

WESTERN HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL



PROUD TO BE HEIGHTS

**YEAR 9
OPTION BOOKLET
2023**

Welcome to Western Heights High School

Introduction to Western Heights High School Curriculum

The purpose of this Handbook is to indicate to parents and students the range of subjects available in Year 9 at Western Heights High School. This booklet outlines the Year 9 options we offer and will assist your child in making very important decisions that will have major effects on their future directions. A course overview has also been provided. It is therefore essential that you read the information very carefully and pick your courses for next year.

- Each enrolment pack has the option form provided, as shown in the sample below, and must be handed in with your child's enrolment form to ensure option placement.
- Instructions
 - Please write students full legal name and which school and class they are attending now.
 - Please tick the type of class you wish your child to be in e.g. Mainstream or Te Akoranga Reo Rua (Bilingual Full Māori Immersion Unit)
- By ticking four options, your child will participate in two of the four options in term one and term two, and the other two options in term three and term four.

SAMPLE ONLY

1. Student's Full Name: _____
2. Name of present School: _____ Class: _____
3. Choose which type of class you wish to be in:
 - a. **Mainstream (including Extension)** **Choose FOUR options**
All Year 9 Mainstream students will study the following **compulsory core Subjects**:

English	Social Studies	Physical Education/Health
Science	Mathematics	
 - b. **Te Akoranga Reo Rua (Bilingual)** **Choose TWO options**
All Te Akoranga Reo students study English, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Physical Education and Te Reo Māori which runs for one year.
4. Students opting for Rugby Outdoor Education must select 'Rugby Outdoor Education' plus **TWO** other options listed below. For this please complete the application form on the back of this option sheet.
5. Please number your option choices in order of priority, 1 – 4 (**1 – most important to you**)

Business Innovations	
Chinese	
Creative Media	
Digital Coding	
Digital Technology	
Drama	
Dance	

YEAR 9 OPTIONS AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AKORANGA – TE REO MĀORI

YEAR 9 MĀORI PROGRAMME

Te Reo Māori is a living, dynamic and rich language. This course aims to develop basic Te Reo Māori skills as well as introducing Māori customs and lore.

MĀTAURANGA MĀORI STEM

The aim of this course is to support students' interest and understanding in their world by combining two knowledge systems: Mātauranga Māori and Science. These two knowledge systems are utilised to learn about phenomenon that affect the wellbeing of the environment and therefore the health and wellbeing of all living things. In addition, students are encouraged to tōno for issues that they may be very interested in studying e.g. Climate Change. The Mātauranga Māori STEM course is steeped in tikanga and te reo Māori. A willingness to enter Te Ao Māori is required to join this program.

ARTS

YEAR 9 VISUAL ARTS

This is an option subject at Year 9 level. The course aims to give all students an introduction to the Visual Arts in units which include some of the basic processes involved in drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, design and art history.

YEAR 9 CREATIVE MEDIA (ANIMATION, ILLUSTRATION & GAMES)

Feature film making, television movies, computer, board and trading card games are a huge industry that is growing exponentially. The Year 9 Creative Media option is an arts programme that aims towards industry requirements and starts with the basics of animation, illustration, and the design and creation of games.

YEAR 9 CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The Contemporary Music course is a chance for students to learn an instrument and become part of a band. Instruments used are guitar, bass guitar, ukulele, drums and keyboards. A wide range of styles are played, opening the way for future musical development.

YEAR 9 PERFORMANCE MUSIC

Performance Music is a chance for students to learn an instrument and be part of a Concert Band. Instruments used are flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, euphonium, tuba, electric bass and percussion. A wide range of styles are played, opening the way for future musical development.

YEAR 9 DRAMA

This is a half-year option designed to allow students to build their skills and confidence through a variety of drama activities.

YEAR 9 DANCE

This is a half-year option designed to introduce students to elements, techniques and styles of Dance and movement. It focuses on creative choreography through a wide range of Dance activities. Students learn the theoretical component to link dance terminology to the practical element. Students will also develop confidence in working as a team member to communicate and present their ideas to others.

BUSINESS STUDIES

YEAR 9 BUSINESS INNOVATIONS

This option focuses on business and enterprise. Students work through a business project, using the skills taught in class. Aspects of decision-making, resource use and financial management are taught and applied. Business Innovations continue as an Option (Business Enterprise) at Year 10, then students can specialise in Business Studies, Accounting or Legal Studies in the Senior School.

LANGUAGES

YEAR 9 CHINESE

We offer an introductory, half year course in Chinese, which provides a good foundation for continuing to learn the language and culture, all the way to NCEA Level 3 and scholarship.

We focus on the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and use a variety of communicative activities such as games, songs, computer programmes, films and worksheets to enhance learning.

YEAR 9 FRENCH

We offer an introductory, half year course in French, which provides a good foundation for continuing to learn the language and culture, all the way to NCEA Level 3 and scholarship.

We focus on the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and use a variety of communicative activities such as games, songs, computer programmes, films and worksheets to enhance learning.

YEAR 9 SPANISH

We offer an introductory, half year course in Spanish, which provides a good foundation for continuing to learn the language and culture, all the way to NCEA Level 3 and scholarship.

We focus on the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and use a variety of communicative activities such as games, songs, computer programmes, films and worksheets to enhance learning.

YEAR 9 JAPANESE

We offer an introductory, half year course in Japanese, which provides a good foundation for continuing to learn the language and culture, all the way to NCEA Level 3 and scholarship.

We focus on the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and use a variety of communicative activities such as games, songs, computer programmes, films and worksheets to enhance learning.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

YEAR 9 RUGBY/LEAGUE ACADEMY

The Rugby Outdoor Education programme is both a practical and theory class for the full year. Students will concentrate on skill development, tactical awareness, positional requirements and fitness training in Rugby in the first instance.

Theory classes will help to develop nutritional awareness, sports psychology and training methods.

Acceptance to this course will be advised by email/mail.

YEAR 9 SPORTS ACADEMY

To create an environment for physical and personal excellence, one that encourages leadership, accountability and commitment. The Sports Development Programme consists of both theory and practical classes developing students' knowledge in nutrition, training methods, sports psychology and basic anatomy.

TECHNOLOGY

YEAR 9 HARD MATERIALS – WOOD

This option is designed to give students an introduction to wood based projects over the two terms that they will be completing this course. They will be spending time in the Woodwork rooms gaining a range of skills and knowledge. They will also be introduced to the basic concepts of designing and drawing.

YEAR 9 HARD MATERIALS – METAL

This option is designed to give students an introduction to Metal based projects over the two terms that they will be completing this course. They will be spending time in the Metal room gaining a range of skills and knowledge. They will also be introduced to the basic concepts of designing and drawing.

YEAR 9 DESIGN AND TECHNICAL DRAWING (DVCO)

Design and Technical Drawing is a subject that engages students in purposeful study of drawing and design and challenges them to develop and communicate design ideas. We will introduce the fundamental skills needed in Design and Visual Communication.

YEAR 9 DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

This course provides an opportunity for students to achieve technological literacy through a series of units including but not limited to: Computer basics, Robotics, Technological advances Simple programming (Game Design), Web design.

YEAR 9 DIGITAL CODING

This course provides an introduction to computing thinking and coding. Students will be involved in hands-on learning which will further their understanding of more advanced practical skills. This class will have a student driven approach, where the course will run on student's interests. Suggested topics: Programming (Scratch, Python.) Audio Visual, Robotics (Lego Mindstorm, MBots), Web design (HTML5, CSS, Javascript).

YEAR 9 FABRIC TECHNOLOGY

Students will learn safety and skills in the use of the equipment and a variety of techniques. These techniques will be used to complete three technology projects using fabric.

YEAR 9 FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This includes the basic skills of using recipes, equipment, and kitchen and food safety with an emphasis on healthy eating.