnt the power of being a lifelong learner. I have my school and my parents to thank for this. I wish you well as you take this next exciting step on your learning journey.

*Mrs Gostelow*

Blessings,  
Mrs Gostelow  
CEO & PRINCIPAL



# Which pathway SHOULD I TAKE?

This is a great question and one which is very important for our students (and their parents) to consider as they enter the senior years of schooling. The information in the following pages will give you a basic snapshot of these types of pathways and show you the wide variety of options our students have when making pathway choices for Years 11 and 12.

Remember, at Calvary, we are keen to be in partnership with you, so if you have questions or queries please bring them to us so we can assist you in making discerning choices.



# ATAR *Applied*



## ATAR PATHWAY

The ATAR pathway is set up for one specific purpose – to give students a ranking (between 0.00 and 99.95) which will enable them to be sorted and selected for a university pathway based on their subject results. The Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) typically categorise their ATAR subjects as 'General' subjects and their non-ATAR subjects as 'Applied' subjects. The ATAR will be calculated by combining a student's best five subject scaled scores. Scaled scores will be derived from a student's subject results as reported to QTAC by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), using a process of inter-subject scaling. Receiving an ATAR score is not an indication of school completion which is instead measured by a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

What is very important to note, is that an ATAR pathway is heavily academic and successfully achieving a reasonable ATAR score will usually require plenty of study and homework (around three hours per subject per week) and relies on a

student's ability to successfully pass high pressure examinations. Students need to be aware that all the Mathematics and Science courses for ATAR culminate in externally marked examinations in Term 4 of Year 12 which will measure their knowledge, understanding, and skills from the entire Year 12 course, and these examinations count for 50% of the overall course. Picking the 'hard' subjects does not guarantee that students will receive a high ATAR score – you also need to do well in them. A balance of five General subjects, rather than just Science/Maths streams is the typical choice for most students following an ATAR pathway.

## APPLIED PATHWAYS

The APPLIED pathway is appropriate for students who are not looking at a tertiary pathway but are instead interested in a range of practical subject areas. Students who choose an Applied pathway are usually focused on achieving their QCE and directly entering the workforce after graduating high school. Applied subjects tend to focus on different skill sets than General subjects, and they



# ATAR *Applied*

are not defined by high-pressure externally marked examinations. Assessments are typically practical or reflective and do not expect students to cover a year's worth of knowledge/skills in any assignment or examination. ATAR students can choose one Applied subject to count toward their ATAR if they want to (this is outlined later in this booklet).

## VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

The VOCATIONAL pathway is specifically tailored to students who are interested in getting workplace experience whilst at school. At Calvary, we have partnered with a range of Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) to provide our students with a variety of Vocational options which range from academic Vocational options, like a Diploma of Business, to practical options, like a Certificate III in Fitness, to hands-on workplace experience, like an at school traineeship (e.g. a Certificate III in Agriculture where you work at the Calvary Agricultural Farm one day per week).

Students pursuing an ATAR or Applied pathway can also include Vocational options as part of their

study. VET studies are organised in conjunction with external providers, studies in this area will require students/parents to pay some study fees to the provider. Our vocational pathways can be split into internal (on-site) and external opportunities (off-site).

## MIXED PATHWAYS

The MIXED pathway is essentially a variety of the above options. You can complete General subjects, alongside Applied subjects, alongside Vocational pathways (although there are some important considerations to note if you are wanting ATAR eligibility) - the decision is up to the student and what they are interested in. While it is important for them to keep their eyes fixed on the future and consider what they may need to complete in high school to successfully pursue study or work after school, there are many pathways that can take them to their goal.





# QUEENSLAND CERTIFICATE OF *Education*

A QCE is given to students who gain 20 QCE credits in high school. This certificate is a recognition by the State of Queensland that students have successfully completed senior school.

## WHAT WE COVER

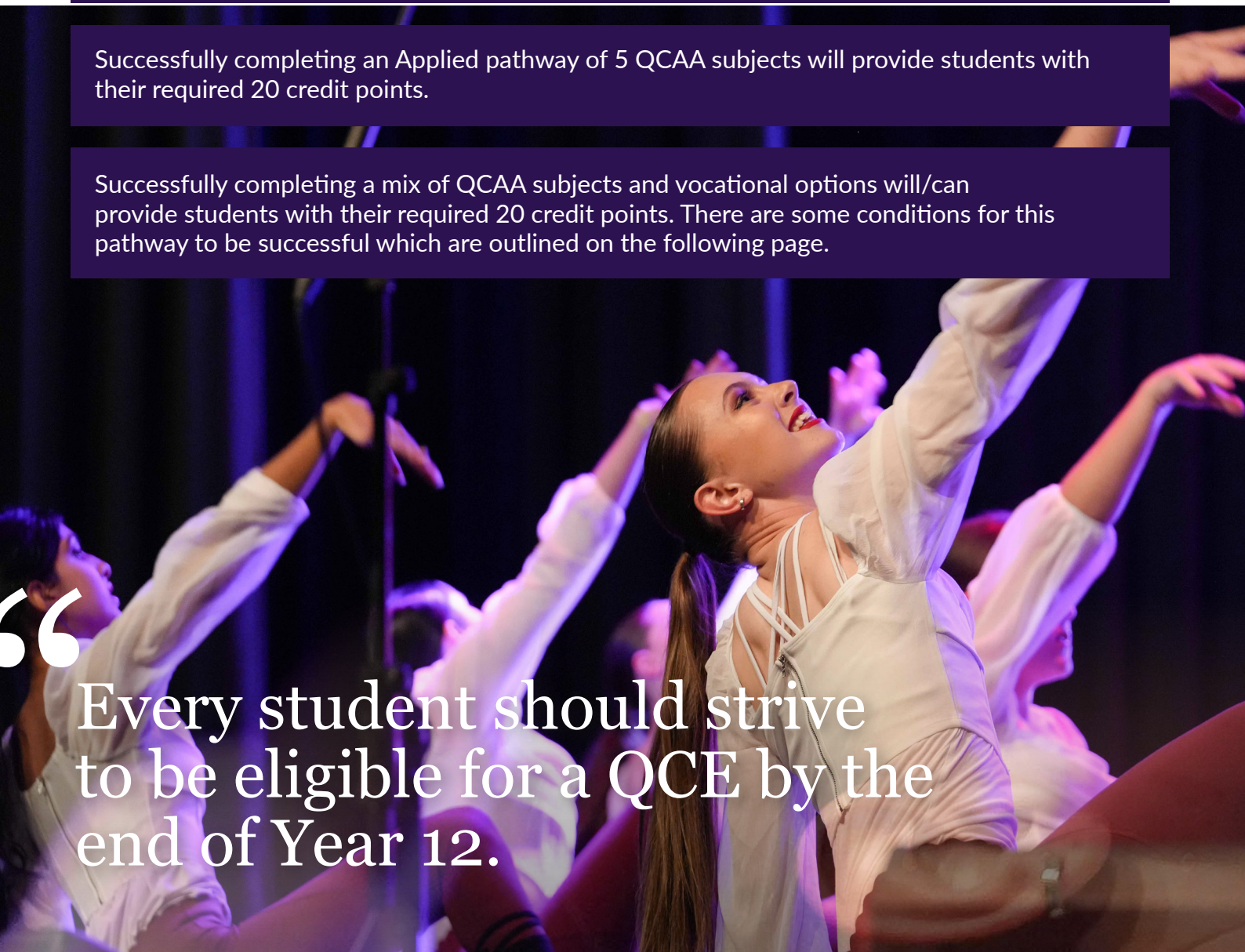
Eligibility requires 20 credit points from approved QCAA courses.

A typical **Year 11 student** will complete 6 lines of study, with the aim of finishing school with 24 credit points.

A typical **Year 12 student** that is seeking a competitive ATAR will complete 5-6 General subjects, and provide them with their required 20 credit points.

Successfully completing an Applied pathway of 5 QCAA subjects will provide students with their required 20 credit points.

Successfully completing a mix of QCAA subjects and vocational options will/can provide students with their required 20 credit points. There are some conditions for this pathway to be successful which are outlined on the following page.



“Every student should strive to be eligible for a QCE by the end of Year 12.”

# PROPOSED STAGE 6 SUBJECT LINES

Line	Year 11 Subjects - 2026						
1	General Mathematics	Mathematical Methods	Essential Mathematics				
2	English	Essential English					
3	Chemistry	Business	Psychology	Business Studies	Sport & Recreation		
4	Ancient History	Biology	Drama	Certificate III in Fitness	Hospitality	Furnishing Skills	
			Drama in Practice				
5	Physical Education	Physics	Economics	Biology	Music	Information Communication Technology	Industrial Technology Skills
					Music in Practice		
6	Agricultural Science	Visual Art	Physical Education	Specialist Mathematics	Tourism		
		Visual Art in Practice					
Year 12-1 year course: English and Literature Extension available upon successful application							

Non-timetabled options available to Year 11 students in 2026. Some of our vocational options have a separate fee.



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## INTERNAL VET STUDY

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Certificate I in Employment Pathways

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Certificate II in Community Services or Tourism

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Certificate II in Engineering Pathways

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Certificate III in Entrepreneurship and New Business

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Certificate III in Aviation (Remote Pilot)

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Certificate III in Christian Ministry and Theology

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Certificate IV in Justice Studies

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Diploma of Business

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## INTERNAL TRAINEESHIPS

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Certificate III in Business Administration

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Certificate III in Agriculture

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Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care

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Certificate III in Hospitality

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Certificate III in Information Technology

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Certificate III in School-based Education Support

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Certificate III in Sport and Recreation

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*Some VET courses may incur a cost.*

### TRAINEESHIPS/ APPRENTICESHIPS

Please contact the VET Coordinator about internal and external traineeship possibilities.

### UNIVERSITY/TAFE OPTIONS

We can also offer students the ability to apply for university or TAFE courses in Year 11/12. This is usually an off-site option as students would attend a different institution one day a week.

### STUDY LINE

In Year 11, students will complete six lines of study. A preparation and study line is utilised to accommodate VET courses and traineeships. In Year 12, you are welcome to have a preparation and study line if you would like to focus on your top 5 ATAR subjects.





# FINDING A COURSE THAT *Suits me*

Choosing a set of subject lines can be an exciting but sometimes stressful experience. At this stage it may be worthwhile going back and rereading our advice from the front of the booklet on choosing wisely. A balanced education, which is our recommendation for most students, would look something like this:

A Maths

An English

A Science

An Arts

A Humanities

Health or something practical

The suggested study plans (the next few pages) showcase some of the subject choices that your child could make if they want to follow a very specific pathway. Here are some thoughts to help them with their choices, have your child read them before moving forward:

## Choose subjects that:

- You like
- You're good at
- You can use to expand your skill set
- You may need for any prerequisites at tertiary
- Keep your options open

## If there is a line where you don't like the options, consider:

- Using this line to complete a VET offering (Cert/Diploma/Traineeship)
  - Using this line as a study line (in Year 12),
  - Choosing an applied option,
  - Whether you can use this line to help you complete a TAFE or university subject
  - Choosing a subject that will expand an under-developed skill set
- If you are interested in pursuing English Extension in Year 12, you will need to drop a subject line, or you could choose 5 subjects in Year 11 and complete a 12-month VET option, which will give you a line free for Year 12 (and a qualification before you have even started Year 12)

- Even if you decide to go for a straight Maths/ Science line, it is still worth having an Arts/ Humanities/Health subject as your sixth offering.
- Don't overlook the role of subjects that help you develop soft-skills (communication/people skills) as these are very valuable and desirable in the workplace.
- If you choose a VET option as your sixth subject, you may find it opens employment pathways to you after school while you are studying. For example, completing a Cert III in Early Childhood at school will make you employable to a child-care centre.
- Make sure you choose subjects that will maximise your opportunity to get a QCE (i.e. don't choose subjects that will be too difficult for you). The grades you are currently getting in Year 10 should help inform your decision making.

If you make a choice that doesn't suit, you can change subjects in senior, but it is best to do this sooner rather than later. Remember to be eligible for a QCE you have to successfully complete three courses from start to finish. If you are unsure or want some advice about the options, come and chat to us!

## REMEMBER, YOUR YEAR 11 AND 12 SUBJECT LINES DO NOT DEFINE YOUR FUTURE!

Remember, your Year 11 and 12 subject lines do not define your future! The vast majority of tertiary options either do not have a Year 11 and 12 subject version (e.g. political science) and many do not have set prerequisites outside of literacy and sometimes a single Science subject (although this is different for most tertiary STEM options). Use subjects in Year 11 and 12 to expand your practical and thinking skill sets and don't forget the power of doing something that you enjoy!

WHO AM I?

# Dare to begin

“ Each child invests in a personal learning journey designed to explore passion, and develop deep thought along with creative problem solving. ”





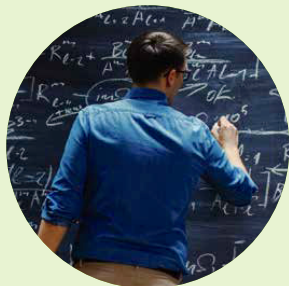
# WHO AM I? *Dare to begin*

## Mathematician

ATAR

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Mathematical Methods
- English
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Specialist Maths
- Your choice



## The Scientist

ATAR

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Mathematical Methods
- English
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Physics
- Agricultural Science



## The Scholar

ATAR

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- General Mathematics
- English
- Ancient History
- Business
- Music
- Your choice

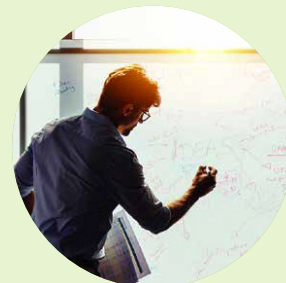


## The Entrepreneur

ATAR

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- General Mathematics
- English
- Economics
- Diploma of Business
- Business
- Tourism



## The Psychologist

ATAR

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Mathematical Methods
- General English
- Psychology
- Biology
- Physical Education
- Your choice



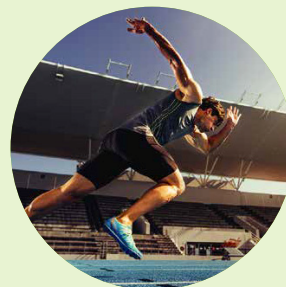
## Sport Star

APPLIED

ATAR

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- General Mathematics
- English
- Sport and Recreation (Subject or Traineeship)
- Certificate III in Fitness
- Physical Education
- Your choice



## The Artist

ATAR

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- General Mathematics
- English
- Drama
- Music
- Visual Art
- Your choice



## The Techie

APPLIED

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Mathematical Methods
- English
- Business Studies
- Cert III IT Traineeship
- Information Communication Technology
- Cert III Engineering Pathways
- + Cert III Aviation (remote pilot)
- Your choice



# WHO AM I? *Dare to begin*

## Workplace Ready Student

APPLIED

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Information Communication Technology
- Hospitality Practice
- Traineeship / Certificate
- Business Studies



## The Tradie

APPLIED

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Traineeship / Certificate
- Business Studies
- Furnishing skills
- Industrial Technology skills



## The Performer

APPLIED

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Drama in Practice
- Music in Practice
- Certificate III in Community Dance, Theatre and Events
- Sport & Recreation



## The Active Student

APPLIED

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Essential Mathematics
- Essential English
- Sport & Recreation
- Cert III Fitness
- Physical Education
- Subject of your choice



## The Event Planner

APPLIED

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Essential Mathematics
- English
- Business
- Hospitality Practices
- Tourism
- Cert III in Event Management



## Be Yourself

APPLIED

ATAR

### SUGGESTED STUDY PLAN

- Mathematics Course
- English Course
- Learning Course 1
- Learning Course 2
- Learning Course 3
- Learning Course 4

