



WAIMEA COLLEGE

Year 9

Curriculum Handbook 2027



WAIMEA COLLEGE

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students

Nau mai haere mai! Welcome!

Welcome to our school. At Waimea College every student is unique and special. Unlocking student potential, realising aspirations and creating future leaders is a responsibility that we take very seriously. We strive to develop well-rounded, confident young adults who are equipped for our modern and changing world.

We work hard to place you, the learner, at the centre of everything that we do. Beginning your secondary school education is an important and exciting milestone and we are proud to be part of this journey with you.

Waimea College is a vibrant and lively school. We are proud of our broad and balanced curriculum and work hard to ensure that it is modern and responsive to student needs.

We know that student success can take many forms and all of these are valuable. Some of you will shine in the classroom, some on the sports field and some in the arts. Our emphasis on holistic education ensures that you can discover and follow your passion to experience success in any field. Waimea College offers a variety of educational experiences both inside and outside the classroom. This curriculum booklet provides detail about the courses offered at Waimea College, both for the compulsory and the option subjects.

We look forward to meeting you at the Waimea College Open School events or at another time by arrangement with our enrolment staff. Our enrolment timeline is as follows:

Prospectus available	Monday 29 June 2026
Parents Information Evening	Monday 27 July 2026
Open Day & Evening	Monday 3 August 2026
Optional Parent Interviews with a Deputy Principal (to discuss individual student needs)	Tuesday 4 August – Thursday 14 August 2026
Enrolments Close	Friday 21 August 2026
Out of Zone Ballot Information Released	Thursday 10 September 2026
2027 Year 9 Orientation Day	Friday 13 November 2026
2027 Year 9 Start Date	Tuesday 2 February 2027

We are here to help so please feel free to contact the College Office if you have any questions or need further information.

Warm regards

Fraser Hill
Principal | Tumuaki

Scan the QR Code for
Enrolment Information



Waimea College Vision and Mission Statement

Our Vision

Waimea College develops life-long learners who strive to impact the world for good.

Mission Statement

Waimea College is a place where:

- People from diverse backgrounds are supported and cared for.
- A broad spectrum of learning opportunities are catered to unique needs and delivered with excellence.
- Each person is inspired to increase their confidence and expand their expectations.

Waimea College Values and Behaviour Expectations



Manaakitanga - Caring

We always strive to care for ourselves, others and the environment.

- Be kind to others
- Use polite language
- Look after your school environment



Whanaungatanga - Belonging

We take pride in being part of Waimea College and respect and celebrate our differences.

- Be proud of your school
- Wear your uniform correctly
- Support and include others



Akoranga - Learning

We always strive to learn and grow.

- Be ready to learn
- Have a positive attitude
- Display a growth mindset

Please note:-

- Students are deemed in law to be under the school's authority from the time they leave home in the morning until they return after school.
- Students attending or participating in any school activity outside normal school hours are bound by the school rules e.g. trips, weekend or evening sporting or cultural events.

Financial Matters

School Donation

Waimea College has joined the Ministry of Education School Donations Scheme and therefore the school does not ask parents or caregivers for a contribution towards the provision of additional support and resources for students.

Voluntary Donations

Families still have the option to make voluntary tax-deductible donations to the school. Further information is available from the Waimea College Finance Centre.

Other Fees

Contributions towards the cost of overnight camps, or optional activities beyond the standard curriculum offered, should be paid for as requested. Some of the subjects that require such a fee are Physical Education, Music, Outdoor Education and Employment Skills. The Year 9 Rotoiti Camp also incurs a fee.

Sports and Extra-curricular Activities

Fees for optional activities such as sports/extra-curricular activities are a direct reflection of the cost for participating in that sport or event. Payment continues to be required for these items and needs to be paid prior to participation.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Waimea College is a 'BYOD' school. Students are expected to bring along a device (Laptop or Chromebook) for learning. Further information is available on the Waimea College website about suitable devices for use in Years 9 and 10.



Compulsory subjects taken by all Year 9 students

English, Mathematics, Health and Physical Education, Science and Social Studies are all taught in a core class. Most core classes are mixed ability and are formed from discussion with the staff from your present school and testing data.

English (ENG)

Year 9 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 9 is on Reading and Writing, and working towards improving Literacy.

Health and Physical Education (HPE)

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 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 are Health Education (Well-being, Our Body, Mental Health, Relationships and Sexuality Education, Food and Nutrition and Keeping Ourselves Safe) and Physical Education (Aquatics, FUNdamentals, Fitness, Team Sports, Creative Movement).

Mathematics (MTH)

Mathematics is the study of patterns and relationships to solve problems and help explain the world around us. In Year 9, students build on previous learning to establish solid foundational skills. These solid foundations allow students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. The focus is on understanding our number system and applying that understanding in a rich variety of contexts. Students use a range of traditional and technological tools to develop their mathematical thinking and communication skills.

Science (SCI)

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.

Social Studies (SST)

Social Studies is the study of people. We aim to make students more knowledgeable about their world and give them skills to be active citizens in society. Critical thinking is encouraged as well as how to become a responsible citizen. The theme for this year is Change. We examine how change effects societies and the environment and how people respond to these changes. A variety of inquiry, literacy and processing skills are used throughout the course.

Extending Students

Students identified as needing extension will be catered for through differentiated programmes within the classroom. Beyond the classroom there are groups and competitions to extend students and enable them to reach their potential.

Learning Support

Students with specific learning needs may be placed in a class with Teacher Aide support or be placed on an individual programme. If applicable, students are assessed so that they can access reader/writer support for assessments. Students are identified for Learning Support from their previous school or through parent interviews with a Deputy Principal. The Skills for Living Programme is offered for some students identified during this process.

Literacy Support

At Waimea College, support and specialised classes are available to all students for whom English is their second language. In Year 9, we also offer a Literacy Boost option for those students requiring additional Literacy Support.

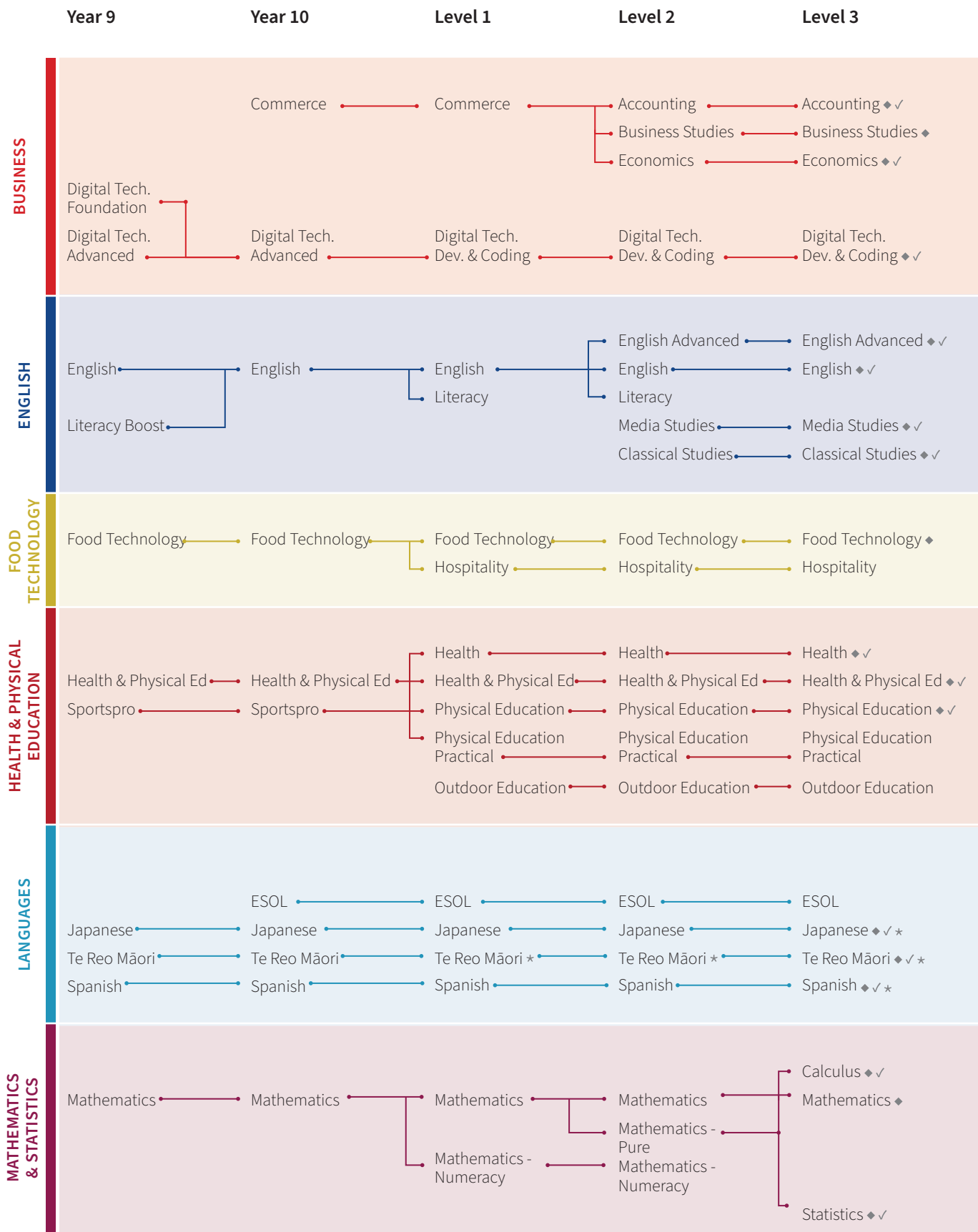
Numeracy Support

Students that are assessed as needing additional Numeracy Support will have access to a range of programmes. This includes small group learning, Teacher Aide support and modified programmes.



Subject pathways

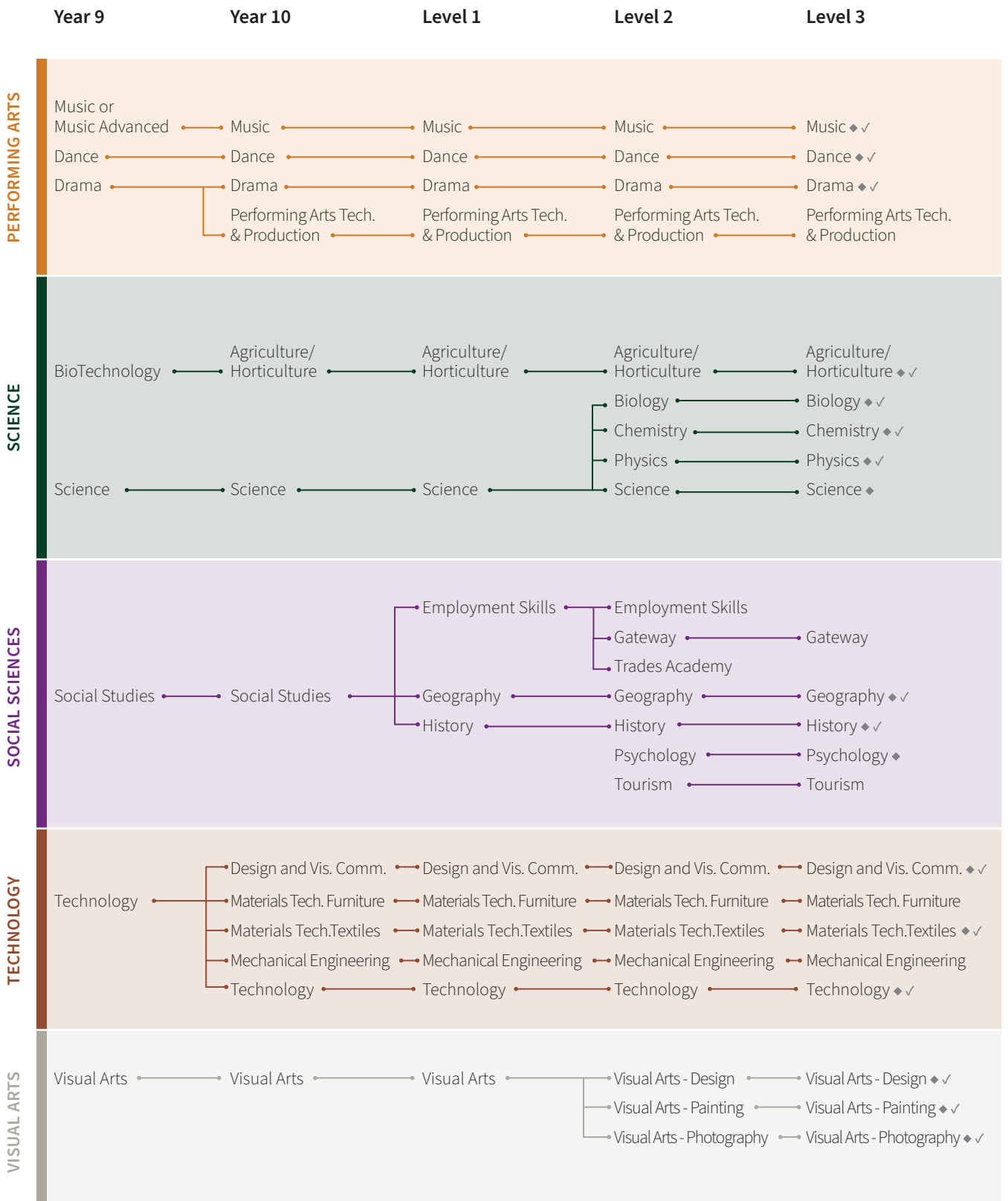
Huarahi ako



Note: all courses are offered subject to sufficient enrolments.

Key:

- ◆ University Entrance subject
- ✓ Scholarship subject
- * May be offered by Correspondence



Option Subjects

During Year 9, all students will study a total of 8 Units.

The Arts

(Students must study 2 of these Units)

Dance (DAN) (1 unit)

This subject will focus on developing basic skills in dance and movement. It is intended to lay the groundwork for more advanced senior performance studies. Students will gain practical experience through various techniques including choreographed movement and improvisation. The course will also include elements of the history of dance. Students need an open mind, a readiness to accept what is offered by other members of the class, and a willingness to perform.

Drama (DRA) (1 unit)

This subject will focus on developing basic skills in drama and performance. It is intended to lay the groundwork for more advanced senior performance studies. Students will gain practical experience through various techniques including improvisation, script work, and vocal production work. The course will also include elements of the history of theatre. Students need an open mind, a readiness to accept what is offered by other members of the class, and a willingness to perform.

Music (MUS) (1 unit)

This course is based on enjoyment and experiencing a wide range of music. It will give the students enough understanding of the basics of music to continue to learn music in Year 10 and at NCEA level. Students of all abilities are welcome, including those who have not taken music previously. Students will experience acoustic and electric guitar, bass, drums, keyboard/piano, singing and electronic-based performance. Throughout the term students are assessed on various instruments and music theory. The final project is an assessed-group Blues performance.

Music Advanced (MUSA) (1 unit)

(Students must apply for this course)

This is a course for students who are serious about music and advancing their skills on their instrument. Participating students will have a pre-requisite level of competence on any instrument, usually two years of regular tuition or equivalent skill level. On completion of this course, students will have the skills and knowledge to join one or more of our major ensembles: Orchestra, Jazz Band or Choir. Other groups are possible, including Rock Band, depending on the student intake for the year.

If you need further information, please contact the Teacher-in-Charge of Music at Waimea College. **Students cannot study both Music and Music Advanced.**

Visual Arts (VAR) (1 unit)

Students will explore a range of creative techniques including drawing, painting, and 3D art. The course encourages experimentation and the development of practical skills using a variety of media. Students will investigate and respond to the work of selected artist models to inform and inspire their own artwork. Through hands-on projects, learners will build confidence in visual expression and creative problem-solving.

Technology Units

(Most students will take 2-4 of these Units. **Digital Technology Foundation is a compulsory one-term course**)

Biotechnology (BIT) (1 unit)

Students will see how products, systems and environments are developed to benefit people. This leads on to Year 10 Agriculture and Horticulture and directs learning towards the understanding and use of living systems and organisms. Project-based learning is used to research both in theory and practical.

Digital Technology Foundation (DTF) (1 unit)

This is a compulsory one-term course.

In this course, you will build the essential digital skills you need to learn, create, and problem-solve at Waimea College. You will get to know the ICT tools and systems we use at school, and learn how to use them confidently to support your studies. You will explore design skills that help you communicate your ideas clearly and creatively. You will also be introduced to coding - learning how to break a problem down into small, manageable steps and turn those steps into simple computer programs. By the end of this course, you will have a solid foundation of digital skills to carry with you through school and beyond.

Digital Technology Advanced (DTA) (1 unit)

Games don't just play themselves - someone has to build them, and that someone could be you. In this one-term course you will learn to write code from scratch, design your own graphics, and put them together into real working programs. You will also peek behind the curtain at how computers really work, including the binary number system that powers everything from your phone to your PlayStation, and the algorithms that shape our modern lives. If you have ever wanted to go from player to creator, this is where you start.

Food Technology (FDT) (1 unit)

This programme introduces the technology design process where learners will take knowledge learned to “makeover a meal”. Basic nutrition will help inform the choices around how to create a healthy meal for the family. Weekly cooking lessons will teach skills for life including food safety, practical cookery techniques, collaboration and teamwork.

Technology (TEC) (2 units)

Future Engineers, Electrical and Mechatronic Engineers, Builders, Designers, Costumers, Architects, Mechanics and many more exciting career opportunities start here. We develop students’ knowledge and practical skills in a creative environment with modern equipment.



Language Units

(Studying a Language is optional, but students may only study one Language)

Japanese (JPN) (2 units)

The emphasis in Year 9 is on interaction and learning the hiragana alphabet. Students learn to ask and answer simple questions about themselves in Japanese. Student learning is supported by the use of games, songs, individual whiteboards, flashcards, video clips and Japanese word processing. The course includes investigating Japanese culture and highlights include sushi tasting, calligraphy, origami and learning about festivals.

Spanish (SPH) (2 units)

The emphasis in Year 9 is on interaction. There are varied activities as students learn to ask and answer simple questions, giving personal information. Student learning is supported by the use of games, songs, individual whiteboards, flashcards and video clips. The course includes investigating Spanish culture. Highlights are watching a film and tasting Spanish food.

Te Reo Māori (MAO) (2 units)

New Zealanders are becoming more aware of the importance of gaining some knowledge and understanding of Māori culture. The emphasis in the Year 9 course is to research ancestry and be able to communicate that in a mihi. Time is spent on learning tikanga such as karakia and student learning is supported by waiata and games.

Literacy Boost (LIT) (2 units)

This programme is designed to enhance literacy skills for students who need additional support. It encompasses reading, listening, and spelling skills, along with a novel study to reinforce reading comprehension. The course aims to address gaps in each student's learning, fostering confidence and positive attitudes towards literacy. Additionally, class sizes are kept small to ensure personalised attention.

Sportspro

Sportspro (SPT) (1 unit)

(Students must apply for this course)

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. Contents include goal setting, personal fitness training and sports psychology. Participating students will have an interest in sporting activities as well as a satisfactory attitude and behaviour record. If you need further information, please contact the Head of the Physical Education Department, at Waimea College.



WAIMEA COLLEGE

Fraser Hill, Principal

