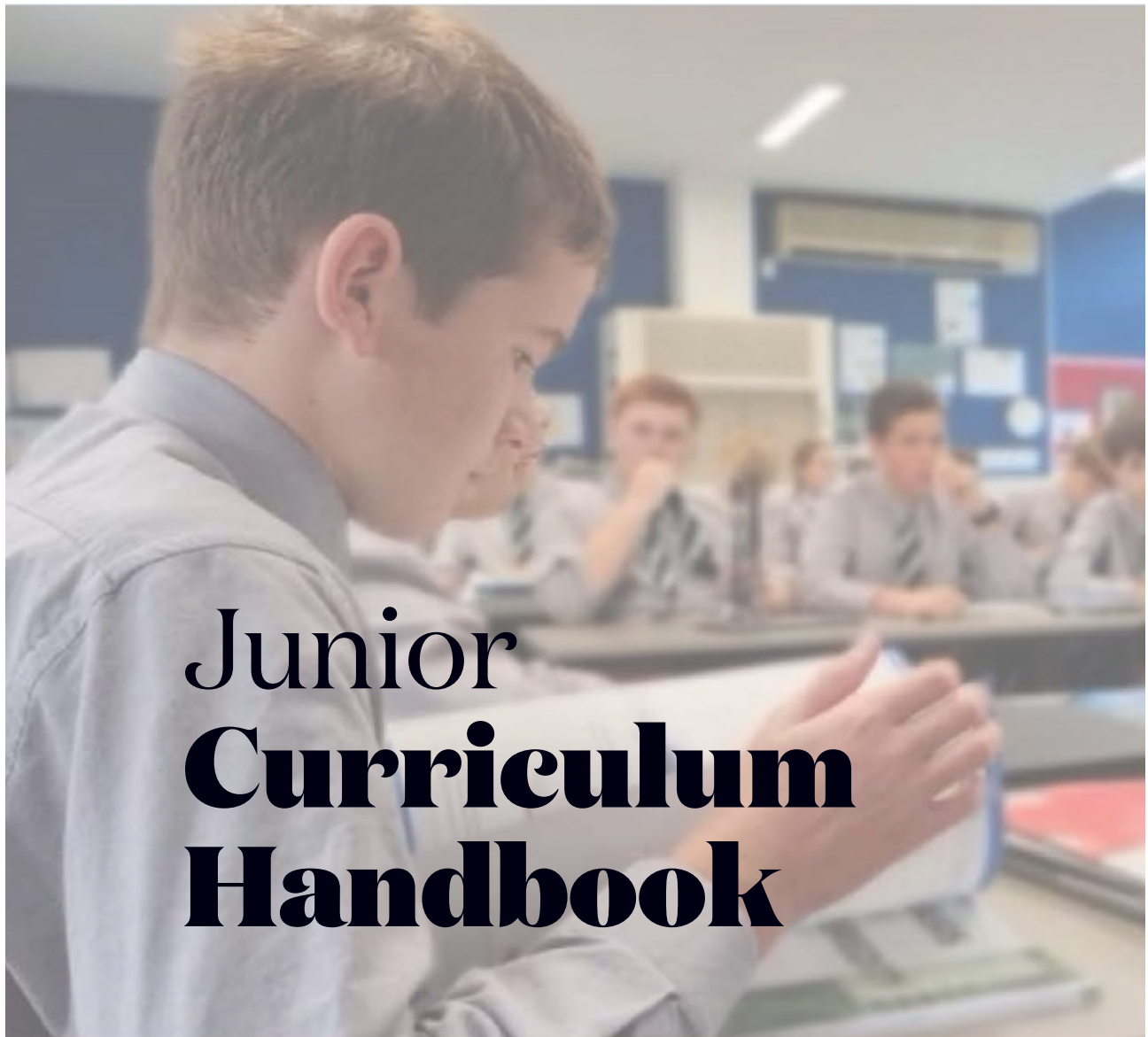




WHANGANUI COLLEGIATE SCHOOL



Junior Curriculum Handbook

This is an overview of the structure and of the subjects studied in Year 9 and 10 at Whanganui Collegiate School.

The purpose of the Junior programme for Years 9 and 10 is to keep as many doors of learning open to them for as long as possible. This gives students more options as they move into Cambridge and NCEA.

These junior years are underpinned by the themes of Identity (Year 9) and Building Resilience (Year 10) in themselves and their approach to their academic work.

You are welcome to discuss with our team any further detail around our Junior Curriculum as your child starts their academic journey with us.

Junior Curriculum Overview 2026

2026	Year 9	Year 10
	Compulsory	Compulsory
English	English OR English as a Second Language (International Students)	English OR English as a Second Language (International Students)
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Sciences	Science	Science Combined
Health	Health	Health
Social Studies	Social Studies	Options (choose 4)
		Social Studies
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Science		Science Co ordinated (Second Science)
Technology	Technology	Technology – Product Design
		Technology – Hard Materials
Languages	½ Year rotation	
	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori
	Spanish	Spanish
Drama	Termly Rotation	
	Drama	Drama
Art	Art	Art
Music	Music	Music
Global Perspectives	Global Perspectives	

Year 9: Transition and Foundation

The first year at Whanganui Collegiate School is an important one to set the foundation and tone for learning. Students receive an in-depth experience around all eight essential learning areas.

Year 9 English (Full Year Course)

Students begin their English journey at Collegiate focusing on short texts. As part of a wider literacy unit the study of poetry, short stories and a variety of non-fiction texts is key to building a solid foundation. Students' progress to studying a novel and a film before ending the year exploring Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. We aim to ensure students enjoy studying English, are exposed to a wide range of literature and develop their reading and writing skills.

Year 9 Physical Education and Health (Full Year Course)

Year 9 Physical Education is based around the holistic concept of total wellbeing (Hauora). Students experience a wide range of sports and activities. In Year 9, the emphasis is on developing and understanding skills.

Year 9 Health has a focus on students having an understanding and awareness of Hauora (physical, social, mental, and emotional and spiritual well-being), friendships and positive relationships, sexuality (puberty) and gender stereotypes.

Year 9 Mathematics (Full Year Course)

This course will provide a foundation for the study of Mathematics at secondary school. It develops concepts at New Zealand Curriculum Levels 4 to 5 as appropriate. The topics covered in this course include Number, Proportional Reasoning, Algebra, Measurement and Geometry.

Year 9 Science (Full Year Course)

This course covers four aspects of Science: Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy and Biology. Scientific skills and subject language will be developed through a mixture of theory and practical tasks. The emphasis is on working safely in a laboratory. Students will develop an understanding of how Science relates to everyday situations and are encouraged to make connections between their lives and Science.

Year 9 Social Studies (Full Year Course)

Social Studies encourages our students to observe, to wonder and be curious about people, places and society, and to think about social issues and ideas. This enables them to contribute to and participate in society as critically informed, ethical and empathetic citizens with a commitment to a fair society for all. Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories focuses on interactions that, across time, connect people to each other and to places. A variety of topics will enable our students to engage with relevant content and develop essential skills.

Year 9 Technology (Full Year Course)

Year 9 students experience a range of technologies on a rotational basis throughout the year. This gives students an opportunity to experience various subjects within the Technology framework. This is a chance for students to be innovative while being taught skills such as workshop safety, tool and machine use, measuring, design, research, sketching, digital skills, problem solving and evaluation.

Year 9 Languages (Half Year Introductory Courses)

The Year 9 Languages course consists of a half-year course in Spanish and a half-year course in Te Reo Māori. Students are introduced to Spanish and Te Reo Māori before having the option of choosing to study either Te Reo Māori or Spanish for a full year in Year 10.

Year 9 Spanish

The Year 9 module focuses on communication through basic vocabulary and simple sentences. By exploring essential topics like numbers, colours, animals, and sports, students will build a language foundation that enables them to introduce themselves and discuss important aspects of their lives, such as family and school. Additionally, they will start to explore the Hispanic world, nurturing an appreciation for cultural diversity and fostering a sense of international awareness.

Year 9 Te Reo Māori

Students will develop an awareness of Te Ao Māori. Students will do this through learning how to pronounce Māori words, introduce themselves and talk about aspects of their family, participate in singing and playing games that support students' knowledge and confidence in using Te Reo Māori in and outside of the classroom. Cultural concepts are taught so students become familiar with Māori protocols.

One Term Introductory Courses

Year 9 Arts

The Year 9 Arts course consists of three one-term courses where students are introduced to Drama, Music, and Visual Art.

Year 9 Drama

In Year 9 Students are introduced to the four drama techniques: voice, body, movement and use of space. They direct, rehearse and perform a short scene focussing on the development of role within the world of the play. In their second unit of work students participate in a series of lessons developing their improvisational and collaborative skills.

Year 9 Music

Music students learn to read music, perform using glockenspiels, play basic chords on the guitar, create a group performance of the 12-bar blues, listen to the classical piece 'pictures at an exhibition' and they have a general listening test.

Year 9 Visual Arts

Students will work on a small series of artworks covering observational drawing within our school environment. Students will use drawing methods across disciplines of mixed media, painting and printmaking.

Year 9 Global Perspectives

Global Perspectives is all about understanding global issues and finding solutions. We focus on current events from around the world to help our students see the bigger picture. They learn to think critically, such as separating fact from opinion and learning to identify bias and vested interest in an argument. We enable our students to grasp global issues from personal, local, national and global viewpoints. Our students are encouraged to realise that there is more than one point of view possible. This promotes empathy and approaching issues with an open mind, as well as exposing students to the interconnectedness of the world.

Year 10: Resilience and Belonging

Year 10 learners are learning more about their strengths and are starting to move into areas of choice. Subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, Health and Physical Education, Technology and Social Studies remain central to the curriculum. Students may choose options from Languages – Te Reo Māori and Spanish to study for a Year.

Year 10 continues with establishing study techniques, learning strategies and working on the ways to be productive learners. Students will begin to refine learning in preparation for Cambridge IGCSE in Year 11 and also towards being a global citizen with the six RoundSquare IDEALS of:

- Internationalism - Global citizenship
- Democracy and Youth voice
- Environmentalism - Looking after our planet.
- Adventure - Resilience through outdoor education
- Leadership - Required now and in the future.
- Service - Opportunities to serve our community and world.

Compulsory Subjects (Full Year courses):

Year 10 English

Students continue their journey in English with a robust literacy unit that prepares students to sit the Common Assessment Activity. In the latter half of the year the course transitions into the IGCSE Literature in English curriculum as students explore the Poetry and Prose component (which is formally assessed in Year 11).

Year 10 Science Combined

This course covers aspects of Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. Scientific skills and subject specific language will be consolidated through a mixture of theory and practical tasks. Students will develop an understanding of how Science relates to everyday situations and are encouraged to make connections between their lives and Science. The Year 10 Course is the start of the IGCSE Science (Combined) course which will be taught over two years, being examined at the end of Year 11. This course leads to an NCEA pathway in Year 12 in Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Agriculture & Horticulture.

Year 10 Mathematics

This course will develop the concepts required for the NZQA Numeracy Assessment and provide a foundation for IGCSE. The topics covered in this course are Number, Measurement, Algebra, Relations and Graphs, Coordinate Geometry, Trigonometry, Statistics and Probability.

Year 10 Health (1 period a week)

Year 10 Health has a focus on students having an understanding and awareness of changes and choices, drug issues (alcohol & cannabis) and sexuality education (diversity, safety, gender).

Option Subjects – Choose 4:

Year 10 Physical Education

Year 10 Physical Education will cover the first year of a two-year course of Cambridge IGCSE and encourages learners to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of a range of relevant physical activities, an ability to plan, perform and evaluate physical activities, an understanding of effective and safe performance, an understanding of the role of sport and physical activity in society and in the wider world, an excellent foundation for advanced study and enjoyment of physical activity.

The course aims to enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the theory underpinning physical performance in a modern world; use and apply this knowledge and understanding to improve their performance, perform in a range of physical activities, developing skills and techniques, and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas; understand and appreciate safe practice in physical activity and sport; understand and appreciate the benefit of physical activity and sport for health, fitness and well-being; gain a sound basis for further study in the field of Physical Education. This course provides candidates with an opportunity to study both the practical and theoretical aspects of Physical Education. It is also designed to foster enjoyment in physical activity. The knowledge gained should enable candidates to develop an understanding of effective and safe physical performance.

Year 10 Social Sciences

Year 10 Social Sciences will introduce our students to four IGSCSE Social Science subjects - Geography, Economics, History and Accounting. In the Geography topic of population and settlement, our students will explore the factors that shape population growth, distribution, and migration. They will also look at how different types of settlements develop and the challenges of urbanisation, including housing shortages and pollution. In the Economics section they will learn about the basic economic problem of scarcity and how it leads to the need for choices and trade-offs. They will also explore how businesses grow, make decisions about production, manage their costs and profits, and operate in the real world. In the History unit they will focus on what Hitler's foreign policy aimed to do, how Britain and France reacted, and whether war could have been avoided. This leads into an examination of World War II by looking at the global conflict, the Holocaust, the use of atomic bombs, and what changed for people during and after the war. In the Accounting topic, they will focus on recording and organising financial information using tools like Excel, applying key accounting principles, and keeping money safe. They will also explore how to plan a budget, track profit, assess a business's financial health, and build personal wealth through financial statements. This course develops key skills and content knowledge as well as preparing our students for future opportunities in various Social Sciences subjects in the IGCSE and NEA curriculums.

Year 10 Technology – Product Design

In Year 10 Product Design, students cover a range of Drawing Systems, Project Development skills and Design Layout skills used in Architectural (Spatial) and Product design. Drawing Systems include Technical Drawing, Freehand sketching and Colour Theory. Students will learn to use CNC machining, 3D printing and Laser cutting during the design project development. Students will develop various Design projects to attain and practice skills required to advance their learning towards IGCSE Product Design level.

Year 10 Technology – Resistant Materials

In Year 10 Resistant Materials, students cover a range of Materials based Projects to develop skills and techniques used in Product design and manufacture. Students will learn to use various drawing systems during the design and make project development and learn about a range of materials and processes. They will design and make a product to solve an identified design problem.

Year 10 Spanish

The Year 10 course builds on the foundation established in Year 9. Throughout the course, the four key language skills—listening, reading, speaking, and writing—are further developed in a communicative context. Students delve into topics such as daily routines, the neighbourhood and city, entertainment and hobbies, and food, along with other aspects of their immediate environment, to enhance their communication skills. Additionally, continued exploration of the Hispanic world fosters an appreciation for cultural diversity. Regular formative assessments throughout the module monitor students' progress in vocabulary acquisition and grammatical understanding.

Year 10 Te Reo Māori

Year 10 students are beginning to understand Te Reo Māori that contains well-rehearsed sentence patterns and familiar vocabulary and can interact in predictable exchanges. They can read and write straightforward versions of what they have learned to say. They are aware of and understand some of the typical cultural conventions that operate in interpersonal communication. This provides a good basis for further study of Te Reo Māori.

Year 10 Drama

Year 10 Drama introduces skills and ideas allowing students to connect with drama both practically and intellectually. Students will develop their performance skills and work with others to produce theatre that aims to be compelling and persuasive. They will learn about theatrical styles and genres, and will understand the way that actors, directors and designers make their artistic decisions. Through providing opportunities both to respond imaginatively to existing plays and create new drama of their own, the Year 10 Course will encourage students to become a confident, reflective and innovative learner.

Important note: Students taking Drama are Not expected to participate in the School Production. This is an extra-curricular event based on voluntary participation

Year 10 Music

Music covers performing, composing and listening. It lays the foundation for students who may wish to consider IGCSE in future years but is also a fulfilling and enriching course in its own right. Students learn to perform on keyboards and guitars. If they already play an instrument this can be incorporated into the classroom tasks. However, students with no previous skills can learn all they need on the course itself. They also learn to compose their own music using Musescore software which is used in later years at both IGCSE and NCEA. They also have the opportunity to try out AI composing software. Students also listen to a range of music and learn about Classical, Pop, Jazz and music from around the world.

Year 10 Visual Art

In Year 10 Visual Art, students will explore drawing techniques within mixed media, painting, and printmaking. This will lay the groundwork for the IGCSE Art & Design 0400 Component 1 in Year 11. The theme for their work will be 'dwell.' Their projects will be influenced by both traditional and contemporary art practices, drawing inspiration from New Zealand and international artists.

Year 10 Science Coordinated

To follow a Cambridge Pathway in Year 12 of separate Sciences (AS Biology, AS Chemistry and/or AS Physics) requires a greater depth and breadth of Science learning than is provided by the compulsory Year 10 Science (Combined) course. This additional optional Science in Year 10 is required for any student to be able to select IGCSE Science (Co-ordinated) in Year 11. The course provides a dual award (2 grades) in Science. This course covers aspects of Chemistry, Physics, and Biology. Scientific skills and subject specific language will be consolidated through a mixture of theory and practical tasks. Students will develop an understanding of how Science relates to everyday situations and are encouraged to make connections between their lives and Science. The Year 10 Course is the start of the IGCSE Science (Co-Ordinated) course which will be taught over two years, being examined at the end of Year 11. This course leads to a Cambridge AS or NCEA pathway in Year 12.

NCEA Numeracy and Literacy Corequisite

Year 10 students will be offered the opportunity to sit the Numeracy and Literacy corequisite. Students will sit three (Numeracy, Reading & Writing) common assessment activities twice a year (dates set by NZQA).