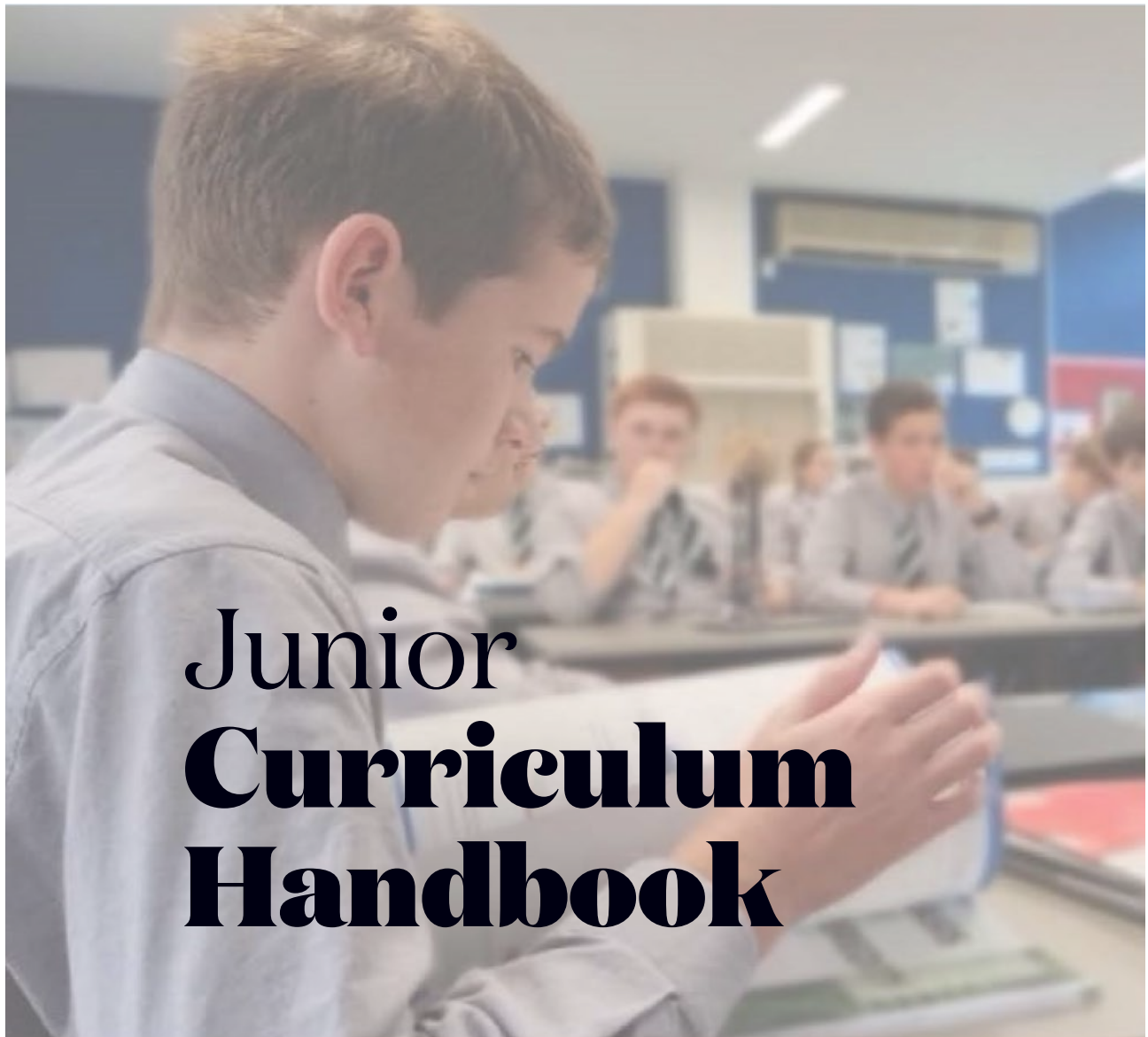




WHANGANUI COLLEGIATE SCHOOL



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 2027

2027	Year 9	Year 10
	Compulsory	Compulsory
English	English OR English as a Second Language	English OR English as a Second Language
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Sciences	Science	Science
Health	Health	Health
Social Studies	Social Studies	Options (choose 4)
		Social Studies
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Technology	Technology	Technology
Languages	½ Year rotation	
	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori
	Spanish	Spanish
	½ Year rotation	
Art	Visual Arts (Art)	Art
Drama	Performing Arts (Drama + Music)	Drama
Music		Music



**WHANGANUI
COLLEGIATE
SCHOOL**

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 provides a strong foundation for secondary school mathematics and supports students to develop confidence, fluency, and mathematical thinking. Learning is aligned with the Phase 4 of the New Zealand Mathematics Curriculum and builds on students' learning across the curriculum phases.

Students will explore the key areas of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measurement, and Statistics, developing their understanding through problem-solving, reasoning, communication, and real-world applications. They will learn to explain and justify their thinking, make connections between mathematical ideas, and use a range of strategies to solve increasingly complex problems.

The course supports students to progress through the Mathematics and Statistics curriculum and prepares them for future pathways in mathematics and related disciplines.

Year 9 Science (Full Year Course)

This course covers aspects of Science: Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Science 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 develop an awareness of Te Ao Māori through the study of language and culture. They learn correct pronunciation, how to introduce themselves, and how to talk about aspects of their whānau, alongside waiata and games that build confidence in using Te Reo Māori both in and outside the classroom. Cultural concepts are woven throughout, so students become familiar with Māori protocols and tikanga.

Year 9 Arts (Half Year Introductory Courses)

The Year 9 Arts course consists of two half year courses where students are introduced to Performing Arts and Visual Arts.

Year 9 Performing Arts

Performing Arts will be taught as two disciplines - Drama and Music. Students will study each specialty over the course of one term.

- **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

Year 9 Visual Art introduces students to both practical and digital art-making through the theme Tūrangawaewae: Belonging and New Beginnings. Students explore their connection to Whanganui Collegiate School through drawing, printmaking, and the creation of a handcrafted concertina book. They also develop photography and digital design skills by producing a personal zine that communicates their experiences, identity, and sense of belonging within the school community. This course encourages creativity, visual storytelling, and confidence in both traditional and contemporary art practices.

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 Health and Physical education, Technology, Social Studies and Languages – Te Reo Māori and Spanish to study for a Year.

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 builds on students' mathematical knowledge and skills and supports their progress through the Phase 4 of New Zealand Mathematics Curriculum. A key focus is preparing students for the NZQA Numeracy Co-requisite Assessment, which students will sit during Year 10.

Students will develop fluency, reasoning, problem-solving, and communication skills through the exploration of the key curriculum areas of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Measurement, and Statistics. Topics include proportional reasoning, algebra, functions and graphs, coordinate geometry, trigonometry, statistics, and probability.

Students are encouraged to apply mathematics in meaningful contexts, explain and justify their thinking, and make connections between different mathematical ideas. Successful completion of this course provides a strong foundation for a range of senior Mathematics and Statistics pathways and supports access to future study and career options that require mathematical and statistical thinking.

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 Studies

Year 10 Social Studies provides our students with introductions to Social Science subjects, including 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. 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. In the History unit they will focus on key events of the 20th Century, including World War I, the rise of Hitler and World War II, and how these affected Aotearoa New Zealand. In the Accounting topic, they will explore how to plan a budget, track profit, assess a business's financial health, and build personal wealth. This course develops key skills and content knowledge as well as preparing our students for future opportunities in various Social Sciences subjects in senior school curriculum.

Year 10 Technology

In Year 10 Technology covers Product Design where 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 Tech will also cover Resistant Materials where 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

Building on Year 9, students develop their understanding of Te Reo Māori using well-rehearsed sentence patterns and familiar vocabulary and begin to interact confidently in predictable exchanges. They read and write straightforward versions of what they have learned to say and develop an awareness of the cultural conventions that shape interpersonal communication in Te Ao Māori. This provides a strong foundation for further study of the language.

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

Students will participate in two introductory workshops designed to develop both digital and practical art-making skills. These workshops focus on photography and design processes before moving into practical studies in painting and printmaking, providing students with a strong foundation across a range of media. During Terms 2 and 3, students will progress into an individualised pathway, exploring a personally chosen theme that encourages creative independence, critical thinking, and the development of a personal artistic voice. In Term 4, students will complete a A3 practical outcome in their chosen media, drawing together the research, ideas, and technical skills developed throughout the year. This programme is designed to prepare students for IGCSE Art & Design (0400) Component 1 in Year 11. Throughout the year, students will investigate the work of New Zealand and international artists, using these artist models as inspiration to inform and develop their own ideas, techniques, and visual language.

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).