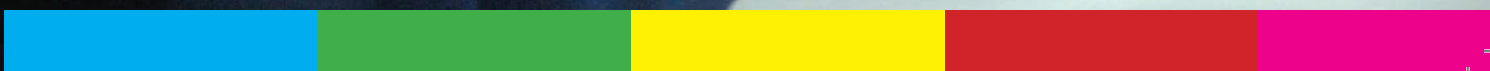




FOUNDATION SUBJECTS



THE FOLLOWING CURRICULUM AREAS ARE COMPULSORY AT YEARS 9 AND 10.

ENGLISH

English aims to promote a love of language and involves the study of language, literature and film through a variety of traditional and online resources.

Students complete a detailed reading programme from Year 9, which exposes them to different writing styles and time periods. By Year 13, students study texts ranging from Shakespeare and gothic Victorian literature to contemporary fantasy. There is also a focus on teaching New Zealand Māori texts in line with the national curriculum. We also help students learn through the use of electronic classrooms and group work.

In the Junior College, student progress is measured by using the e-asttle nationally-standardised tests in reading and writing, and senior students are prepared for NCEA through two practice examinations, lunchtime tutorials and scholarship discussion groups. Year 9 and 10 students also have the opportunity to be involved in an extension master-class, which aims to prepare students for excellence results at Level One NCEA and beyond.

MATHEMATICS

In Mathematics and Statistics, students explore relationships in quantities, space and data. They will be equipped with effective means for investigating, interpreting, explaining and making sense of the world in which they live.

Students will use symbols, graphs and diagrams to help them find and communicate patterns and relationships and will create models to represent a wide range of real-life and hypothetical situations.

At Year 11 and 12, Mathematics splits into Mathematics with Algebra, Mathematics with Statistics, and Numeracy. In Year 13, Mathematics is divided into Mathematics with Statistics and Mathematics with Calculus.

SCIENCE

The aim of science in Year 9 is to help students understand key scientific concepts and to develop a realisation that good scientific understanding can help in making decisions at a personal and social level.

The course covers four main areas of science:

The Living World – Students explore the diversity of life on Earth and begin to understand theories about how life has developed and adapted to changing environments.

Planet Earth and Beyond – An investigation into different astronomical bodies and how they might affect life on Earth.

Physical World and Material World – Investigating the properties of sound and light; beginning to build up an understanding of matter and chemical reactions.

Within each unit, students will develop their understanding of the Nature of Science by increasing their skills in communicating and investigating scientific models and concepts.

Students will continue to undertake a well-balanced programme in Year 10 and 11 science. At Year 12 and 13, students can specialise in any of the four science strands in Years 12 and 13. These are Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Earth and Space Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social sciences explore how societies work and how people can participate as critical, active, informed and responsible citizens. Contexts are drawn from the past, present and future and from places within and beyond New Zealand.

It is through the social sciences that students develop the knowledge and skills to enable them to participate, understand and contribute to the local, regional, national and international communities in which they work and play.

They will explore the unique bi-cultural nature of New Zealand society that derives from the Treaty of Waitangi. They will learn about people, places, cultures histories and the economic world. As they explore how others see themselves, students clarify their own identities in relation to their particular heritages and contexts.

Social studies is the foundation subject for both History and Geography from Year 11 to 13.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

Physical Education and Health teaches the basics of movement-related activities that will form a foundation to studying Physical Education in the senior school.

The students learn a variety of skills based on four units: Teaching Games for Understanding, Skill Improvement and Performance, Challenge and Success and Social Responsibility. There are six options offered to each class and students are asked to choose two from that selection. Lessons are then planned around those choices. Options include team sports (for example hockey, soccer, netball, touch rugby), adventure based learning, gymnastics, circus, table tennis, badminton and ultimate frisbee (to name a few).

In health, students learn skills and knowledge that will help them make good choices for their own health and those of others. In Year 9 there are four main topics: Mental Health, Sexuality, Keeping Ourselves Safe and Food & Nutrition. In Year 10 there are two main units: Alcohol and Drugs and Sexuality. Within those units, topics such as decision-making, assertiveness, how to say "No", contraceptives, sexually transmitted infections and food groups are also covered.

Physical Education divides at Year 11 into Physical Education with Anatomy, Physical Education and Fitness for Living. All of these subjects may be studied to Year 13.