Year 8 Mini-Masters

Structure: All Year 8 students in 2016 will complete 2 Semesters of a Mini-Masters Course throughout the year. The Mini-Masters was a new initiative introduced in 2012 at PCW that allows students to develop a range of specialised skills in areas of interest. These courses are offered in conjunction with the Year 8 core studies.

Course Available:

1. CSI Meets Broadway
2. Performing Arts
3. Music Before You Were Born
4. Mini Master Chef
5. Writers Unite!
Year 8 Mini-Masters: Science Option - CSI meets Broadway

CSI Windsor: Forensic Science
Love watching those television crime shows and want to know more about how to catch a thief?

Then this is the subject for you.

CSI: The experience: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f51TjOT7qTs

We will look at some of the forensic techniques a forensic scientist would use to solve a crime. Such as
- fingerprinting
- footprint
- dental records
- blood types and DNA analysis
- hair and fibre investigations
- making fake wounds

A little bit of theory and a lot of practical activities.

The final assessment task will be to create and solve a PCW Melbourne crime scene using what you have learnt.

Broadway: Science of the Theatre

Ever wondered how they get those special effects in the movies, a music concert or play?

Then join this class to learn how to create an illusion

Science of movie special effects: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikKFmlxM3BQ

We will look at the Science behind creating these. This will include looking at aspects of
- light and sight
- sound and hearing
- the work of a Foley artist
- mechanics of moving curtains, people and props
- cosmetic chemistry
- making other special effects such as fog or snow

The final assessment will require you to explain an aspects of the Science behind the theatre in a format of your choice.
Performing Arts

The Mini Masters Performing Arts course is a subject designed for:

- Students who love to sing
- Students who love to dance
- Students who play/would like to play an instrument
- Students who are interested in extending their studies on their Year 7 band instruments
- Students who simply love anything to do with music and dancing!

The major project for Mini Masters Performing Arts course is a public concert held in the school hall. Students of all abilities are encouraged to perform solo and group items at this exciting event. Students may also choose a non-performing role such as stage and sound management, program design and marketing.

This subject gives students the opportunity to gain more experience in all areas of Performing Arts. It is highly recommended for students who aspire to hold future leadership and/or performance roles in Music Festival and combined PCW/CBC Musicals, such as Music Captains, choreographers, dance leaders, choir directors, lead roles and instrumental performers.

Other activities included in the Mini Masters Performing Arts course:

- Exploring famous musicals and musical films; recreating song and dance numbers, creative writing
- Composing film scores in Garageband
- Recreating famous movie scenes in iMovie using original Garageband soundtracks
- Making radio shows on the iPad
- Writing and performing mini musicals: acting, singing and dancing
- Creating showbags based on favourite musicals

In addition to providing numerous opportunities for students to perform there will be various non-performing options for most activities.

Students who are studying Mini Masters Performing Arts will have the opportunity to perform as a part of PCW’s extensive extra curricular music program, in particular the Year 8 Concert Band and Junior Choir. Students who are strongly involved within extra curricular ensembles such as band and choir will also be given an opportunity to attend PCW’s annual Music Camp.
**Music Before You Were Born**: Popular Musical Genres form the 1950s-90s.

The course aims to introduce students to the idea of musical genre including style, character and values. It also aims to introduce the notion of shifting and developing musical movements and how popular music is forever changing. It will focus on the visual representation of the genre through examining the dress and iconic images of the key figures for each genre. Further, it will have a focus on the lyrical content of each genre to help students understand the different focuses, values and themes.

The proposed musical genres will be: *Rock and Roll, Popular Folk, Disco, Punk and Hip-Hop.* Key figures that could be examined are Elvis Presley, Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkle, The Bee Gees, The Sex Pistols, The Jam, Grand-Master Flash and Eminem.

The assessment task could include: 1) Major assessment: Filming their own film clip to a song of their choice from one of the studied genres. This will include a report that outlines the genre and a statement of intent for the creation of their film clip. 2) Mid-unit assessment: Research (PowerPoint?) into an off-shoot genre related to rock’n’roll or folk or a report into one key figure of rock’n’roll or folk.

---

**Mini-Master Chef**

Calling all “foodies”. If you have an interest in Culinary Art this is the course for you. Spend a semester immersing yourself into the world of food. This is your opportunity to build your skills in all areas of food preparation. This interdisciplinary course will focus on all aspects of food from menu creation to plating design. Come on a culinary journey learning the culinary arts basics before journeying into the history, culture and ingredients that are used in a variety of cultural cooking. You will even get to sample some of your masterpieces along the way!
Year 8 Mini-Masters:
Writers Unite!

This revolutionary elective, run by Mr Godbold, is designed for those who love to write, create and entertain. Over the course of the year, you will participate in a series of workshops/exercises with the aim of making you a better writer, storyteller and maker. Our focus is exploring writing and making within mediums you love for enjoyment!

WARNING: This is NOT an English class. You will NOT be completing text response essays or grammar exercises. We are terribly sorry if that’s your thing, but it’s just not ours. We will focus on writing but also the making of different types of media to tell our stories!

As a class, we will spend some time deciding on what you want to include in the curriculum and how we tackle it. You may choose two or three topics per semester and some ideas are within our extensive menu below:

• Writing competition
  You find the competition (there are so many about) and we work towards getting you entered with a potential winner. These could be poetry, short stories, advertisements, graphic novels.
• Sketch comedy
  Learn about comedy writing through watching funny people and hopefully a workshop with funny people!
• Ten minute plays
  Ever written your very own play? What about a ten-minute play? Thought not! This could be one of the most memorable, challenging and rewarding tasks you will undertake at PCW.
• PCW Melbourne Short Film Festival
  Write a film script, design a storyboard and produce a film to be entered in the 4th Annual PCW Short Film Festival.
• Graphic Novel
  Turn a piece of writing into a graphic novel.
• Zine
As a part of a team, produce a zine to be sold at school. You can write (in all sorts of formats), design, cartoon, and illustrate.

- **Cartooning**
  Study the art and humour of famous cartoonists and produce your own topical cartoons.

- **Podcasts**
  Discovering the world of writing for radio/podcasts and create your very own series!

- **You may bring your own interest into class for us to explore!**

The main assessment for the subject will involve choosing a piece of your own writing/idea for a story that we will generate throughout the semester to adapt into a short film, piece of theatre, graphic novel, cartoons, audio book/podcast for your school community to enjoy! Mr Godbold will season this delicious course with guest speakers who are successful in a range of styles and genres of writing. Or we may meet some playwrights or comedians or film makers or drawers! Remember, your interests can drive the course! In August, we will try to attend the Melbourne Writers Festival. We will also plan a visit to the Wheeler Centre and State Library of Victoria for a suitable author/presenter in Semester 1.

**NOTE:** You can take ‘Writers Unite!’ for the whole year or half a year (Semester 1 and 2 will be run as separate courses).