Subject Selection
Information - Year 9



Junior Curriculum - Year 9

In addition to their school subjects, students are actively encouraged to participate in a range of co-curricular activities – sport, music, culture.

It is the policy of the school that all students are given the opportunity to gain the widest experience of as many subjects as possible while in the junior school. This approach avoids the need to make premature decisions, which might severely limit vocational and further study alternatives. This is balanced by studying options for four hours a week, allowing students to develop a depth of understanding in the subject.

Year 9 Subject Information

Each Year 9 student will undertake a course involving **five** compulsory full year subjects.

They will also take **one** compulsory one term subject.

Students will choose **seven** subjects from the option list (each option is studied for one term) to make a total of **eight** one term subjects.

This will mean they will always have two options (inclusive of Digital Technology) that will run in 9 week blocks, alongside the compulsory (core) subjects.

Year 9 Compulsory Subject List

Compulsory Full Year Subjects

English

Mathematics

Science

Social Science

Physical Education

Compulsory One Term Subjects

Digital Technology

Options Available in Year 9

Food and Nutrition

Design and Visual Communications (DVC)

Trade Skills (Wood)

Trade Skills (Metal)

Fashion and Textiles Technology

Agriculture / Horticulture

Art

Drama

Music

Te Reo Maori (Module 1 and / or Module 2)

French (Module 1 and / or Module 2)

Special Programmes

An important aspect of our curriculum is the delivery of special programmes to meet the needs of individual students.

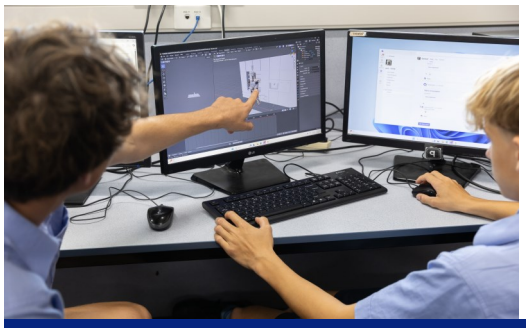
The Awhina Centre

The Awhina Centre offers students with learning difficulties the opportunity for individual assistance or help within a small group. Students can be withdrawn from their normal compulsory classes for various lengths of time and individual programmes will be designed to meet their particular needs.

Enrichment and Extension

The stimulation of able students occurs in two main ways. Very able students will be identified early in Year 9 and will be accelerated across a range of subjects.

As part of normal class differentiation, staff are encouraged to provide a range of extension work to meet the individual learning needs of students in each class in Year 9 and in Year 10, very able students will be accelerated across a range of subjects.





Digital Tech, Languages and Agriculture/Horticulture

Digital Technologies

DigiTech makes it real

BEYOND CODING: We go deeper than programming. You'll learn to solve real-world problems, create innovative solutions, and unlock the potential of AI.

AI RELEVANT: In DigiTech, you'll discover how AI systems work. You'll learn how to use AI tools in your work. You'll practise picking which AI tool is the best fit for the job so you can get the best results.

REAL-WORLD IMPACT: Use cutting-edge tools to design and build smart devices, create digital solutions, and apply technology to solve real problems.

Course Information: Step into the world of Digital Technologies with our compulsory one-term Year 9 Digital Technologies course (9DT). This course takes you beyond being just a technology user—you'll become a creator, problem-solver, and innovator.

In 9DT, you'll take on four engaging units:

Coding: Build your own simple platform game and learn how to tackle problems step-by-step.

Simple Electronics: Discover how circuits work and explore the fundamentals of creating simple electronic systems and learning how to solder.

Movie Making: Plan, film, and edit your own short film while learning the essentials of visual storytelling and video editing.

Animation: Turn your ideas into moving images by mastering the basics of 3D animation and crafting your own digital character to 3D print and take home.



Start your 9DT journey and begin shaping the digital world—one project at a time.

Languages

Two languages are offered – **French,** and **Te Reo Māori.**

Note

- All students are strongly recommended to take at least one language option.
- Students may take more than one language.
- Students considering study of a language beyond Year 9 MUST take both Module 1 and Module 2. HOD consideration will be given to students who complete only Module 1 but wish to continue in Year 10.

Language Introduction Modules

For each language this involves a basic introduction to the language. There is a strong emphasis on cultural aspects at this stage.



Agriculture / Horticulture

In Year 9 Agriculture /Horticulture, students learn about gardening, farming and the environment.

Students will learn through practical work about many different aspects of growing and caring for plants at the school gardens. Students are encouraged to develop and care for a garden with emphasis on enjoyment.

During the term students will also develop an understanding of soils and plant physiology. An introduction to different types of agricultural/ horticultural farms is also included.





Art, Drama and Music

Art

Art in Year 9 is about exploring new ideas through famous artists and having fun with new materials. We look at established artists and recreate a painting using your own imaginative ideas. All students will learn how to sketch in proportion and create with colour. You don't have to be a Picasso just have an open mind and a love of Art. Students will be given their own art pack including a folder, sketchbook, pencil, and eraser.

The emphasis of the courses offered at all school levels is practical, but a significant shift has occurred towards 'knowing about art'. Drawing and Painting are the focus of Year 9.

Aims include:

Achieving likeness to observation of tone, space, proportion and the use of various media and techniques – paint, acrylic, print, etc.

Art is not necessarily an inborn talent; you can be taught. If you are prepared to try hard, we can teach you. Our main aim is to make Art fun.

Students who take this course will receive an art pack containing an A3 folder, A3 pad of paper, an eraser and a 6B Art pencil.

Drama

Year 9 Drama is an introduction into the world of theatre.

Course Content

Students begin to develop their skills in performance, and the world of the theatre, firstly in small groups, where they learn about devising and creating for their audience. Students study a variety of drama techniques, that will develop their skills in performance, by creating original works. Some students will focus on behind the scenes activities, if this is an area of strength (and interest) for them. Students will work at their own level, in a collaborative environment.

Music

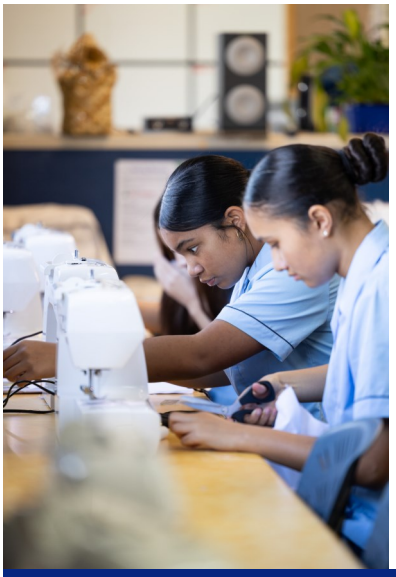
Course Content

This option is designed as an introduction to music studies and covers as many basic aspects of the curriculum as time allows. Students learn basic music theory and score-reading skills, simple digital composition, aural skills, as well as gaining performance experience.

Students who are not already learning an instrument, should consider beginning lessons on an instrument of their choice (in Year 10 this is compulsory). Those students who already learn an instrument and/or have more advanced theory knowledge, are able to work at their own particular level and can be given extension work.

Year 10 Pre-requisite: Students will need to have worked successfully in the Year 9 Music option to qualify for the Year 10 option, unless they have already been learning an instrument and doing theory classes privately.

In this case, entry to the course will be at the discretion of the HOD.







Technology

Trade Skills (Wood) or Trade Skills (Metal)

These courses provide foundation skills in measuring, setting out, cutting and assembling simple products, and using hand tools safely. Students can customise the given designs with their own creative ideas, but the focus is on practical skill building. These courses prepare the students for further skill building in Year 10.

Students can choose the Wood course, the Metal course or both.

Design and Visual Communication

DVC is a course in which students learn to design products and spaces and learn about the way design impacts on society. In year 9, students complete an introductory course in Visual Communication skills: sketching in 2D and 3D, using instruments to draw with accuracy, how to interpret 3D objects into 2D and vice- versa, and how to follow a simple design process. They will learn how to present their design ideas clearly and attractively.

Students who take this option may be interested in Architecture, Interior and Landscape Design, Product Design, Graphic Design as potential career pathways in the future. A basic kit of equipment is required and can be purchased though the NZ School Shop online.

Fashion and Textiles Technology

Fashion and Textiles technology is multifaceted. Careers are broad and can lead to self-employment with a clothing brand, pattern drafting within a company or boutique work merchandising and marketing. If you are interested in learning how to design, sew, and construct items and you have an interest in fashion design, pattern drafting or manufacture, then this is the course for you.

Year 9 Fashion is an introductory course to this subject. It requires no sewing ability to start. You will be taught the skills necessary for many projects, one of which is a useable item to take home. It also introduces you to the design process of technology, including research, creative problem solving, communicating design ideas, implementation, and critical evaluation of a products fitness for purpose.

Students can expect approximately 70% of class time devoted to practical work across the course.

Course Costs: All students will be provided with the basic materials needed to complete the course. Should students want to develop special projects or further enhance their work, they may need to cover this cost.

Food and Nutrition

Students will complete a single term course which emphasises healthy food choices and how these impact upon good health and wellbeing.

The course teaches a range of basic food preparation techniques, cooking techniques, basic health and safety in kitchens and includes activities which give students the information to make positive food choices.