



TE KĀRETI TAMATĀNE O TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA  
**WELLINGTON COLLEGE**

*Founded 1867*

# **COURSE SELECTION WHĀNAU GUIDE 2027**

[www.wellington-college.school.nz](http://www.wellington-college.school.nz)

# Welcome to our Course Selection Guide

At Wellington College we want to support students to be successful. This means that they are able to leave with the qualifications and confidence necessary to pursue their chosen pathway. This may be into further education, training, or directly into the workforce. We want to empower students to make informed decisions about what success will look like for them and celebrate as they reach their goals and aspirations.

This guide provides an overview of options at each year level to enable you to support your young person to choose the courses that suit them best. For more detailed information about each course, please see the course selection information on our website.

All students will be given a workbook in Term 3 to help them prepare for Subject Selection and Tutor conferences.

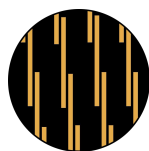
We are encouraging students to carefully consider these decisions. They should think about the subjects that reflect their interests, strengths and abilities, and leave career and pathway options open. It is also crucial that they research what's required for future courses and careers, as things may have changed.

There are a lot of people at WC who are available to help. Students are encouraged to talk choices through with their Tutor Teacher. Deans are also able to provide guidance, alongside our Careers Advisers, subject teachers and HODs, and members of the Strategic Leadership Team.

We also recognise the importance of making the most of opportunities to grow and develop, whether this be in the classroom, in sports or cultural pursuits. Overall, in 2027 we encourage students to accept new challenges, and give their full effort, focus, and commitment to every aspect of school life.

Wishing you a happy and successful year.

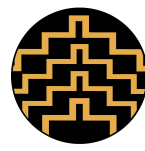
Hei konā mai,  
The Wellington College Strategic Leadership Team



INTEGRITY



MANAAKITANGA

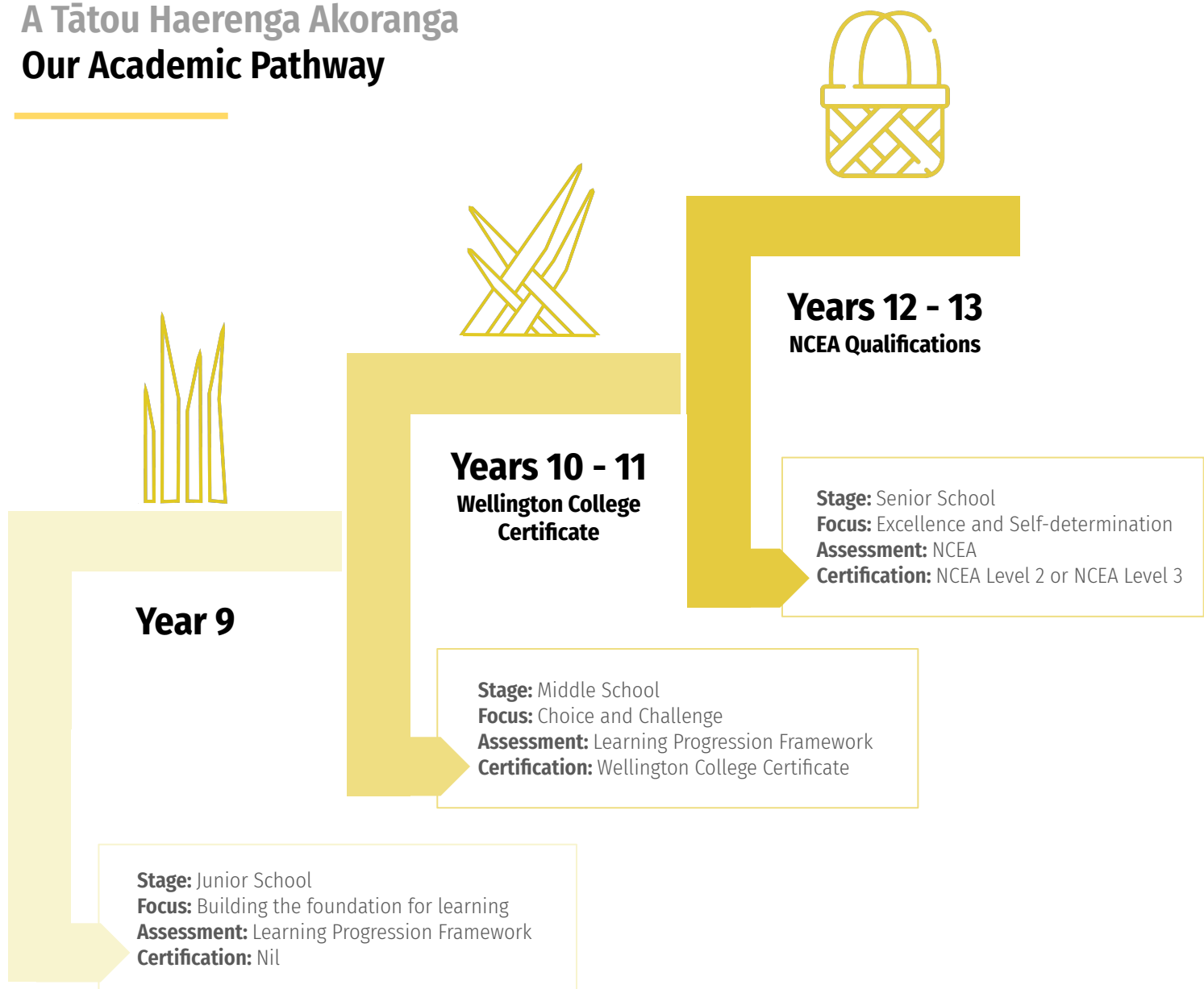


EXCELLENCE



# A Tātou Haerenga Akoranga

## Our Academic Pathway



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# Whānau Supporting with Subject Selection

Your young person has been building learning foundations across diverse learning areas in Years 1 - 10. As they progress through secondary school, they have the opportunity to specialise in and explore subjects they're interested in on a much deeper level.

This shift from broad education to focused study helps prepare them for future pathways while giving them agency in their learning journey.

Advice below adapted from [Source: StudyWorkGrow](#)

## Support, Don't Steer

It's natural to want to protect your teen from making mistakes, but our role is to support, not decide. Help them think through their subject choices, but let them make the final call. Owning their decisions builds confidence and long-term commitment.

## Know the Prerequisites and Their Limits

If your child is considering tertiary study, encourage them to look into course prerequisites or recommended subjects through platforms like [tahatu.govt.nz](#) or university websites. Even if specific subjects aren't required, having the right background knowledge can make the transition easier and increase their chances of success. That said, avoid pushing subjects just because they tick a box. If your teen dislikes them, they're less likely to stay engaged, which can affect their performance and motivation.

## Focus on Strengths and Keep Options Open

Younger students often don't have a clear career plan, and that's OK. Help them focus on what they enjoy and do well. Subject choices should reflect their interests, strengths, and long-term flexibility.

Watch out for common traps:

- Picking subjects they think are “easier”
- Choosing subjects to “look good” on a CV
- Dropping subjects they enjoy because they don't see a clear job link

Encourage a strengths-based approach, backed by feedback from teachers and their own assessment results.

## Use School Resources

Staff can provide personalised advice and help you both navigate subject selection with a clearer understanding of the options. Attend our subject information session in Term 3 if you are able.

## Think about Local Opportunities

Help your teen understand how subject choices align with local job markets. Some pathways may have more opportunities in larger cities or specific industries. If their dream job is in a niche area, explore whether they're willing to study or work elsewhere, or look for related roles that use similar skills.

Support their passions, but broaden the view. Skills can be applied in many different careers.

## Keep the Conversations Going

Subject selection isn't a one-off event. Have regular, informal chats, whether it's in the car or over dinner. Listening and talking things through helps your teen feel supported and less overwhelmed.

## Provide Balanced Support

Be their sounding board. Encourage their interests while also helping them think practically: what will the workload be like? Will it keep their options open? This kind of support helps them feel more confident and capable in their decision-making.

# Curriculum and assessment changes

Whānau will be aware that there are nationwide changes to our curriculum and assessment framework. These primarily impact our students who are currently in Year 9.

You can read more here:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/schools-year-0-13/parent-portal/changes-curriculum-and-why-they-matter>

<https://tahurangi.education.govt.nz/senior-secondary-quals-finalised>

## What is the impact on WC students?

There are **no changes** to the school timetable or subject options for 2027. For our students, the most important goal right now is to keep working hard and building great study habits. Please encourage your child to act on teacher feedback to strengthen their foundational skills, as the routines they build now will set them up for future success.

### Preparing for the New Qualification Framework

Our current Year 9 cohort will be the first year group to transition into New Zealand's new senior qualification system.

- **The Timeline:** NCEA Level 1 and the Literacy/Numeracy Co-Requisites are being phased out. They will be replaced by a new tiered system as this year group moves through the senior school:
  - **Year 11 (2028):** The Foundational Award
  - **Year 12 (2029):** The New Zealand Certificate of Education (NZCE)
  - **Year 13 (2030):** The New Zealand Advanced Certificate of Education (NZACE)
- **Compulsory Subjects:** From 2028, English, Maths, and Science will be mandatory nationwide in Year 11. Because this has always been our policy at WC, our students will not experience any disruptions to their usual subject planning.
- **Exam Preparation:** The new qualifications will place a heavier emphasis on external exams. To ensure your child feels confident and prepared, we will be increasing our focus on explicit exam strategies and formal assessment preparation over the coming years.
- **Academic Foundations:** Early indications show that the content in some new senior subjects will be more academically demanding. Developing a solid foundation now is more important than ever.

### A New Focus on Literacy and Numeracy

To achieve their senior certificates (NZCE and NZACE) in the future, students must first pass the **Foundational Award** in Year 11. This award is based directly on the Year 11 English and Maths curriculums.

If your child is currently in Year 9 and has gaps in their literacy or numeracy skills, we strongly encourage them to take advantage of school support and extension opportunities. The progress they make during Year 10 will boost their confidence and success once they hit senior school.

### What does this mean for older students?

If your child is **currently in Year 10 or above**, these changes do not apply to them. They will continue on their current NCEA pathway, which remains a meaningful and rigorous qualification at Wellington College. There will also be transition allowances in place for standard crossovers (for example, a student finishing a few NCEA Level 3 credits in 2030).

**Questions or Concerns?** We know navigating qualification changes can feel daunting. If you have any specific questions about your child's pathway, please feel free to reach out to DP Luci Lendrum for guidance.

# The Course Selection Process

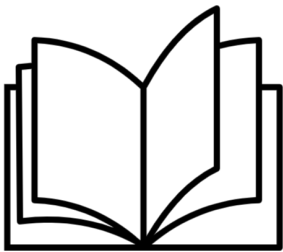
We begin the Course Selection process early in Term 3. Students are shown course information in tutor time and assemblies, and Tutor Teachers will meet with each student to discuss their pathway.



## Who can help?

Students and parents can speak to:

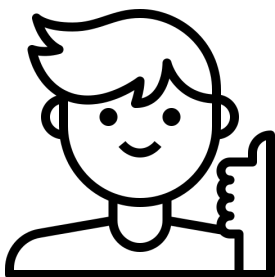
- Tutor teachers
- Deans
- Subject teachers and Heads of Department
- Careers Department <https://wc-careers.youcanbook.me/>



## What information is available about courses?

There is detailed information about each course on School Bridge and on our [website](#).

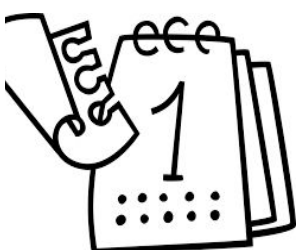
Drop in sessions will occur on the day of Tutor Conferences, where you can meet with deans and leaders of learning.



## I know what I want to choose! How do I select my courses for next year?

Students will make their selections online in School Bridge.

There are instructions for this on the next page of this booklet.



## When is the deadline?

Students must enter their choices by August 16.

Please connect with your Dean or Tutor if there are any barriers to this.

# Student instructions - Making your selection using School Bridge

## Step 1: Log In

Go to [wc.bridge.school.nz](https://wc.bridge.school.nz) and click Sign In. Use your school email and password (you can also go to <https://www.wellington-college.school.nz/course-selection/>)

## Step 2: Navigate to Selection

Click Course Selection Home Page. Review the requirements for your level in the Overview.

## Step 3: Browse Subjects

Click Learning Area and look at the information for subjects.

Subjects you meet requirements for will be at the top. Scroll down to see all available subjects in that area.

## Step 4: Choose a Course

Click a subject you want to take. On its info page, click + Select Course (top right).

Note: Compulsory subjects may already be ticked for you. If you don't meet a subject's prerequisites, you can request an exemption (click the button top right)

## Step 5: Review & Confirm

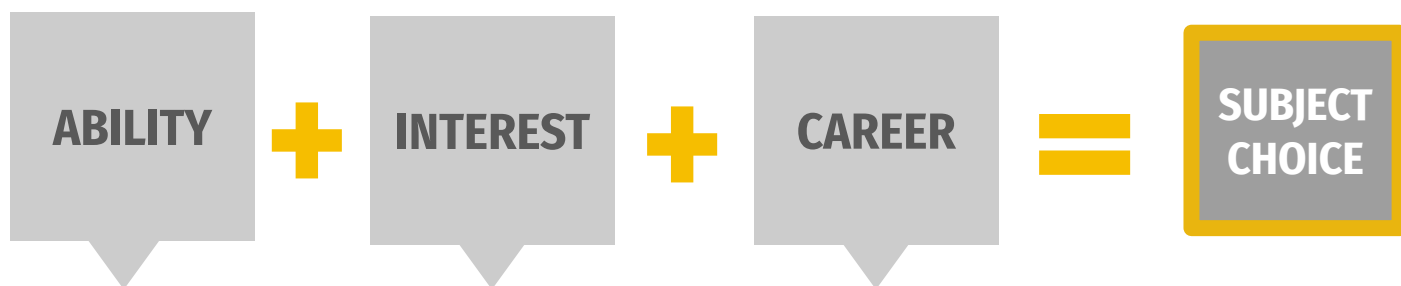
Once all courses are added, click My Selected Subjects to review your list. If it looks correct, click Confirm Selection.

**Make your selections before 16 August.**

**NOTE** - entry to a subject is not guaranteed, and is at the discretion of the HOD. All courses are subject to sufficient student numbers and available staffing.

# Choosing a course of study

## How do I choose?



### ABILITY

*How good are you at this?*

*Do you think you can do even better at this?*

*Look at your results and reports to help you decide.*

### INTEREST

*What courses do you most enjoy?*

*What do you find easiest to study?*

*Do you look forward to the subject in your current timetable?*

*Consider why you enjoy it - don't choose a subject just because of the teacher, or because of your friends.*

### CAREER

*Do you have a specific career in mind?*

*Research what skills / subjects you might need*

*Don't eliminate subjects you may need if you change your mind*

*Do you have a vague idea? Take any courses which might be required*

All students have a separate workbook to help them prepare for subject selection and tutor conferences

#### GENERAL ADVICE FOR STUDENTS:

- Plan your course selection through to the end of your secondary schooling.
- Check entry information for courses you intent to take in future (both at school and beyond). Some subjects need to be studied in earlier years.
- You can discuss your proposed course selection with:
  - Your whānau / parents / caregivers
  - Your current teachers
  - Your tutor teacher
  - Deans and HODs
  - Careers Advisor
  - A member of the Strategic Leadership Team

# The structure of courses

## An overview

Grey = Compulsory  
Blue = constrained choice  
Yellow = Optional

Our course offering is structured so that students have the necessary foundations for whatever future pathway they may decide upon.

In Year 9, most of the courses are compulsory, and students experience a broad range of subjects. Compulsory courses are indicated in grey. In Years 9 and 10, students choose from within a set range of options (indicated in blue) to experience all Learning Areas. By Year 13, there is no compulsory element.

| Learning Area               | Year 9                 | Year 10                                                                                                           | Year 11                    | Year 12                                         | Year 13                               |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| English                     |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            | *at least one of Te Reo Māori OR English at Y12 |                                       |
| Mathematics                 |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            |                                                 |                                       |
| Science                     |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            |                                                 |                                       |
| Health & Physical Education |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            |                                                 |                                       |
| Te Reo Māori                |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            | *at least one of Te Reo Māori OR English at Y12 |                                       |
| Languages                   |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            |                                                 |                                       |
| Arts                        |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            |                                                 |                                       |
| Technology                  |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            |                                                 |                                       |
| Social Sciences             |                        |                                                                                                                   |                            |                                                 |                                       |
| <b>OPTIONAL COURSES</b>     | Choose option language | Choose full-year language course<br>Choose a full-year Arts course<br>Choose two half year social science courses | Choose 3 full year courses | Choose 5 full year courses                      | Choose minimum of 5 full year courses |

Note - in individual cases there are supported learning options available, such as Literacy and Integrated Studies.

We recommend speaking to the Careers Adviser before dropping Mathematics and Science from your Year 12 programme.

# Te Marautanga o te Kāreti Tamatāne o te Whanganui-a-Tara

## Our Learning Areas and Courses

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| <p><b>Te Reo Māori</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>WCMāori</b></p> <p><b>YEAR 9</b><br/>Te Reo Māori</p> <p><b>YEAR 10</b><br/>Te Reo Māori</p> <p><b>YEAR 11</b><br/>Te Reo Māori</p> <p><b>YEAR 12</b><br/>Te Reo Māori</p> <p><b>YEAR 13</b><br/>Te Reo Māori</p> <p><b>LEARNING AREA LEADER</b><br/><b>Katie Thompson</b><br/>k.thompson@wc.school.nz</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Ngā Reo</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>WCLanguages</b></p> <p><b>YEAR 9</b><br/>Chinese<br/>English Language<br/>French<br/>Japanese<br/>German<br/>Samoan<br/>Spanish</p> <p><b>YEAR 10</b><br/>Chinese<br/>English Language<br/>French<br/>Japanese<br/>German<br/>Samoan<br/>Spanish</p> <p><b>YEAR 11</b><br/>Chinese<br/>English Language<br/>French<br/>Japanese<br/>German<br/>Samoan<br/>Spanish</p> <p><b>YEAR 12</b><br/>Chinese<br/>English Language<br/>French<br/>Japanese<br/>German<br/>Samoan<br/>Spanish</p> <p><b>YEAR 13</b><br/>Chinese<br/>English Language<br/>French<br/>Japanese<br/>German<br/>Samoan<br/>Spanish</p> <p><b>LEARNING AREA LEADER</b><br/><b>Maria Villanueva</b><br/>m.villanueva@wc.school.nz</p> | <p><b>Pāngarau</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>WCMathematics</b></p> <p><b>YEAR 9</b><br/>Mathematics</p> <p><b>YEAR 10</b><br/>Mathematics<br/>Numeracy<br/>Advanced Maths</p> <p><b>YEAR 11</b><br/>Mathematics<br/>Numeracy<br/>Cambridge &amp; Calculus</p> <p><b>YEAR 12</b><br/>Maths with Calculus<br/>Maths with Statistics<br/>Maths Internal<br/>Maths for Pathways<br/>Cambridge &amp; Calculus</p> <p><b>YEAR 13</b><br/>Calculus<br/>Statistics<br/>Mathematics<br/>MATH199 (University of Canterbury)</p> <p><b>LEARNING AREA LEADER</b><br/><b>Aaron Hawke</b><br/>a.hawke@wc.school.nz</p> <p><b>Ako</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>WCSupportedLearning</b></p> <p><b>YEAR 9</b><br/>Integrated Studies</p> <p><b>YEAR 10</b><br/>Integrated Studies<br/>Literacy</p> <p><b>YEAR 11</b><br/>Integrated Studies</p> <p><b>YEAR 12</b><br/>Integrated Studies<br/>Learning Support</p> <p><b>HEAD OF DEPARTMENT</b><br/><b>Deb Marshall</b><br/>d.marshall@wc.school.nz</p> | <p><b>Te Reo Pakeha</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>WCEnglish</b></p> <p><b>YEAR 9</b><br/>English</p> <p><b>YEAR 10</b><br/>English</p> <p><b>YEAR 11</b><br/>English<br/>English Media<br/>English Writing<br/>Literacy for Uni (ESOL)</p> <p><b>YEAR 12</b><br/>English<br/>Literacy for Uni (ESOL)<br/>English Philosophy<br/>Writing beyond the text<br/>Media Studies</p> <p><b>YEAR 13</b><br/>English Philosophy<br/>English Unbound<br/>Sci-Fi &amp; Sociology<br/>Keeping it real<br/>Heroes &amp; Anti-heroes<br/>Literature through the ages<br/>Media Studies</p> <p><b>LEARNING AREA LEADER</b><br/><b>Sarah Marchant</b><br/>s.marchant@wc.school.nz</p> |
| <p><b>Hāngarau</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>WCTechnology</b></p> <p><b>YEAR 9</b><br/>Technology</p> <p><b>YEAR 10</b><br/>Technology</p> <p><b>YEAR 11</b><br/>Materials Technology<br/>Digital Technology<br/>Design &amp; Visual Tech</p> <p><b>YEAR 12</b><br/>Materials Technology<br/>Digital Game Dvpmt.<br/>Digital Tech Science<br/>Design &amp; Visual Tech<br/>Construction</p> <p><b>YEAR 13</b><br/>Materials Technology<br/>Digital Game Dvlmpt.<br/>Digital Tech Science<br/>Design &amp; Visual Tech<br/>Coding for Engineering<br/>Construction</p> <p><b>LEARNING AREA LEADER</b><br/><b>Thomas Han-Stevenson</b><br/>t.hanstevenson@wc.school.nz</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

# Te Marautanga o te Kāreti Tamatāne o te Whanganui-a-Tara

## Our Learning Areas and Courses

| Hauora                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ngā Toi                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Pūtaiao                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Pūtaiao Pāpori                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WCHealth&PE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | WCArts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | WCScience                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | WCSocialSciences                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>YEAR 9</b><br>Health & Physical Education<br><br><b>YEAR 10</b><br>Health & P.E.<br>Sports Academy<br><br><b>YEAR 11</b><br>Health<br>Sports Academy<br>Exercise & Sport Science<br><br><b>YEAR 12</b><br>Health<br>Sports Academy<br>Exercise & Sport Sci<br>Performance PE<br><br><b>YEAR 13</b><br>Health<br>Sports Academy<br>Exercise & Sport Sci<br>Performance PE | <b>YEAR 9</b><br>Art<br>Drama<br>Music<br><br><b>YEAR 10</b><br>Art<br>Drama<br>Music General<br>Music Rock Band<br><br><b>YEAR 11</b><br>Concept Art & Design<br>Photography & Sculpture<br>Painting & Drawing<br>Dance<br>Drama<br>Music<br><br><b>YEAR 12</b><br>Design<br>Photography<br>Painting<br>Dance<br>Drama<br>Music<br>Contemporary Music<br><br><b>YEAR 13</b><br>Design<br>Painting<br>Photography<br>Dance<br>Drama<br>Music<br>Contemporary Music | <b>YEAR 9</b><br>Science<br><br><b>YEAR 10</b><br>Science<br><br><b>YEAR 11</b><br>Science<br>Science Internal<br>Biology<br>Space & Rocket<br>Physics<br><br><b>YEAR 12</b><br>Science<br>Human Biology<br>Biology<br>Chemistry<br>Physics<br><br><b>YEAR 13</b><br>Science<br>Biology<br>Chemistry<br>Physics | <b>YEAR 9</b><br>History in Aotearoa<br><br><b>YEAR 10</b><br>History<br>Geography<br>Commerce<br><br><b>YEAR 11</b><br>History<br>Geography<br>Commerce<br><br><b>YEAR 12</b><br>History<br>Geography<br>Business Studies<br>Accounting<br>Economics<br>Classical Studies<br>Religious Studies<br><br><b>YEAR 13</b><br>History<br>History University<br>Geography<br>Business Studies<br>Accounting*<br>Economics<br>Classical Studies<br>Politics<br><br><i>*Year 12 Accounting only available in 2027; Year 13 Accounting available only in 2027 and 2028.</i> |
| <b>LEARNING AREA LEADER</b><br><b>Hayden Viles</b><br>h.viles@wc.school.nz                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Te Ara o te Tamatāne</b><br><b>WCCareers&amp;Transition</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>YEAR 12</b><br>Pathways<br>Trades Academy<br>Gateway<br><br><b>YEAR 13</b><br>Pathways<br>Trades Academy<br>Gateway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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# Junior Curriculum Year 9

**Year Level:** 9

**Stage:** Junior School

**Focus:** Foundation for Learning

**Assessment:** Learning Progression Framework

**Certification:** Nil

## Year 9

# A foundation for learning

We believe all students arrive at our school with immense potential.

Their years of primary and intermediate school education have provided them a varied and diverse range of learning experiences, and our Year 9 programme aims to build and strengthen this foundation.

The first year of secondary school is a very important stepping stone for our young people. The importance of developing friendships, and getting involved in the wider college through extra-curricular activities are all crucial components to feeling a part of the college community.

It is what happens in the classroom, however, that is the key to their future pathways. Our Year 9 programme offers a broad curriculum so that students can develop in multiple areas, and identify what their strengths and passions are.



### Year 9 Curriculum

#### Full year

Aotearoa Histories | English | Health & PE  
Mathematics | Science | Technology

#### Semester

Te Reo Māori

Selected Language

Visual Art | Music | Drama

Drama Festival (2 wks at the end of the year)

#### Supported Learning

Integrated Studies (by invitation only)

See Page 15 for information on how we assess at Years 9 - 11



# Middle Curriculum

## Years 10 and 11

**Year Level:** 10 and 11 (Middle School)

**Focus:** Choice and Challenge

**Assessment:** Learning Progression Framework

**Certification:** Wellington College Certificate (awarded at the end of Year 11)

## How do we assess at Years 9 - 11?

### Our Learning Progression Framework

#### WHAT ARE LEARNING PROGRESSIONS?



The level at which a student is demonstrating knowledge or skills, based on the NZ Curriculum



An evaluation of student progress using various modes of learning evidence

Our Learning Progressions provide a structured framework for us to measure academic growth. Teachers provide regular Checkpoints to identify how students are progressing, and provide meaningful feedback for students to improve.

Within each subject, at the end of a phase of learning (ie topic, unit, skill), students will be evaluated using these indicators within their stage: *Emerging*, *Developing*, *Consolidating*, *Proficient*, and *Exceeding*.

Learning Progressions can form part of the picture when students are choosing subjects for next year. You can view your young person's results on the school portal. For more detail about Learning Progressions, and explanations of what each level indicates, please visit the Curriculum section of our website.



**Emerging:** At this level, a student is beginning to grasp basic concepts and skills but may still require significant support and guidance from teachers or parents. They are in the early stages of learning at the curriculum level and are just starting to demonstrate understanding.

**Developing:** Students at the developing level are making progress in understanding concepts and acquiring skills. They may still need some support, but they are becoming more independent in their learning. They are building a foundation of knowledge and skills in the subject area.

**Consolidating:** Students at the consolidating level are demonstrating understanding of concepts and skills most of the time. They may still need some support, but they are becoming more independent in their learning. They are building a foundation of knowledge and skills in the subject area.

**Proficient:** Proficient students have a solid grasp of the subject matter and can apply their knowledge and skills effectively in a variety of contexts. They demonstrate a level of competency that shows they understand the material and can work independently with minimal support.

**Exceeding:** Students at the advancing level are demonstrating mastery of the material and are able to extend their learning beyond the basic concepts. They demonstrate a deeper understanding of the subject matter and can think critically, analyse information, and solve complex problems. They are continually improving and expanding their skills and knowledge.

# Certification: Wellington College Certificate

## Recognition of Academic Effort and Participation (Years 10 - 11)

The Wellington College Certificate is a two year academic programme in Years 10 and 11. It offers a wide range of curriculum knowledge and skills enabling students to begin shaping their individual paths.

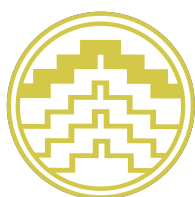
As students move into this next phase of academic growth, they will be met with new choices and new challenges. The Wellington College Certificate programme is designed to support students as they begin determining their pathway and making choices that follow their strengths and their dreams for the future.

Students are supported to consider what subjects they require for their chosen pathway and back-map in order to select the subjects that will set them up for success. If a student does not yet know their pathway, we recommend a broad selection to keep options open.



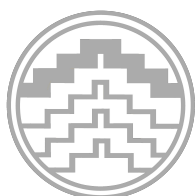
The **Pounamu** Certificate is the highest certificate and is awarded to students who demonstrate effort '**Consistently**' across their subjects.

Students must participate in 3 co-curricular activities/groups, and at least two must be from different domains



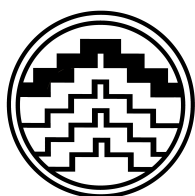
The **Gold** Certificate is awarded to students who demonstrate effort between '**Mostly**' and '**Consistently**' across their subjects.

Students must participate in 2 co-curricular activities/groups which must be from different domains



The **Silver** Certificate is awarded to students who demonstrate effort '**Mostly**' across their subjects.

Students must participate in any 2 co-curricular activities/groups



The **Black and White** Certificate is awarded to students who demonstrate effort '**Sometimes**' across their subjects. We recognise academic growth in all its forms. This certificate indicates that while there is room for improvement, this student is willing to grow academically and contribute to wider school life through participation in at least 1 co-curricular activity/group.

## Going into Years 10 - 11?

### How to choose subjects

$$\text{Interest} + \text{Ability} + \text{Occupation} \\ = \text{SUBJECT CHOICE}$$

#### IF I AM **NOT SURE** ABOUT MY FUTURE CAREER OR PATHWAY...

Think about what you enjoy. This could be activities, aspects of subjects or learning areas, for example:

- I really enjoy Social Studies
- I like analysing graphs and data
- I enjoy working with tools
- I like doing experiments

#### IF I **KNOW** MY CAREER PLAN OR PATHWAY...

Back plan:

- What career opportunities are there?
- What qualifications do I need?
- Where can I study for this - which institutions?
- What are the entry requirements for courses?
- What courses would I need to take in Year 13, 12, 11...

Use these websites to find out where these interests could take you:

Careers NZ - [Skill Matcher](#)

Careers NZ - [Subject Matcher](#)

### **PLAN your pathway and keep options open**

**Don't** choose a subject just because you like the teacher, or because your friends are doing it.

Students at any year level can book an appointment with the Careers Adviser.



## WC Y10 Courses

All Year 10 students must study the following compulsory full-year subjects

|                               |              |            |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| English                       | Mathematics* | Science*   |
| Health and Physical Education |              | Technology |

\*A small number of Year 10 students will be invited to study Maths or Science at an advanced level. More information about this on the next page.

In addition, it is compulsory for Year 10 students to study Arts, Social Sciences and Languages. Students can select from within the following options:

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>ARTS</b><br/>(select ONE full year course)</p> <p>Visual Arts<br/>Drama<br/>Music Rock Band<br/>Music General</p> | <p><b>SOCIAL SCIENCES</b><br/>(select TWO half-year courses)</p> <p>Commerce<br/>Geography<br/>History</p> | <p><b>LANGUAGES</b><br/>(select ONE full-year course)</p> <p>Chinese<br/>French<br/>German<br/>Japanese<br/>Spanish<br/>Te Reo Māori<br/>Samoan<br/>English Language</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### SUPPORTED LEARNING

Students may be invited to **Integrated Studies** (full-year in place of a language) OR **Literacy** (half-year in place of one Social Science option)

Please note that suitability for a course is at the discretion of the Head of Department / Learning Area Leader  
All courses are subject to sufficient student numbers and available staffing. The range may change from year to year.

# WC Accelerated Program

**At the end of Year 9, selected students may be invited to study Mathematics and/or Science at an accelerated level.** Selection is based on a rigorous process that considers a wide range of evidence, including standardised test scores, learning progressions, and teacher observations over the year. Students and their whānau will be contacted via email by the relevant Head of Department, typically in November.

## How does it work?

Students may study Mathematics or Science, or both, at an accelerated level. In Year 10, these students will be placed in a class with their peers, all working together through an advanced curriculum. These students are not skipping a year of learning, but will be covering two years' worth of content in one. By the end of Year 10, they will be prepared to sit NCEA Level 2 the following year, one year earlier than usual. It is important to note that when studying Level 2 as Year 11 students, they will be in classes alongside students who are a year older.

## Why should I consider acceleration for my young person?

- It can keep highly capable students motivated and engaged, and provide a great challenge.
- It enables students to move more quickly through content and reach higher-level qualifications earlier (e.g., NCEA Levels or University Entrance).
- It can free up time in senior years for scholarship study, multi-disciplinary focus, or university courses while still at school.
- Students may be accepted to study Cambridge Mathematics.

## Are there any disadvantages or other considerations?

- In Year 11, students may feel out of place in a class with older students.
- For some students, the added challenge can occasionally feel overwhelming, particularly if they put pressure on themselves to prove they belong in the accelerated class.
- To be successful, students require maturity, organisation, and independent learning habits
- Accelerated courses involve a faster pace and additional workload, which can sometimes make it more challenging to balance other commitments.
- Students need to be aware of [NZQA's guidelines for multi-level study](#)

## Can my young person leave the accelerated program or repeat a course?

You could decide not to continue with acceleration at any stage. However, please note that in the senior school, students are generally not able to repeat a subject the following year unless there is a clear and approved reason.

## Long-Term Planning

Students should have some idea of what their programme will look like in their final year of school. They will still be expected to have a full timetable, although this might include Scholarship, University study, workplace learning or secondary-tertiary papers. As above, they will not be able to repeat Level 2 or 3 courses without a clear and approved reason.

## What other enrichment and extension activities are available?

There are plenty of opportunities outside of the accelerated programme for students to challenge themselves. They might consider entering for an NZQA Scholarship, joining a STEM-related club or competition, or taking part in a co-curricular performance group such as drama, music, or kapa haka.

The school also offers opportunities to complete university papers, engage in workplace learning, participate in secondary-tertiary programmes, or explore specialist interests not covered by the standard curriculum - such as aviation, tourism, or the motor industry - you can contact the Careers & Transition team about this.

# WC Y11 Courses

All Year 11 students must study the following compulsory full-year subjects

|                                                         |                                              |                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>English</b><br><i>(three courses to choose from)</i> | <b>Mathematics</b><br><i>(three courses)</i> | <b>Science</b><br><i>(general Science)</i> |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|

You will select **THREE** options:

|                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ARTS</b><br>Dance<br>Drama<br>Music<br>Concept Art & Design<br>Photography&Sculpture<br>Painting & Drawing | <b>SCIENCE</b><br><i>Only one can be selected, and is studied <b>in addition</b> to general Science</i><br><br>Biology<br>Physics<br>Space & Rocket<br><br><i>These are optional. Note that the only required prior learning for Level 2 Science is the general Y11 course.</i> | <b>LANGUAGES</b><br><br>Chinese<br>English Language<br>French<br>German<br>Samoan<br>Spanish<br>Te Reo Māori                    | <p>Please check the online course info for additional restrictions.</p> <p>Sports Academy is by application only.</p> <p>You can find the form on School Bridge.</p> |
| <b>SOCIAL SCIENCES</b><br><br>History<br>Geography<br>Commerce                                                | <b>SUPPORTED LEARNING</b><br><br>Integrated studies<br>Learning Support                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>TECHNOLOGY</b><br><i>Up to two can be selected</i><br><br>Materials Technology<br>Design & Visual Tech<br>Digital Technology | <b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION &amp; HEALTH</b><br><br>Exercise & Sport Science<br>Health<br>Sports Academy                                                                   |

Please note that suitability for a course is at the discretion of the Head of Department / Learning Area Leader  
All courses are subject to sufficient student numbers and available staffing. The range may change from year to year.

## A NOTE FOR ACCELERATED STUDENTS

Students who were accelerated in Science or Mathematics while in Year 10 will need to select a total of **5 subjects** including selections from **Level 2 Sciences** and **Mathematics**.

Year 11 English remains compulsory.

We strongly recommend a meeting with your Dean or Careers Advisor to discuss your future programme, particularly in Year 13.



# Senior Curriculum

## Years 12 and 13

**Year Level:** 12 and 13 (Senior School)

**Focus:** Excellence and Self-Determination

**Assessment:** NCEA

**Certification:** NCEA Level 2 or NCEA Level 3

# Senior Assessment

## National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA)

At Wellington College, we offer NCEA Levels 2 and 3. Students typically sit NCEA Level 2 in Year 12, and NCEA Level 3 in Year 13.



### HOW DOES NCEA WORK ?

Every course is divided into topics which are assessed by standards. The standard will specify exactly what the student needs to do to pass, which earns credits towards NCEA. Some standards may be worth more credits than others.

All courses offer a minimum of 14 credits.

To gain a Level 2 or 3 NCEA certificate, a student needs:

- 60 credits at that level or above
- to meet the Literacy and Numeracy requirements (students only need to do this once)

If students gain more than 50 credits at Merit or Excellence level, they can gain a certificate endorsement.

### WHAT ARE INTERNALS AND EXTERNALS?

Standards might be **internally** or **externally** assessed.

**Internal assessments** happen in class throughout the year. They take various forms such as an essay, a project, a seminar, an experiment, a report, or a tests.

**External assessments** are typically a three-hour formal exam which happens at the end of the year (some subjects instead have a portfolio, such as Visual Arts and Technology. Digital Technology has an external exam in the middle of the year)

### TOP TIP

Different students do well with different types of assessment. Your young person may be best suited to a course which only has internal assessments, or they might prefer exams.

THERE ARE FOUR  
POSSIBLE LEVELS  
OF RESULT FOR  
AN ACHIEVEMENT  
STANDARD:

**Achieved (A)** for  
a satisfactory  
performance

**Merit (M)** for  
very good  
performance

**Excellence (E)**  
for outstanding  
performance

**Not achieved  
(N)** if students  
do not meet the  
criteria of the  
standard



## WHAT ABOUT THE LITERACY AND NUMERACY CO-REQUISITE?

All students must pass the Co-Requisite in order to be awarded an NCEA certificate

The Co-Requisite tests functional Literacy and Numeracy.

At Wellington College, students first attempt the Numeracy and Reading Co-Requisite Assessment (CAA) in Year 10, and sit the Writing assessment in Year 11.

If your young person is starting Year 12 and has not yet passed the Co-Requisite, don't worry. They can still earn and bank NCEA credits, and then once they have met the requirements they will be awarded their NCEA certificate. The flexibility of NCEA allows this to happen at different times for different students.

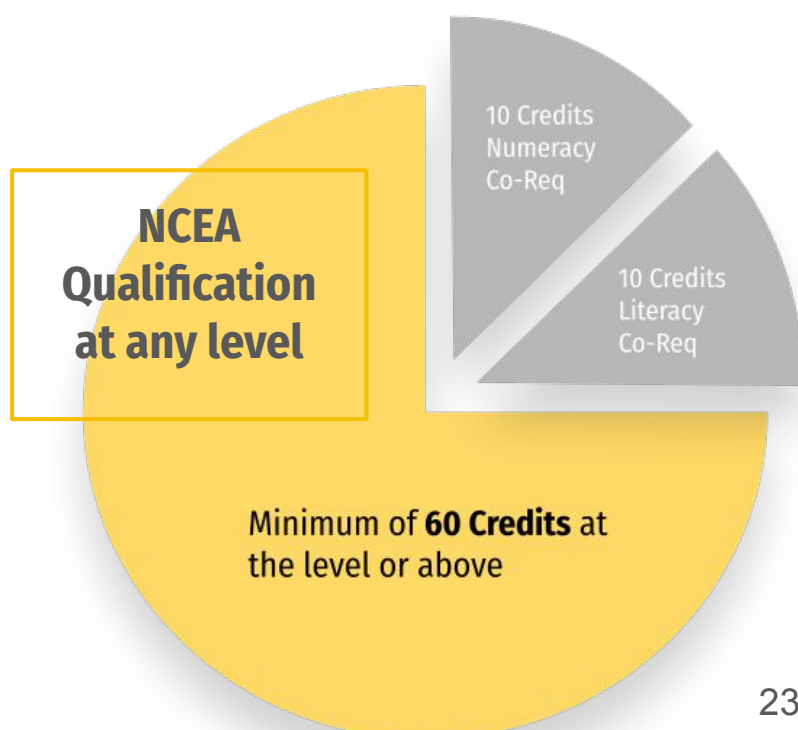
Students can re-attempt the tests as many times as they need to, and there are lots of supports we can offer.

### What does co-requisite mean?

This qualification sits next to NCEA.

All students require 5 reading, 5 writing, and 10 numeracy credits which do not count towards the 60 credits required to pass NCEA.

These are gained through external NCEA exams from Year 10 onwards.



## Hoea tō waka, whāia ngā whētū

### Planning your pathway

Our Careers & Transition department have a range of programmes to prepare students for work and further education. These include Gateway, Pathways, Brew Cafe, Wellington Trades Academy, and programmes which enable Year 12 and 13 students to complete tertiary papers. We are able to create bespoke programmes to meet individual needs.

Students and parents are encouraged to book an appointment with one of our Careers Advisers to assist you in finding your ideal pathway and plan your next steps.



### PLANNING ON UNIVERSITY IN NEW ZEALAND?

University Entrance (UE) is the **minimum** requirement to go to a New Zealand University.

60 Credits at  
Level 3  
or above



Of that 60, 14  
credits from each  
of three different  
approved Level 3  
subjects

*Note - these CAN be the same  
credits used in the 60 for L3*



10 approved  
Literacy credits  
at Level 2 or  
above  
5 in reading  
5 in writing



Co-requisite  
Literacy and  
Numeracy

*Note - students who gained  
Literacy and Numeracy in 2023  
or prior have met these  
requirements*

**Check that your subjects are UE approved**

Note that some programmes and universities have additional requirements

# Planning your pathway

## Useful websites

Career Services

New Zealand qualifications

Scholarships

Tertiary Study Providers (trades, arts, industries)

StudyLink (Student Loans NZ)

### New Zealand Universities

Auckland University of Technology

Lincoln University

Massey University

University of Auckland

University of Canterbury

University of Otago

University of Waikato

Victoria University of Wellington

### Wānanga

Te Wānanga o Aotearoa

Te Wānanga o Raukawa

Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi

### Polytechnics

ARA Institute of Canterbury

Eastern Institute of Technology

Manukau Institute of Technology

Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology

Northland Polytechnic - Auckland campus

Open Polytechnic

Otago Polytechnic

Southern Institute of Technology

Tai Poutini Polytechnic

Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology

Unitec New Zealand

Universal College of Learning

Waikato Institute of Technology

Wellington Institute of Technology

Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki

Whitireia New Zealand

[www.tahatu.govt.nz](http://www.tahatu.govt.nz)

[www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications)

[www.moneyhub.co.nz/scholarships-nz.html](http://www.moneyhub.co.nz/scholarships-nz.html)

[www.nzqa.govt.nz](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz)

[www.studylink.govt.nz](http://www.studylink.govt.nz)

[www.aut.ac.nz](http://www.aut.ac.nz)

[www.lincoln.ac.nz](http://www.lincoln.ac.nz)

[www.massey.ac.nz](http://www.massey.ac.nz)

[www.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.auckland.ac.nz)

[www.canterbury.ac.nz](http://www.canterbury.ac.nz)

[www.otago.ac.nz](http://www.otago.ac.nz)

[www.waikato.ac.nz](http://www.waikato.ac.nz)

[www.wgtn.ac.nz](http://www.wgtn.ac.nz)

[www.twoa.ac.nz](http://www.twoa.ac.nz)

[www.wananga.com](http://www.wananga.com)

[www.wananga.ac.nz](http://www.wananga.ac.nz)

[www.ara.ac.nz](http://www.ara.ac.nz)

[www.eit.ac.nz](http://www.eit.ac.nz)

[www.manukau.ac.nz](http://www.manukau.ac.nz)

[www.nmit.ac.nz](http://www.nmit.ac.nz)

[www.northtec.ac.nz](http://www.northtec.ac.nz)

[www.openpolytechnic.ac.nz](http://www.openpolytechnic.ac.nz)

[www.op.ac.nz](http://www.op.ac.nz)

[www.sit.ac.nz](http://www.sit.ac.nz)

[www.tpp.ac.nz](http://www.tpp.ac.nz)

[www.toiohohmai.ac.nz](http://www.toiohohmai.ac.nz)

[www.unitec.ac.nz](http://www.unitec.ac.nz)

[www.ucol.ac.nz](http://www.ucol.ac.nz)

[www.wintec.ac.nz](http://www.wintec.ac.nz)

[www.whitireiaweltec.ac.nz](http://www.whitireiaweltec.ac.nz)

[www.witt.ac.nz](http://www.witt.ac.nz)

[www.whitireiaweltec.ac.nz](http://www.whitireiaweltec.ac.nz)

## Year 12 next year?

### How to choose subjects

---

Students have been given a comprehensive workbook to help them choose their Year 12 subjects. Ask your young person to show you their progress.

Some good questions to ask include:

- Do the subjects you have chosen reflect your interests, aspirations and strengths?
- Do the subjects you have chosen allow you to continue with possible subject choices in subsequent years?
- Do the subjects you have chosen keep career pathways open to you?
- Do the subjects you have chosen enable you to gain entry to further study or the pathways you want to explore?

*Please note - All courses are subject to sufficient student numbers and available staffing. The range may change from year to year. Admission is at the discretion of the HOD.*



# WC Y12 Courses



Year 12 students study SIX subjects.

All Year 12 subjects offer a minimum of 14 NCEA credits.

Note that many subjects can be studied for the first time at Year 12. Entry is at the discretion of the Head of Department.

**All Year 12 students must study at least one of:**

**ENGLISH** (four possible courses to choose from) **and/or TE REO MĀORI**

**Then choose FIVE from the following options:**

*(You can choose more than one from each Learning Area. See the website for any exclusions)*

## ARTS

Dance  
Drama  
Contemporary Music  
Music  
Art History  
Visual Arts - Design  
Visual Arts - Photography  
Visual Arts - Painting

## LANGUAGES

Chinese  
English Language  
French  
Japanese  
German  
Samoan  
Spanish  
Te Reo Māori

## HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exercise & Sport Science  
Health  
Performance Physical Education  
Sports Academy (*application required*)

## TECHNOLOGY

Materials Technology  
Design and Visual Technology  
Digital Tech Game Development  
Digital Technology Science  
Construction

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

History  
Geography  
Business Studies  
Economics  
Classical Studies  
Media Studies

## SUPPORTED LEARNING

Integrated Studies  
Learning Support (*By invitation only*)

## MATHEMATICS

Mathematics with Calculus  
Mathematics with Statistics  
Mathematics Internal  
Mathematics for Pathways  
Calculus and Cambridge A-Level (*By invitation only*)

## SCIENCE

General Science  
Human Biology  
Biology  
Physics  
Chemistry

## PATHWAYS

Pathways

Students can find more detailed course information on our website and School Bridge

## Year 13 next year?

### How to choose subjects

---

Students have been given a comprehensive workbook to help them choose their Year 13 subjects. Ask your young person to show you their progress.

If your young person is thinking about tertiary study, check that their courses will give them **UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE**.

*We suggest no fewer than **FOUR U.E. approved subjects** if this is their pathway. Also, check that they have U.E. Literacy (5 Reading + 5 Writing credits from specific standards)*

*University Entrance is only the minimum requirement. All universities have some additional requirements for specific courses - check individual websites for information.*

### IF YOUR CHILD IS **NOT SURE** ABOUT THEIR FUTURE CAREER OR PATHWAY...

- Do the subjects you have chosen reflect your interests, skills, aspirations and strengths?
- Do the subjects you have chosen keep career pathways open to you?
- Do the subjects you have chosen enable you to gain entry to further study or the pathways you want to explore?
- What skills would you like to further develop: critical thinking? Time/self-management? Working with others?

Remember there are many subjects that can be selected for the first time at Y13

### IF THEY **KNOW** THEIR CAREER PLAN OR PATHWAY...

- Subject requirements for relevant courses and qualifications?
- Where can you get the training and qualifications?
- What are the specific entry requirements for any training programme and/or qualifications?
- Does your planned course beyond school require University Entrance?

*Please note that suitability for a course is at the discretion of the Head of Department / Learning Area Leader*

*All courses are subject to sufficient student numbers and available staffing. The range may change from year to year.*



# WC Y13 Courses

Many subjects can be studied for the first time in Year 13. Please note that suitability for any course is at the discretion of the Head of Department.



There are no compulsory subjects at Year 13. Students can choose 5 (+ study) or 6 subjects.

|                     |                         |                      |                             |                         |                                                     |                                                      |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Accounting          | Biology                 | Business Studies     | Chemistry                   | Chinese                 | Classical Studies                                   | Coding for Engineering<br><i>Only as 6th subject</i> |
| Construction        | Dance                   | Design               | Design and Visual Tech      | Digital Tech Game Dvlpt | Digital Tech Science                                | Drama                                                |
| Economics           | English with Philosophy | English Unbound      | English Sci-Fi & Sociology  | English Keeping it Real | English Heroes & Antiheroes                         | Eng Literature through the Ages                      |
| English Lang (ESOL) | French                  | Geography            | German                      | Health                  | History                                             | History with University                              |
| Japanese            | Contemporary Music      | Materials Technology | Math199 (Uni of Canterbury) | Mathematics             | Mathematics with Calculus                           | Mathematics with Statistics                          |
| Media Studies       | Music                   | Painting             | Pathways                    | Photography             | Performance Physical Educ                           | Exercise & Sport Science                             |
| Physics             | Politics                | Samoan               | Science                     | Spanish                 | <i>Sports Academy</i><br><i>Only as 6th subject</i> | Te Reo Māori                                         |

*Entry into selected courses is not guaranteed. All courses are subject to sufficient student numbers and available staffing.*

## UNIVERSITY STAR PROGRAMME

Students can complete first-year degree-level university papers in a range of possible subjects. STAR courses give high school students the chance to experience what it's like studying at university, get a headstart on their tertiary studies, and meet with other like-minded students from other schools.

These include, but are not limited to Cybersecurity, Computer Program Design, Criminal Justice, Microeconomics, and Treaty of Waitangi relations. Note that there are limited funded spots. Register your interest with Mr Davidson [h.davidson@wc.school.nz](mailto:h.davidson@wc.school.nz).



## **WHAT IS NZ SCHOLARSHIP?**

Wellington College has a proud tradition of success in NZ Scholarship, a series of demanding assessments which provide monetary reward and recognition to just the top 2-3% of candidates nationwide.

## **WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?**

At Wellington College, we run an open and inclusive school-wide Scholarship programme in which the intellectual and collegial experience is front and centre. Scholarship candidates are expected to demonstrate high-level critical thinking, abstraction and generalisation, and to integrate, synthesise and apply knowledge, skills, understanding, and ideas to complex situations.

## **WHO CAN ENROL?**

Scholarship classes usually run outside the school timetable. Entry is open to candidates from any year level, but it is most commonly sat in Year 12 and 13. Assessment is by either a written/spoken examination or by the submission of a portfolio or report of work produced throughout the year.

Please note that there is no derived grade process for Scholarship and it does not generate credits.

*If you are interested in entering for Scholarship in any subject, contact Ms Lendrum*  
[l.lendrum@wc.school.nz](mailto:l.lendrum@wc.school.nz)