



INTEGRITY



MANAAKITANGA



EXCELLENCE

YEAR 12 IN 2026 (YEAR 13 IN 2027)

PATHWAYS AND PROGRESS WORKBOOK

*"...Choose the enabling subjects, the ones that will keep the doors of opportunity open."
(Dr Alan Finkel)*



Welcome to our Pathways and Progress Workbook

Nau mai, haere mai to our Pathways and Progress Workbook.

At Wellington College, we want to support you to be successful, both now and in the future. Success means leaving school with the qualifications, skills, and confidence you need to follow your chosen pathway, whether that leads to further study, training, or employment. Just as importantly, we want to empower you to make informed decisions about what success looks like for you, and to celebrate with you as you achieve your goals.

This booklet will guide you through two important processes:

- **Reflecting on your progress** in preparation for your upcoming tutor conference, and
- **Making thoughtful and well-informed subject choices** for next year.

You'll be encouraged to consider your strengths, interests, motivations, and aspirations. Choosing the right subjects is not just about what you're good at. It's also about what excites you, what challenges you, and what sets you up for the future you want.

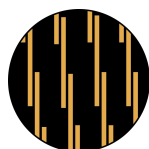
Remember, you don't have to make these decisions alone. Your Tutor Teacher, Dean, subject teachers, Heads of Department, Careers Advisers, and the Strategic Leadership Team are all here to support you. Make the most of their advice, and take time to talk things through with your whānau.

We also encourage you to continue making the most of the many opportunities available at Wellington College, in the classroom and beyond. Whether you're contributing through leadership, sport, service, the arts, or other cultural pursuits, next year is your opportunity to step up, challenge yourself, and give your full commitment to everything you do.

We wish you a happy, fulfilling, and successful 2027.

Hei konā mai,

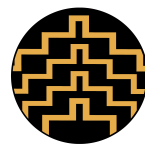
The Wellington College Strategic Leadership Team



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EXCELLENCE



ABOUT THIS GUIDE:

Choosing your subjects is exciting. Many students can feel pressure to make the 'right' choice, and with a large number of different things to consider, it can feel overwhelming.

This guide will help you through the process step-by-step

"...Choose the enabling subjects, the ones that will keep the doors of opportunity open."
(Dr Alan Finkel)

You should edit and write on the pages where you see this symbol. Other pages might just have information for your reference

If you prefer to handwrite, you might like to print a copy of this booklet



The Golden Rules of Subject Selection

The most important thing, is you need to **PLAN**.

- 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?

Don't:

- Make a rushed decision
- Base your decision on what your friends are doing
- Select a subject because you think it might be "fun" or "easy"

Finally, get help from other people. You can talk to the Careers Advisor, significant adults and trusted friends.

It's possible that at the end of this you won't know exactly what you want to do, and that's ok. The best thing you can do is make choices that keep as many options open to you as possible.

LET'S START WITH GOAL SETTING

Before we set off on a journey, it's helpful to know what the destination might look like. Before you pick your subjects, we're going to work through some goal setting exercises to help you work out what you really like, and connect that with possible future careers.

By the end of this section you'll have more of an idea of where you want to go, which will make choosing subjects a bit easier.

Here are some examples of goals you could choose:

SOME EXAMPLES

**Help others with their
mental health**

**Work with
children and
young people**

**Start a career
in the creative
arts**

**Protect the planet
as a
conservationist**

**Enjoy a career in
the food industry**

**Start my own
business**

**Start a career in the
space industry**

**Solve complex
problems through
technology**

**Lead and inspire
others**



WHAT DO YOU ENJOY?



For our first activity, we're going to think about your interests. Connecting the things you enjoy with study and career can make it feel more enjoyable and fulfilling

What are some of the things you enjoy the most? List as many as you can:

Do your interests have an overarching theme? If so, what is it:

Did you list lots of things you enjoy, or just a few:

- ☐ Heaps ☐ Some ☐ Not many

MOTIVATION

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU?

CHOOSE YOUR #1 MOTIVATING FACTOR

I want to achieve my potential, and I'm driven to be the best version of myself. I love beating my personal bests and look for meaning in what I do

Personal

Social

I love being included and want to fit in. I like being recognised for my achievements and receiving awards. I often seek approval from others.

I want to create a better world and help others. I like being useful and feel good when people thank me for my help. I look for ways to improve things

Community

Lifestyle

I want to make enough money to buy the things I want, and have time for the things I love. I balance study with other things like sport or time with friends

I want to make sure I can get a job that earns a good income, and I've thought about where I'm going to live and how I'll get money once I leave home

Practical

My motivation factor is: (select one)...



WHAT ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

TAKE A LOOK AT THE GROUPS OF THINGS AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE MOST INTERESTED IN

Science
Nature
Climate
Animals
Oceans

Collaboration
Social Media
Motivating
Teamwork
Managing

Exploring
Outdoors
Activity
Travel
Sports

Negotiating
Budgeting
Business
Finance
Money

Creativity
Design
Events
Dance
Arts

Numbers
Analytics
Statistics
Maths
Data

Geography
Learning
History
Politics
Law

Construction
Architecture
Machines
Buildings
Robots

Technology
Computers
Software
Coding
AI

Biology
Anatomy
Caring
Health

Self-care
Wellbeing
Fashion
Beauty



TE KĀRETI TAMATĀNE O TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA
WELLINGTON COLLEGE
Founded 1867



RECEIVE THE LIGHT AND PASS IT ON
TIAHO TE AO, TIAHO TE AO MĀRAMA

Write down your favourites, as well as anything else we might have missed:



WHAT'S IN YOUR FUTURE?



What sort of future do you see for yourself? Have you thought about it before? Thinking through possibilities can help you work out which ones you actually want, and which ones can stay in your imagination.

In two years from now I will be...

☐

Studying

☐

Working

☐

Travelling

In five years from now I will be...

☐

Studying

☐

Working

☐

Travelling

In ten years from now I will be...

☐

Studying

☐

Working

☐

Travelling

GOAL REFINEMENT



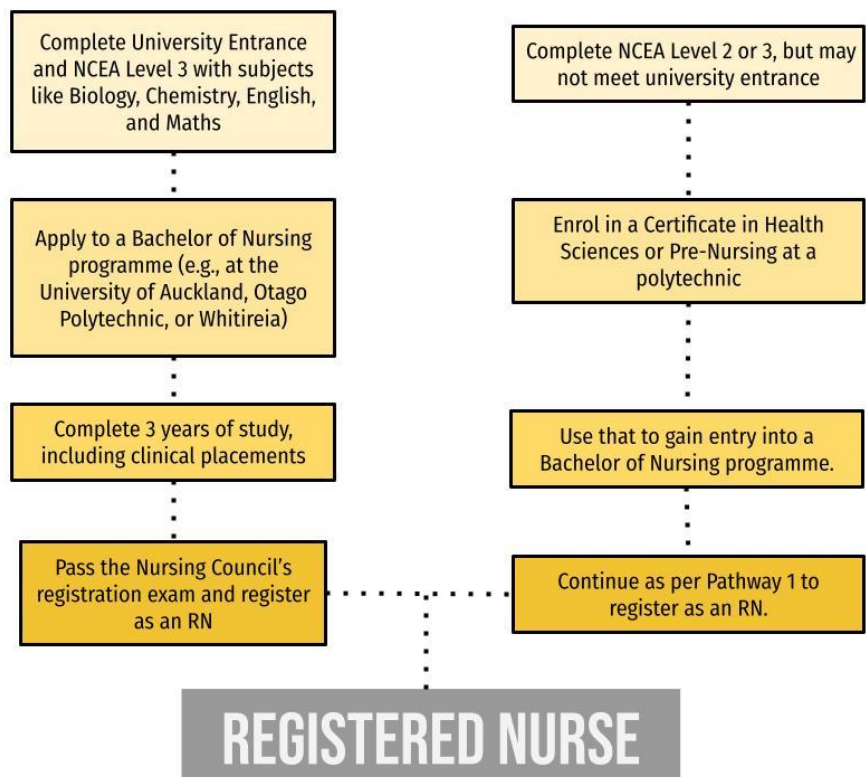
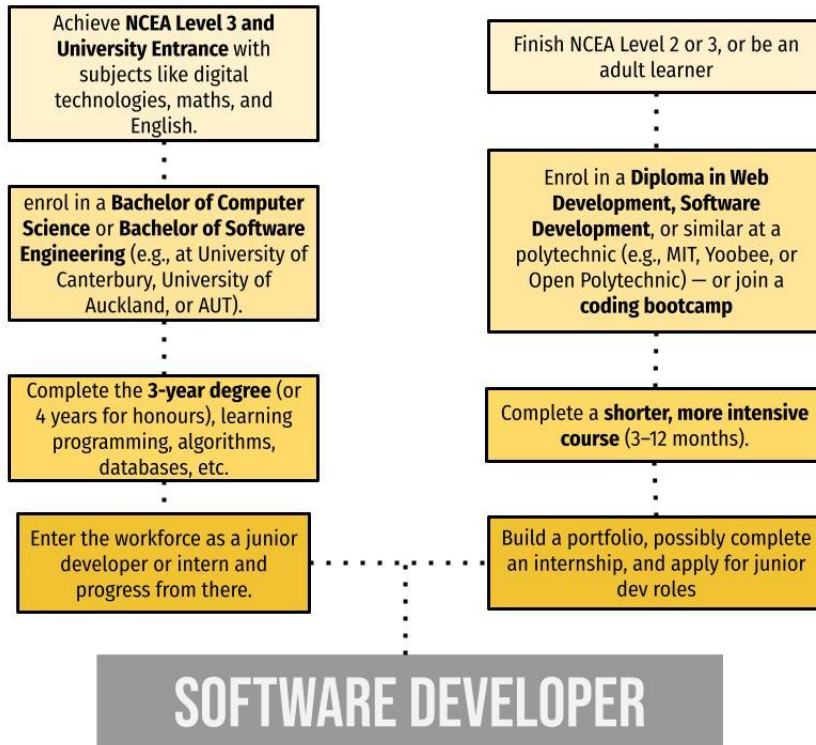
Use this page to help you find and refine your career related goals - we'll use these to help guide your subject choices

Goals:	How much do you want it?	Is it achievable?	Does it match your motivations?
1.	/10		
2.	/10		
3.	/10		
4.	/10		
5.	/10		
6.	/10		

Now you've thought about your goals, get rid of any that don't score highly - it's best to get down to just one or two main goals going forward (and remember you can always change these later)

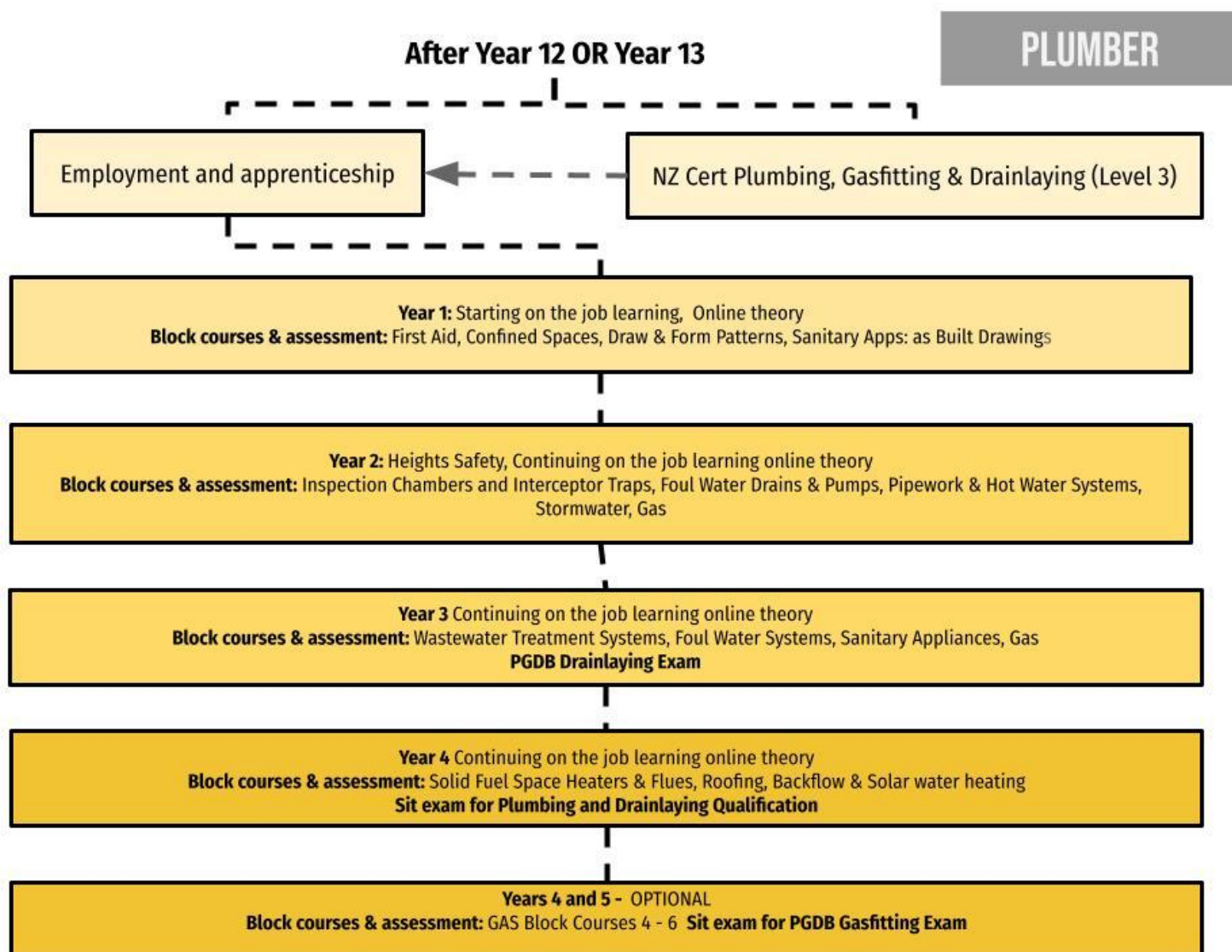
PATHWAYS

There are many paths you can take to every career - and it's ok not to take the straightest one. Here are two possibilities for different careers:



PATHWAYS CONTINUED

Trades are often seen as an “easy” path, but the reality is quite the opposite. They require skill, commitment, and years of training and on-the-job learning to master. Like any profession, they demand intelligence, problem-solving, and hard work. Here is an example of the route to becoming a registered plumber.



Talk to the Careers and Transition team if you are interested in pursuing a pathway that is not covered by our traditional subjects.

YOUR PATHWAYS



Pick your top two career related goals. Do some research if necessary, and follow the steps to create two possible pathways for each

Goal One:

☐

Requires NCEA Level _____

☐

Requires a university qualification

☐

Requires other post-qualification training

Plan A:

Plan B:

Goal Two:

☐

Requires NCEA Level _____

☐

Requires a university qualification

☐

Requires other post-qualification training

Plan A:

Plan B:

PREPARE TO SELECT YOUR SUBJECTS

By now, you should know a bit more about where you want to go, as well as have some ideas about how you're going to get there. There are a few things to read, grab and identify so let's get that sorted first:

1

Gather the things you need - your computer, working subject list (on the next page), and the Course Selection website.

2

Read through the instructions.

How many subjects do you need to pick?

3

Identify any compulsory subjects.

Write these on your working subject list and tick 'compulsory'

Then continue with the rest of the activities. Keep adjusting the working subjects list as needed.

WORKING SUBJECT LIST



WORKING SUBJECT LIST

Subject <i>Include Learning Area and Code</i>	Compulsory	I'm good at it	I enjoy it	It gives me variety	Recommended for my pathway	Is a UE approved Course	UE Literacy credits	TOTAL	RANK



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 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 A DEGREE 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

How does assessment work in Years 12 and 13?

Understanding NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement)

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.)

TOP TIP

Different students do well with different types of assessment. You may be best suited to a course which only has internal assessments, or you might prefer exams, or a mixture.

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

UE, PREREQUISITE SUBJECTS AND RANK SCORES

University Entrance (UE) enables you to enrol in a degree at a university or other tertiary provider. *For UE you need NCEA Level 3, UE Literacy, and a minimum of 14 credits in **3 UE approved subjects**. You can check in our course guide which subjects are UE approved - it can help to have taken these subjects in Year 12 as well as Year 13, but this is not always essential.*

Some tertiary institutions have prerequisites or recommended subjects for particular qualifications. If you think you might want to study a degree, check the recommended prior learning. A common one is a requirement that you pass an English-rich subject at Level 3.

Some universities use a **Rank Score** to prioritise students where courses are limited entry. It is calculated from a student's 80 best NCEA Level 3 credits - check individual courses and universities for more information.

Unless you are absolutely certain which institution you wish to attend, and which qualification you want to pursue, make sure you keep your options open!



Are you considering any careers that require a degree?



Yes - Do some research



No - move on to the next section

What about Science?

Science is needed for many pathways like Health, Engineering, Trades, and Technology. Be aware that dropping it now can limit your ability to take subjects like Biology, Chemistry, or Physics later. Speak to your Science teacher if you think you might need some support - there are a range of Science courses to choose from.

What about Mathematics?

Maths skills are needed for careers in Science, Health, Engineering, Business, Art, Design, Architecture, and trades like Plumbing, Building, and Electrical. It builds problem-solving skills and keeps your future options open. Support is available if you need it.

Choose subjects you enjoy



There can be a link between doing something you enjoy and how much effort you put in. Choosing subjects you like can help you stay motivated, on track, and do your best work.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| ☐ Digital Tech | ☐ Materials Tech | ☐ DVC |
| ☐ Science | ☐ English | ☐ Mathematics |
| ☐ Health | ☐ Physical Education | ☐ Languages |
| ☐ Music | ☐ Drama | ☐ Visual Arts |
| ☐ History | ☐ Geography | ☐ Commerce |
| ☐ Classics | ☐ Politics | ☐ Religious studies |

THINK TWICE!

If you **only** like it because you like the teacher, or because your friends are taking it, think twice before adding it to your list.

If you can see yourself using it in your career, consider adding it to your list

WHAT SUBJECTS ARE YOU GOOD AT?

Choosing subjects you are good at can also make an impact. If you do consistently well in a subject, even if you can't see how it could relate to a career right now, it might be a good idea to add it to the mix, especially if it might help you get an endorsement or strong rank score.

Not only will you be building on your previous success, you'll give yourself a good chance of improving your final results. Look at your Learning Progressions and your Check and Reflect.



Choose your THREE best subjects:

	What went well:	Even better if:
Subject 1:		
Subject 2:		
Subject 3:		

Look at your top 3 subjects. If you enjoy them, and you think you can keep up your marks, add them to the list.

You might also like to consider the number of credits on offer, especially if you are aiming for a subject or certificate endorsement or rank score.

NCEA PROGRESS

Look at your Check and Reflect, and your results on the portal.

- Are you on track to get 60 Level 3 credits?

Yes

☐

No

☐

- Have you met the Literacy and Numeracy Co-Requisite?

Yes

☐

No

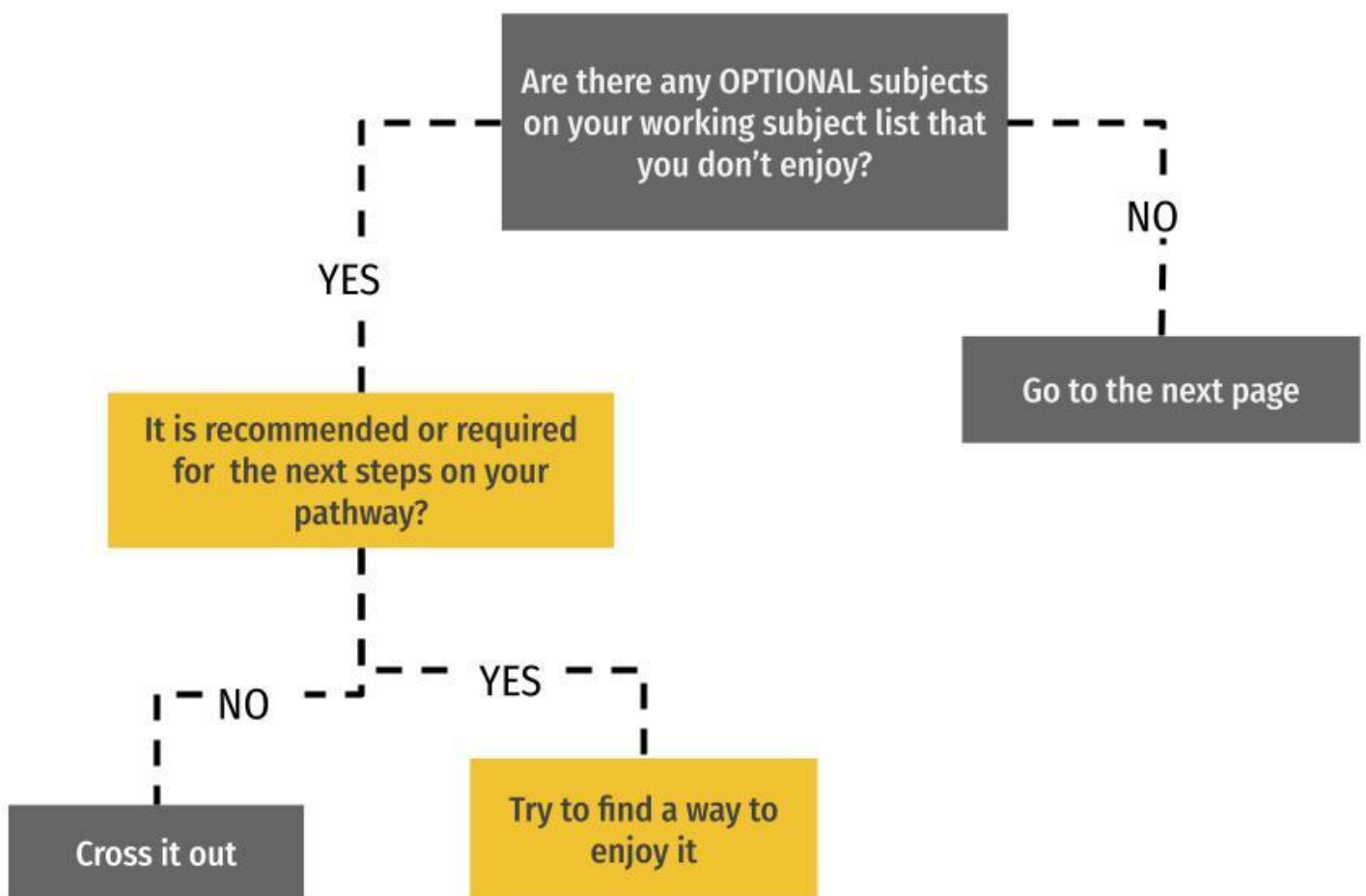
☐

If you ticked 'NO' above - what are you going to do differently? Think about who you can connect with for support - your tutor, dean or subject teachers are a great start.

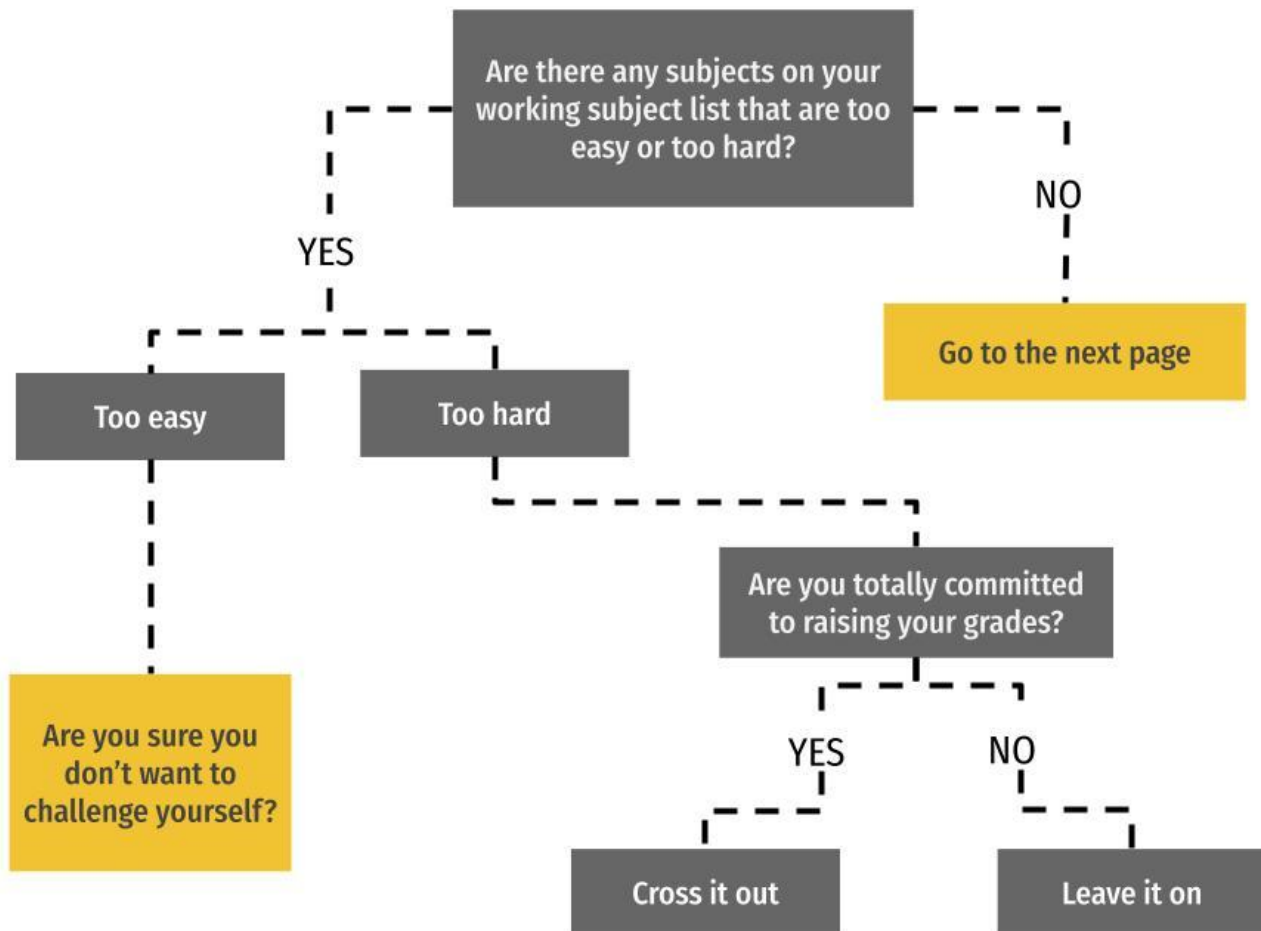
DROP ANY SUBJECTS YOU DON'T LIKE

STOP AND THINK

If, somehow, a subject has made it on to your working list and you really don't like it, then we need to see if we can get rid of it. Follow this process and update your working list:



ARE YOUR SUBJECTS AT THE RIGHT LEVEL?



Remember, there are plenty of ways to challenge yourself or deepen your learning in a subject area. You might consider entering for NZQA Scholarship, getting involved in STEM-related clubs or competitions, or joining a co-curricular performance group like drama, music, or kapa haka. We also have opportunities to complete University papers, workplace learning and also participate secondary-tertiary programmes, or pursue specialist interests that are not part of the school curriculum, including aviation, tourism, or motor industries - talk to the Careers and Transition team about this.

There's also great support available if you're needing a bit of extra help. You could try Peer Tutoring, or see if one of our support or catch-up classes is a good fit for you. In some cases, it might make more sense to take a subject at a different NCEA level, or choose a course that's internally assessed.

Don't be afraid to ask. We're here to help you find the path that works best for you.

RANK YOUR REMAINING SUBJECTS



On your working subject list

It's possible that right now your working subject list is a bit of a mess.

You might have crossed out some subjects, added others, and you might be pretty close to getting the right number and combination.

If you have the right number, stop now and move to the next page. If you don't have enough, go back a few steps and see if you can add some to the mix.

If you have too many, rank them - add up the ticks for each subject and compare them.

AM I GOOD AT IT?



DO I ENJOY IT?



WILL IT CHALLENGE ME?



**DOES IT GIVE ME
VARIETY?**



**DO I NEED IT FOR MY
PATHWAY?**

WHAT'S NEXT?

This process has used logic and your self knowledge to guide choices, but sometimes the best decision is to go what your intuition is telling you. You are the one who'll be studying these subjects, and you need to be comfortable with your choices.

Finalise your subjects by transferring them over to the final list on the last page.

Take a minute to triple check any requirements for your pathway beyond school so you know you're covered!

The due date to submit my subjects **on Career Central** is:



BEFORE you submit your final choices, stick your final list on your wall, somewhere you will see it often. Think about your choices and make any necessary changes.

Seek help from trusted adults - your whānau, teachers, HODs, tutor teachers, Deans and Careers Advisers will all have valuable advice.

FINAL SUBJECT LIST

SUBJECT	Internal credits	External credits



FINAL STEP - ENTER THIS INTO SCHOOL
BRIDGE BY THE DUE DATE