Aurora College aims to provide innovative, flexible learning in a whole new context, by allowing students to connect locally and learn globally. Aurora offers a mix of synchronous online and residential school classes to students co-enrolled at government high schools in rural and remote communities across the state.

Our students connect with their teachers and classmates in **timetabled lessons** through a virtual learning environment which comprises web conferencing software, a learning management system and a range of online communication and collaboration tools.

Students enrolled at Aurora College in:
- Years 7 to 10 have gained entry through the NSW Selective High Schools placement process, becoming a shared enrolment once the offer is accepted by the parent/caregiver. There is no principal approval process.
- Years 11 and 12 have gained entry through direct application to Aurora College and with the approval of their home school principal.

As a gazetted school, Aurora College must meet all policy and legislative requirements for government schools, including the provision of the prescribed number of hours of face-to-face teaching of our courses.

Students are shared enrolments between Aurora College and their home school and their curriculum must be planned for by both schools. This includes ensuring students are able to attend timetabled lessons in the Aurora virtual learning environment by **aligning the home school timetable** and the **Aurora College timetable template for 2016**.

**No Department funding is lost** at the partner school for any Year 7 to 10 student co-enrolled with Aurora College. For Years 11 and 12 students co-enrolled with Aurora College, loss of funding at the partner school is at the same rate and via the same AER process as for any other external provider of courses.

**Background**

Throughout 2015, Aurora College has worked closely with a State Reference Group and with external consultants, Edval Timetables, to research and develop the **Aurora College timetable template for 2016**.

The design of the template has been informed by the collection and analysis of a wide range of data and expertise, including from surveys of:
- rural and remote government high school principals, providing a comprehensive breakdown of their school timetable structure, including: bell times; period lengths; the number of days in the timetable cycle; and the number and timing of recess and lunch breaks
- current Aurora College teaching staff, students and their parents, providing feedback on the 2015 timetable template and making recommendations for its improvement.

Aurora College has also received copies of current Year 7 timetables from the ‘destination schools’ of our 2016 Year 7 cohort. This information has enabled us to further test the assumptions that were made in the design of the Aurora College timetable template for 2016.

The Aurora College model for 2016 has been endorsed by the Executive Directors.
Overview

The Aurora College timetable schedule for 2016 will operate from the start of the 2016 school year. The schedule is built on a ten day cycle, with six 50-minute periods scheduled each day.

The Stage 6 timetable has an additional ‘period zero’, during which Extension courses will run.

The table below provides a basic overview of the structure of the Aurora College school day.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration (mins)</th>
<th>Start time</th>
<th>End time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Period 0</td>
<td>8:10 am</td>
<td>8:55 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 1</td>
<td>9:45 am</td>
<td>10:35 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 2</td>
<td>10:35 am</td>
<td>11:20 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recess</td>
<td>11:20 am</td>
<td>12:10 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 3</td>
<td>12:10 pm</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 4</td>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>2:20 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period 5*</td>
<td>2:20 pm</td>
<td>3:10 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*To accommodate varied lunch times at our current and future partner schools, Aurora College lessons have NOT been scheduled during period 5. This gives an effective lunch break in the Aurora College timetable template of 80 minutes.

Aligning your school timetable and the Aurora College timetable schedule

Please note: The information presented in this section should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Aurora College timetable template for 2016
- Checklists (for Principal, Timetable team, and Aurora College Coordinator)
- Science practical program.

These documents and other support materials are available on the partner school information page of the Aurora College website (http://www.aurora.nsw.edu.au/partner-school-information/). Aurora College advises that you save this web address in your web browser ‘favourites’.

Aligning your school timetable and the Aurora College timetable schedule for 2016 includes specific tasks to be undertaken at the partner school in 2105 and 2016 by the:

- Principal
- Timetable team, and
- Aurora College Coordinator.

Checklists for each of these roles are available on the partner school page of the Aurora College website.

The following points provide a summary of the tasks to be undertaken by the partner school.

- Partner schools will nominate a Group for each Year 7 to 10 student co-enrolled with Aurora College.

  The partner school may choose to nominate:
  1. Group 1 (cells shaded green on the Aurora College timetable template for 2016) for English, mathematics and science, or
2. Group 2 (cells shaded pink on the Aurora College timetable template for 2016) for English, mathematics and science, or
3. a combination of Groups for students in the same Year (eg Group 1 for English and Group 2 for mathematics and science).

- Aurora College recommends that where possible, partner schools nominate one Group, either Group 1 (cells shaded green) or Group 2 (cells shaded pink), for all Years 7 to 10 students co-enrolled with Aurora College. This will alleviate the need to timetable a double period of English, mathematics or science at the partner school.

  Careful consideration needs to be given in making this decision in cases where the partner school elective line alignment across Years 9 and 10 may impact on staffing at the partner school.

- For partner schools with Aurora College students in more than one Year (in Years 7 to 10), careful planning needs to occur when placing English, mathematics and science periods on your blocking matrix.

  For example, if you have students in Years 7 and 10 and you place both groups in Group 1 (cells shaded green), then both Year groups at your school must be doing either English, mathematics or science during periods 1, 2 and 6 on a Monday at your school.

- Partner schools with students enrolling in subjects in Years 11 and 12 do not nominate a Line, as each Aurora College Stage 6 course is offered in one Line only.

  Before deciding to support a Stage 6 student’s application for entry into Aurora College, principals should give careful consideration to their school’s ability to align their timetable with the Aurora College timetable template for 2016. Students must be allocated a total of 450 minutes per fortnight per 2 unit course and 225 minutes per fortnight per 1 unit course studied with Aurora College.

  Please note: Years 11 and 12 chemistry and physics classes only appear on the Aurora College timetable template for 2016 for a total of 400 minutes per fortnight per subject. The additional 50 minutes of mandatory teaching time per fortnight is made up with the scheduling by the partner school of a 50-minute science practical lesson. See explanation below.

- Partner schools with Years 7 to 10 students co-enrolled at Aurora College timetable their own (home school) English, mathematics and science blocks in the time-slots of the nominated Groups on the Aurora College timetable template for 2016.

  This does not require the partner school to run, for example, their own Year 7 English block at the same time as the Aurora College Year 7 English block. Any combination of Year 7 English, mathematics or science (in the partner school) in the English, mathematics and science time-slots in the nominated Groups of the Aurora College timetable template for 2016 will work.

  Partner schools with Years 11 and 12 students co-enrolled at Aurora College must ensure that students are timetabled to attend only their chosen Aurora College subjects in the time-slots indicated on the Aurora College timetable template for 2016. This is essential to ensure students meet BoSTES requirements.

- Partner schools will also need to incorporate into their student timetable, one period per fortnight per stage for the completion of science practicals.

  For example, schools with the following shared enrolments:
would need to allocate the following periods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>No. of periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>2 x 50-minute periods per fortnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>2 x 50-minute periods per fortnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>1 x 50-minute period per fortnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>3 x 50-minute periods per fortnight</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that science practical periods are not included in the Aurora College timetable for 2016. This is to ensure that partner schools have flexibility in the scheduling of access to a science laboratory and the allocation of periods to a suitable science teacher (or teachers).

For further information on this program, including details of how Aurora College will fund the allocation of periods, please refer to the Science practical program document on the partner school information page of our website.

- The completed 2016 timetable of the partner school should ensure all co-enrolled students at Aurora College in:
  - **Years 7 to 10** have one allocated science practical period per fortnight; are timetabled to attend all Aurora lessons in English, mathematics and science (400 minutes per subject per fortnight); are able to attend all partner school lessons (excluding English, mathematics and science); and have the allocated recess and lunch breaks at the partner school.
  - **Years 11 and 12** are timetabled to attend all their Aurora lessons (450 minutes per subject per fortnight per 2 unit course and 225 minutes per fortnight per 1 unit course); are able to attend all partner school lessons; and have the allocated recess and lunch breaks at the partner school.

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