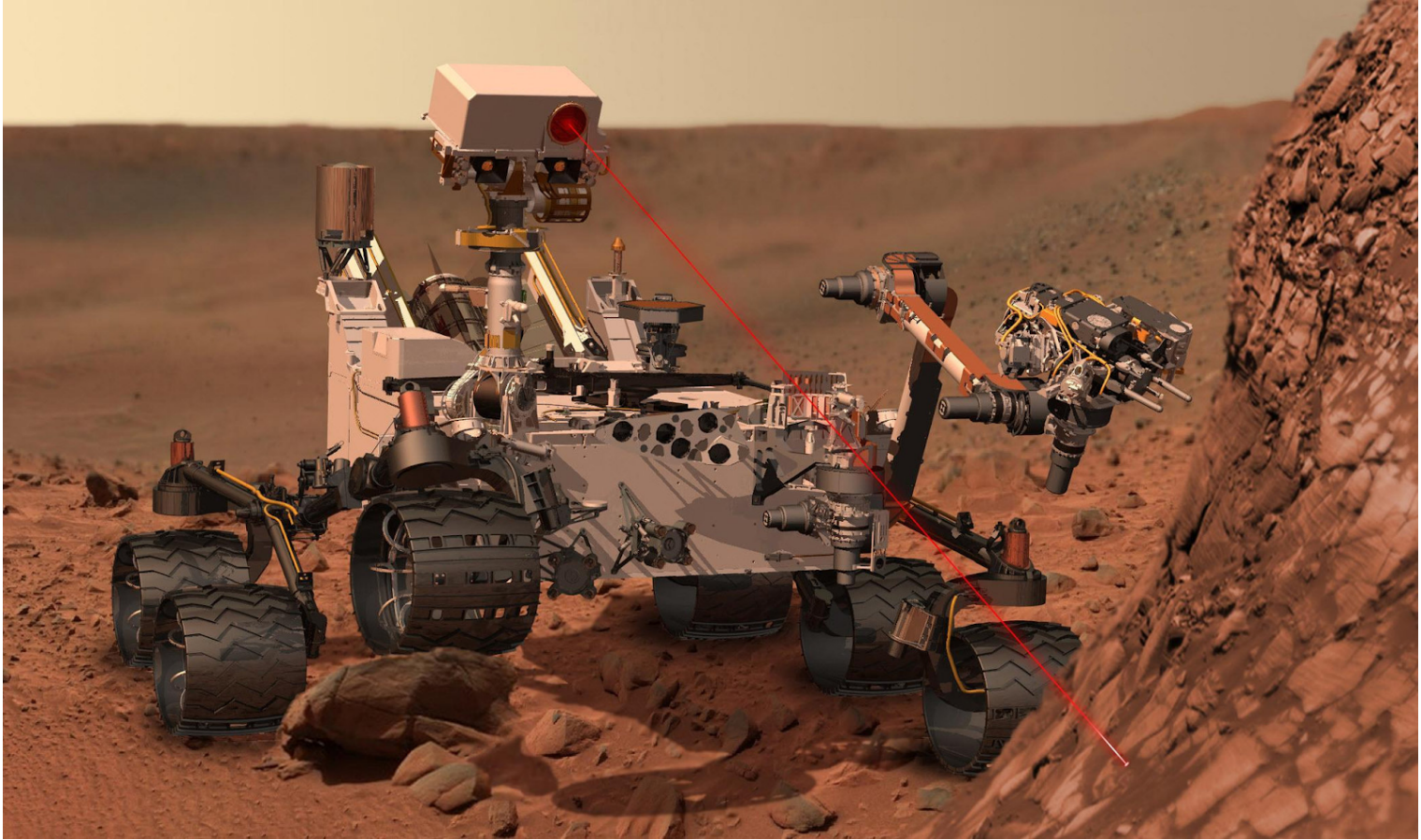


This subject aims to provoke and explore student curiosity in Mars - just like the rover 'Curiosity' that explored the actual surface of Mars! Just like the rover Curiosity required many teams of different science specialties to coordinate together to solve problems and search for scientific answers to big questions about Mars, this subject requires the same of students - collaboration and teamwork, research, interdisciplinary science, and problem solving. This year we watched the latest rover Perseverance get launched towards Mars despite Covid-19. Join us in 2021 for a hopefully successful landing of rover Perseverance and the first drone 'Ingenuity' on Mars, explore Mars with us, and help to decide what happens on our base on the enigmatic 'Red Planet'!



NASA Curiosity Rover. https://static01.nyt.com/images/2012/07/31/science/31mars_cnd/31mars_cnd-superJumbo.jpg

Terraforming Mars was a fantastic subject that caught my eye because of my interest in geology, plants, and space science. I discovered new interests, learnt a bunch of cool stuff, and built skills that I am still applying throughout VCE. Definitely a good choice of subject for those that like discovering and learning stuff that is out there and different from anything else you'll do at school. Who wouldn't want to learn what it takes to be a part of the next milestone in human space travel, aka Mars?

Cyan TAYLOR, inaugural class of 2019.

This subject, Terraforming Mars, is about developing your collaboration skills and learning how to work as a team. As well as this, you learn lots about Mars (of course), and how there are so many systems and resources that we just take for granted on Earth, but are not present on Mars. This subject is different to other electives as it puts a lot of focus on what you, the student, wants to do. If you want to learn about one thing with a passion, then you can do just that, you help build the content. I enjoyed this subject because it is about the individual motivation to work, ie: you get out what you put in, and because I learned a lot about working in a team (definitely not my strongest attribute). If you want to be engaged in a fascinating subject and are willing to put in effort and use your own personal drive to do well, this is absolutely the subject for you!

Ruby NATHAN-VALENTINE, 2020

Developing ideas to aim to live sustainably on Mars, while finding out more about the planet and developing useful skills along the way. The researching and collaborating with other people, learning about new ideas, and reading and discussing the Red Mars book. The debates and discussions in class are also really fun. It's the most collaborative and research-based subject out all that I have, and it is highly engaging. If you have an affinity with Space, space-travel, Mars, political and philosophical debates, you should definitely choose this elective as you would cover all of this and more very efficiently.

Aabshaar AHMAD, 2020

Terraforming Mars is a very interesting and unique subject. It focuses mainly on the logistics and sciences related to establishing a colonial civilisation on Mars. Most tasks that you complete in this subject are very individual- driven and you get many opportunities to learn about specific elements of space science that interest you. Personally I quite enjoyed the freedom to educate yourself on very niche aspects of science. In short Terraforming Mars is a unique experience to think about science when it is applied to real world problems. It allows for you to personally come up with both ideas and goals you want to achieve and complete them. It is the perfect class to see science for what it really is outside of high school and even university and is definitely worth one of your elective slots.

Benjamin RUSSELL, 2020

This subject is about the overall idea of terraforming Mars, but also how we get there, how we inhabit it, the ethics, science, governance, and more. I enjoyed the freedom we have in this subject; it allows you to critically think about issues you want to solve and work in teams to fix or counter scenarios and problems. I have enjoyed being able to split up into teams to work on different issues involving sending a team to Mars. I have been in the health team, currently we are investigating how to counter radiation, medical equipment stock and many other health risks. This is different from other subjects because it has a set course outline, but yet it doesn't, most of the first term is pretty set out, such as looking at the different spheres being, hydrosphere, atmosphere and the lithosphere. However, towards the end of the first term, and all of the second term is the big project, each year level will have different ideas on colonising Mars, we have actually been told that some groups can build off of potentially unfinished experiments from the previous year's group. You should choose this subject if you have an interest in any sort of space or intergalactic topics, but also if you are not too sure what type of science you are specifically interested in, as if you check the year 10 handbook this subject incorporates many different sciences, for the final project, you get to choose your own team, which could relate to physics, biology, chemistry or something else.

Cameron ALLAN, 2020

Terraforming Mars is about the very possible human colonisation of Mars. The subject questions the ethical aspects of colonisation and prompts students to re-evaluate the political systems we have on Earth. Unlike other subjects, this elective is widely discussion based and collaborating with your peers is key to ensuring the system of Mars runs smoothly. This is especially applicable in the future as most science careers will involve collaborating with others and tweaking ideas accordingly.

Chloe NG, 2020

Terraforming Mars is as the name entails; you and your class are a group of colonists that are the first people to permanently settle on Mars and create a habitat for you and the future generations to come. This subject is incredibly vast and independent from teachers, compared to other elective science classes taught at JMSS. Many, if not all, of the tasks given are group work that is separated from the teachers or individual based work that require little input from others. The class is also well suited for those that want to learn science that is more than just facts and figures, as this class also deals with ethical considerations that divert from the typical elective science syllabus. I enjoyed the class greatly for the freedom that it gives to the students, as it cultivates individual and social work, and because it does not simply deal with just science.

Douglas LO, 2020

This subject is about learning more about Mars and how we can survive on Mars. I enjoyed the many discussions we had and the freedom of focusing on the facet of the journey and survival on Mars that we were most interested in. I personally don't know a lot about space, so I found the diversity in knowledge throughout the class motivating and beneficial for me to learn more about space throughout the course. I enjoyed doing group work, conducting research and forming presentations as well.

Fae SABERI, 2020

Terraforming Mars is an opportunity to learn about the real world work that is being done on terraforming and colonising Mars. The work we do in class is designed to reflect the work that scientists are currently doing in order to put humans on Mars. You will get to work in teams to overcome problems such as growing food on Mars and solve them using scientific knowledge. This is one class where you will be given creative freedom in your work,

Jasper BERRY-SMITH, 2020

Terraforming Mars. This subject looks into pretty much just that. Anything related to Mars is fair game for discussion in this class. One of the most enjoyable/interesting parts of this subject for me was looking at the difference between the moons of Earth and Mars. This subject is quite different to other subjects as information regarding the colonization of Mars is more of a subjective thing. This means that a lot of time in this class is spent participating in philosophical discussions.

Jude BAKER, 2020

I was little hesitant to do this elective but so far have enjoyed almost every moment of it. I loved how it has incorporated lots of different parts of science and isn't just one branch. We have also been given the opportunity to be creative and chose our own path under what part of travelling to Mars we would like to focus on. It has been awesome to have freedom with what we want to look into and how to address the different problems. The class has been really practical and different to the other electives I have done and is definitely not what I expected when I first read about the subject.

Kate STAMP, 2020

This subject is about Mars' characteristics having impact on future terraforming for humans and the process of terraforming. I have enjoyed the deep research into specific elements of missions as well as working together with others. This subject uses your creativity and thinking rather than just memory of information.

Keira GRIBBEN, 2020

Terraforming Mars is a really fun elective with lots of group work and collaboration with peers. Working together is one of the main aspects of the elective and it was demonstrated throughout the semester. I made so many new friends in this elective and it was so much fun working with new people on really fascinating topics.

Millie JENSEN, 2020

Terraforming Mars is an engaging discussion based subject which revolves around the terraformation of Mars. There are many different activities and assignments that allow you to research and learn about things that you find interesting and many opportunities to present your view points on certain topics and to discuss them with other students. In this way, Terraforming Mars is very different to other subjects. For me personally it's a more open ended subject (there is no set curriculum for example) and is purely tailored towards what YOU want to learn about and do. Terraforming Mars is also a subject which involves all the different sciences (biology, chemistry and physics). I originally wasn't very interested in Physics but this subject has really opened my mind and I discovered I do enjoy physics a lot! Terraforming Mars is such a fun, unique and interesting subject and everyone should consider it.

Mitika SINGH, 2020

Terraforming Mars is about educating the students about the prospect of humankind colonising Mars in the future, where we learn why and how it can happen as one whole team. Personally, I loved this subject because it allowed me to express my ideas in my own way, with lesson long philosophical discussions and problem solving and creative thinking solutions to make our mission to Mars successful. It is quite different from other subjects because of its collaborative format, nearly everything is based around groups and discussions, which as I mentioned before was quite fascinating. If you are interested in being part of a team to discuss something that doesn't really have correct answers in assessments or major homework either then this is the perfect subject for you, with your assessments usually being based around problem solving as well as the whole subject.

Moin VOHRA, 2020

Personally, Terraforming Mars has been one of the best subjects I have done in year 10 this year. This subject is all about critical thinking skills, problem solving skills and team work! I have made some of my best friends during this subject and found this class to be the perfect opportunity to engage with a range of people. This subject is forever changing, each year something new is discovered. With ever-changing technology each year Terraforming Mars cohort finds completely different and fascinating information. I would also say that Terraforming Mars has taught me skills that I can use in any subject or career. I have learnt stuff like map skills, graph skills, design thinking skills and the ability to work well in groups. This subject is a mix of all the broader branches of science, and can give you a feel of each branch (like physics, biology, chemistry, environmental science), this is extremely beneficial if you are still unsure of your interests, career choice and can help choose the VCE subjects that you like.

Rithvika SENTHIL, 2020

Terraforming Mars is one of the most out there and unique subjects out of the whole bunch. Everything is completely open ended and practically anything is possible. Essentially, we are designing a colony that will travel and survive on Mars, discussing all the different aspects of the journey. From energy to ethics, nothing is left out and nothing is not considered. Much of the class is based around discussion and the sharing of ideas, the more discussion the better the subject functions. Anyone who is prepared to be active in their learning and curious to know more about the future of space travel will definitely enjoy the subject.

Ryan CHUAH, 2020

The subject terraforming Mars is a subject that focuses more on discussions, about subjects such as “do we have the right to terraform Mars”, “what should we do about the dust in Mars” et cetera. While online learning made it hard to do discussions, I enjoyed them when we had them. We also had a book about Mars that we read. Personally I did not enjoy it as I do not like reading long stories, but I believe some people did enjoy it.

Sota KAWASAKI, 2020

Hi new year 10s! I chose to do Terraforming Mars this year because it seemed like a fascinating and unique elective. In Terraforming Mars you learn about so many different aspects about life on Mars, and how we could inhabit the planet. I really enjoyed that the subject touched on all branches of science, and we even discussed less scientific concepts such as ethics, economics and government.

Tahlia WILLIAMS, 2020

Terraforming Mars is a problem solving initiative that allows students to explore the ends of their imaginations to figure out a solution for humanity's next step! I've loved the discussion within this subject, as well as the moral arguments we've had- It's truly a class in which there is no 'real' right or wrong. It's quite different from other subjects as it's not full of tests nor assignments, but rather group work that helps towards the larger goal. Additionally, the subject CONTINUES FROM LAST YEARS RESEARCH, meaning that you're actually helping in the large scheme of things (and who knows- Maybe we'll discover something new!) You should choose this subject as it will help you work on a team as a whole, and teach you a new mindset towards learning and discovery.

Zahara HARRISON, 2020