**Name of Subject:** Legal Studies

**Stage:** 1

**General information:** In this subject students develop an understanding of their rights and responsibilities as Australian and global citizens, and helps them to understand how the Australian legal system operates. Through examining case studies and observing the law in action, students also gain an appreciation of the system’s strengths and weaknesses and are able to suggest recommendations for change.

During the course students will gain an understanding of:
- the rights and responsibilities of individuals and groups in society
- how the Australian legal system operates (eg: how criminal trials are conducted)
- the different sources of law in Australian society (eg: who makes law and how they’re made)
- how the legal system responds to cultural diversity (eg: how laws cater for minority groups)

Students will also develop the following skills:
- research skills (investigating legal procedures, events and issues)
- critical analysis (reflecting on the strengths and weaknesses in the legal system)
- communication (presenting views in many ways, including written, oral and multi-modal)

**Content**

**Law and Society (compulsory topic)**
- functions of law (ie: why laws exist)
- key bodies within the legal system (ie: the role of parliament, the police and the courts)
- the types of law (criminal and civil)
- how criminal laws are classified

As a class we will decide on the other topics to be covered. Options include:
- Justice and Society (a study of criminal law – how crimes are investigated and trials conducted)
- Young People and the Law
- Motorists and the Law
- Relationships and the Law (family law)
- Sport and the Law
- Technology and the Law
- Aboriginal People and the Law
- Any other topic you’re interested in!

**Assessments:**

There are 5 SACE assignments per semester, as well as an end-of-semester exam (1.5 hours).

There are 3 assessment components:

**Assessment Type 1: Folio** - Tasks in this component can include:
- Flow chart/Venn diagram/mind map of a legal issue
- Article analysis
- Court report (a reflection on our visit to the Adelaide Magistrates Court on camp)
- Legal advice (students assume the role of a lawyer and give legal advice to a “client”)

Source analysis (examining a range of sources, including films, cartoons, letters and statistics, to gain information)

Assessment Type 2: Issues Study (1000 words or 6 minutes)
- Students research a legal issue of their choice (e.g., should prostitution be legalised) and present their findings in a format negotiated with the teacher (e.g., oral, essay, web page design, pamphlet)

Assessment Type 3: Presentation – Tasks in this component can include:
- Lawyer arguments (students assume the role of a lawyer and argue their case before a “judge”)
- Mock Magistrate Hearings (students present legal information relating to a criminal trial before a real-life magistrate during our camp)
- In pairs, students prepare and present a “mini lesson” on a legal topic to the class
  (** Please note that some oral presentations can be made in private to the teacher)

Special Information:
- A 4-day camp to Adelaide is planned for Semester 1. Approximate cost of the camp is $300 which covers transport, accommodation and breakfast (financial assistance is available if needed)
- Legal Studies is a language-rich subject, which means there is a lot of reading and writing.

Prerequisites
Nil

Preferred prerequisites
- Year 10 Great Australian Crimes and Trials would be an advantage
- At least a C grade in Year 10 SOSE/SOSE in the Community