The Ferny Grove
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT
Vision

The Humanities Department strives to act consistently with the Ferny Grove State High School Mission Statement and to contribute to the social and academic growth of all students by delivering relevant education experiences.

Staff in the Humanities Department actively seek to deliver a high quality education in their teaching subjects for all students through approaches that are:

- **Student centred**
- **Supportive and caring**
- **Informed by current best educational practices**
- **Unlock student potential**

Information for YEAR 10 students and their families courtesy of the HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT
Why study SOS?

Choosing to take part in the Study of Society (SOS) course is a way of taking part in a broad and systematic study of Australian society. A major objective of the course is to help students to understand the society in which they live. The SOS course includes elements of psychology, social studies, sociology and political science.

Students in SOS are exposed to issues affecting them both globally and locally. In order to be active members of the community, young people require the skills, values and knowledge that allow them to function effectively. SOS aims to develop and give students these tools for modern living.

The Course

The course is conducted over four semester units:

- **Semester 1** (Year 11) What shapes the individual? Involving elements of psychological and sociological studies.
- **Semester 2** (Year 11) How do people view social behaviour? Involving elements of cultural studies, sociology and current affairs.
- **Semester 3** (Year 12) Who is in control? Involving elements of political studies, government and current affairs.
- **Semester 4** (Year 12) Who gets what and why? Involving elements of sociology, economics and political theory.

Skill Development in SOS

Students are assisted to develop skills which will enable them to learn independently and effectively.

Students of SOS gain experience in collecting/interpreting/analysing and evaluating data. They also develop an understanding of, and experience with, various formats for presenting their findings effectively.

Study of Society emphasises activities that build a tolerance of diversity in society, and an appreciation of the environmental, personal, and interpersonal forces that shape our social lives.

SOS students develop:

- **Research skills**
  - A knowledge of the way Australian society functions
- **Interpretive, analytical & evaluative skills**
- **Communication skills**
- **Empathy**
- **Investigative and problem solving skills**

Tertiary Pathways

Tertiary studies, for which Study of Society is a valuable preparation, include studies in arts, education, economics/commerce, law, journalism, psychology, public administration, social work, nursing (and other health fields) social science, government/politics, environmental studies, and even town planning, architecture and built environment courses!

Career Pathways from SOS

Study of Society is of direct benefit in many areas of employment. As a generalist subject, SOS provides skills and perspectives of value in many and diverse careers such as:

- Police and law enforcement
- Health workers/doctors/nurses, psychologists/counsellors
- Teachers
- Public Servants
- Legal staff/solicitors/barristers

In an age of increased specialisation, or conversely mobility across a number of different careers, those with generalist people and problem solving skills developed in a course such as Study of Society are becoming highly valued by many employers.