



WAIMEA COLLEGE

Year 10

Curriculum Handbook 2026

Year 10 English

10ENG



Course Description

Year 10 English has a strong emphasis on literacy skills and responding to a variety of written and visual texts. Students will utilise critical thinking skills to analyse different forms of literature. English aims to strengthen all students' understanding and ability to use language effectively for life-long learning. The focus in Year 10 is developing reading and writing skills in preparation for the Senior school, and working towards success in the upcoming NZQA Literacy co-requisites.

Departments:

[English](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 English](#), [Level 1 Literacy](#)

Year 10 Mathematics

10MTH



Teacher in Charge: [Richard Keys](#)

Course Description

Mathematics is the study of patterns and relationships to solve problems and help explain the world around us. In Year 10, students build on previous learning to establish solid foundational skills. These skills allow students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving through a range of open, rich mathematical tasks. These skills are further developed in preparation for the opportunity, when ready, to tackle the NCEA Numeracy Common Assessment Activity - a corequisite to gaining future NCEA Qualifications.

Departments:

[Maths](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Mathematics](#), [Level 1 Mathematics Numeracy](#)

Year 10 Health & Physical Education

10HPE



Course Description

Through learning in this curriculum, students will gain the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and to contribute actively to the well-being of other people and the well-being of their communities. Students will take increasing responsibility for their own health and learn movement skills in a wide range of contexts. They will develop the skills that will enable them to enhance their relationships with other people. The main areas of learning in Year 10 are Health (Health Concepts, Drug Education, Relationships and Sexuality Education, Health Promotion) and Physical Education (Aquatics, Athletics, Fitness, Team Sports, Creative Movement).

Departments:

[Health/PE](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Health & Physical Education](#), [Level 1 Health Studies](#), [Level 1 Physical Education](#), [Level 1 Physical Education - Practical](#)

Year 10 Science

10SCI



Teacher in Charge: [Richard Dunn](#)

Course Description

In Science, students explore how both the natural physical world and science itself work. We aim to make our students more critical and informed about the decisions they make in their everyday lives. We will achieve this by focusing on the skills people need to engage as citizens in a society where science plays a significant role. We will develop these skills in the contexts of the Living World, Material World, Physical World and Planet Earth and Beyond.

Departments:

[Science](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Science A](#), [Level 1 Science B](#)

Year 10 Social Studies

10SST



Teacher in Charge: [Colin Redpath](#)

Course Description

Social Studies is the study of people. We aim to make students more knowledgeable about their world and give them the skills to be actively involved in society. Critical thinking is encouraged as well as how to become a responsible citizen. The theme for this year is Power and Control. We examine how power and control affect societies and the environment and how people respond. Topics include Fairshare, Government, New Zealand Wars, and Protest. A variety of inquiry, literacy, and processing skills are used throughout the course.

Departments:

[Social Sciences](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Geography](#), [Level 1 History](#)

Year 10 Agriculture and Horticulture

10AGH



Teacher in Charge: [Richard Dunn](#)

Course Description

This leads on from Year 9 Biotechnology. Classroom, laboratory and outdoor experience provide students with the opportunity to study the commercial production of plants and animals with an overview of the agricultural and horticultural industry as a whole. It includes use of a glasshouse and garden areas.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Science](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Agriculture and Horticulture](#)

Year 10 Commerce

10COM



Course Description

Commerce is the use and exploration of accounting, economic, and business concepts and models to make sense of society and solve problems. Students make use of Banqer High extensively in this course to develop their financial capability and build the knowledge, skills and values they need to navigate and participate in the real world.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Business Information Systems](#)

Year 10 Digital Technology Advanced

10DTA



Teacher in Charge: [Steve Copley](#)

Course Description

This course will suit students who want to develop their design skills; who understand a little about how digital devices work but would like to know more; and who have had some success with coding but would like to improve. Students will come away from the course with a broad range of knowledge and skills including website development, animation, colour theory and Python coding. They will be better designers, be familiar with a range of applications, be confident writing code and will have a deeper knowledge of how digital devices work. This course helps students prepare for a digital future.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Business Information Systems](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Digital Technology Development & Coding](#)

Year 10 Design and Visual Communication

10DVC



Teacher in Charge: [Andrew Gillespie](#)

Course Description

In this subject, students get to exercise both the creative and technical sides of their brains. They learn drawing skills while creating interesting spaces and products. They can then use the latest modelling software to realise their ideas in virtual settings; just as Architects and Designers do.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Materials Technology](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Design & Visual Communication](#), [Level 1 Technology](#)

Year 10 Materials Technology Furniture

10MAT



Teacher in Charge: [Andrew Gillespie](#)

Course Description

In the workshop, students design and make smaller wooden furniture pieces using traditional hand tools, machinery, laser cutting and engraving technology. Ideal for students interested in learning some handy skills or looking towards a future within a great number of sought-after trades careers.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Materials Technology](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Materials Technology Furniture](#), [Level 1 Materials Technology Textiles](#), [Level 1 Mechanical Engineering](#), [Level 1 Technology](#)

Year 10 Material Technology Textiles

10MTT



Teacher in Charge: [Andrew Gillespie](#)

Course Description

Students develop their practical skills and learn to use commercial clothing patterns. The use of various techniques to embellish fabrics is explored to enhance garments for personal use and community donations. Skilled artisans can go on to create their own line of clothing, work in the film industry, or textile design.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Materials Technology](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Materials Technology Textiles](#), [Level 1 Technology](#)

Year 10 Mechanical Engineering

10MEG



Teacher in Charge: [Andrew Gillespie](#)

Course Description

Students design and use metals and plastics to create engineering products, using both traditional hand tools and workshop machinery. The course also offers experiences in engineering sketching, electronics, and computer aided design.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Materials Technology](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Mechanical Engineering](#), [Level 1 Technology](#)

Year 10 Technology

10TEC



Teacher in Charge: [Andrew Gillespie](#)

Course Description

In this advanced course, students will bring their creative ideas to life through design and technology. Using professional engineering software, they'll explore innovative solutions to real-world challenges. They'll transform digital designs into physical models with exciting tools like laser-cutting, 3D printing, and electrical actuators. Whether they love problem-solving, designing, or making, this course offers a hands-on experience in turning ideas into reality.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Materials Technology](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Technology](#)

Year 10 Food Technology

10FDT



Teacher in Charge: [Melanie Brown](#)

Course Description

This programme has three modules involving healthy breakfast, burgers and mocktails. You will learn food safety, nutrition, the technology design process and how to create your own recipes.

There will be a weekly cooking lesson where you learn how to evaluate and adapt recipes. A focus on the design process will prepare you for Year 11 technology courses.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Food Technology](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Food Technology](#), [Level 1 Hospitality](#)

Year 10 English for Speakers of Other Languages



10ESOL

Teacher in Charge: [Rebecca Henaghan](#)

Course Description

This course is for students who are learning English as an additional language and who speak a different language at home. Students work on developing skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The course content is amended for students' individual needs and levels. **ESOL will be available as a full-year course.**

Departments:

[Year 10 Full Year Options](#), [Languages](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 English for Speakers of Other Languages](#)

Year 10 Japanese

10JAP



Teacher in Charge: [Cate Fuller](#)

Recommended Entry Criteria

It is recommended that students have completed the Year 9 Japanese course or discuss with the HOD.

Course Description

This subject leads on from the Year 9 course with a focus on communication and interaction for real life purposes. Students will be expected to master the katakana script, being able to read and recognise some kanji and consolidate the hiragana script learnt in Year 9. The cultural aspects of Japanese life are introduced wherever possible in the form of project work, DVDs, video clips and Japanese visitors. Students also have the opportunity to host a student from Japan. **Japanese will be available as a full-year course.**

Departments:

[Year 10 Full Year Options](#), [Languages](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Japanese](#)

Year 10 Sportspro

10SPT



Teacher in Charge: [Nathan Chippendale](#)

Course Description

This is a high-performance sports course that will provide selected students with the knowledge and skills to develop towards their potential in their chosen sports. Students wanting to take this course should have studied this subject in Year 9. There is a limited number of spaces and a selection process will occur if the course is oversubscribed.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Health/PE](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Health & Physical Education](#), [Level 1 Health Studies](#), [Level 1 Physical Education](#), [Level 1 Physical Education - Practical](#)

Year 10 Spanish (Full year)

10SPH



Teacher in Charge: [Cate Fuller](#)

Course Description

This option leads on from the Year 9 course but could possibly be taken without prior knowledge, with the approval of the Head of Department. Students learn to communicate about their free time and hobbies and their home and local area. Spanish culture and the Spanish speaking world are explored further. Highlights include watching a movie and tasting Spanish food. **Spanish will be available as a half or full-year option.**

Departments:

[Year 10 Full Year Options](#), [Languages](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Spanish](#)

Year 10 Spanish (Half Year)

10SPHH



Teacher in Charge: [Cate Fuller](#)

Course Description

This option leads on from the Year 9 course but could possibly be taken without prior knowledge, with the approval of the Head of Department. Students learn to communicate about their free time and hobbies and their home and local area. Spanish culture and the Spanish speaking world are explored further. Highlights include watching a movie and tasting Spanish food. **Spanish will be available as a half or full-year option.**

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Languages](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Spanish](#)

Year 10 te reo Māori (Half Year)

10MAOH



Teacher in Charge: [Cate Fuller](#)

Course Description

This option leads on from the Year 9 course however, could be taken without prior knowledge with approval from the Head of Department. Year 10 te reo Māori focuses on students being able to communicate about their own environment such as home and school. Students begin to see patterns in the language and begin to develop their writing skills. **te reo Māori will be available as either a half or full-year course.**

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Languages](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 te reo Māori](#)

Year 10 te reo Māori (Full Year)

10MAO



Course Description

This option leads on from the Year 9 course however, could be taken without prior knowledge with approval from the Head of Department. Year 10 te reo Māori focuses on students being able to communicate about their own environment such as home and school. Students begin to see patterns in the language and begin to develop their writing skills. **te reo Māori will be available as either a half or full-year course.**

Departments:

[Year 10 Full Year Options](#), [Languages](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 te reo Māori](#)

Year 10 Drama

10DRA



Teacher in Charge: [Nick Sharpe](#)

Course Description

This option explores dramatic performance in small and large groups and developing dramatic techniques and skills. We will explore vocal skills, movement skills, effective use of the stage and the use of gesture and body language through the production of short scripted pieces and improvisation (and stage combat, depending on group). This course may include working towards producing a group performance for a class production.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Performing Arts](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Drama](#)

Year 10 Dance

10DAN



Course Description

A dance option for both the experienced and beginner dancer. The programme will include students creating individual, pair, and group dance works, exploring choreographic devices and investigating the different style and genres of dance e.g. students will choreograph their own movement patterns to contemporary music and explore the dance styles of hip hop, contemporary and others.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Performing Arts](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Dance](#)

Year 10 Music Advanced

10MUSA



Teacher in Charge: [Nick Sharpe](#)

Course Description

This course is focused on students working in groups and individually for the entire half-year. They will be expected to give both group and solo performances throughout the programme. As well as performance experience, each student will be expected to embark on a research project based on an artist of their choice, and also at least one composition.

This course builds towards the basic knowledge required for Level 1 NCEA. It is expected that students taking this option will be receiving instrument tuition (available through the school itinerant system).

NOTE: - Students are able to choose both options and are strongly encouraged to do so if they are anticipating taking NCEA Music in the future.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Performing Arts](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Music](#)

Year 10 Music Group

10MUSG



Teacher in Charge: [Nick Sharpe](#)

Course Description

This course is focused on students working in small bands for the entire half-year. In these groups they will compose two original compositions and are expected to perform these at either the Smokefree Rockquest event or at an in-school performance. Students will also compose and deliver a piece of music designed for new entrants. It is expected that students taking this option will be receiving instrument tuition (available through the school itinerant system).

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Performing Arts](#)

Year 10 Performing Arts Technology & Production



10PFT

Teacher in Charge: [Nick Sharpe](#)

Course Description

This option explores the skills necessary for developing technologies for performance. Students will have the opportunity to explore technologies including sound, lighting, costume, makeup and sets. This course may include working towards producing a group performance.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Performing Arts](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Drama](#), [Level 1 Performing Arts Technology & Production](#)

Year 10 Visual Art

10VAR



Teacher in Charge: [Shaun Oughton](#)

Course Description

This programme builds on the skills learnt in the Year 9 Visual Art option. Students are encouraged to explore contemporary images in a range of disciplines including drawing, painting, mixed media, design, printmaking and sculpture. Emphasis is placed on preparing students for a Year 11 Visual Art programme through developing and critically refining their work.

Departments:

[Year 10 Half Year Options](#), [Visual Art](#)

Pathway

[Level 1 Visual Art](#)