



YEAR 9

CURRICULUM GUIDE



HAMILTON BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM CHOICES

2021



Welcome to Hamilton Boys' High School as a Year 9 student in 2021. One of your first decisions is to choose options from a variety of subjects. This booklet explains what each course covers and should be read **BEFORE** you select your Year 9 options. The last three pages explain how to make your selections online.

LEARNING AREAS IN YEAR 9

The National Curriculum indicates that, in order to gain a general education, students should undertake study in all Eight Learning Areas – English, Languages, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Social Sciences, the Arts, and Health and Physical Education. To achieve this, all students at Hamilton Boys' High School in Year 9 level study the following:

Full Year Compulsory Courses:

English Mathematics Science Social Studies Physical Education

One Semester Compulsory Courses:

Health Future Thinking Aotearoa Studies

A selection of five courses from the Optional Semester Courses:

Art	Arts Academy	Technology Metal	Technology Wood
Drama	Elite Sports	English Language Learning	Food Technology
Graphic Design	German	Horticulture	Information Technology
Chinese-Mandarin	Maori	Music	Music Advanced
Pasifika Language & Culture		Spanish	Reading

CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONAL SEMESTER COURSES IN YEAR 9

In addition to the eight compulsory courses, each Year 9 student needs to choose up to FIVE optional semester courses from different Learning Areas. These provide an introduction to a wide range of subjects, allow students to focus on areas of special interest or strength, and enable students to make considered choices for Year 10. Most of these courses are one semester (term) long, while others (like the languages, Arts Academy and Elite Sports) may last for two semesters (terms). All students need courses that total FIVE semesters.

OPTIONAL SEMESTER COURSES AVAILABLE IN YEAR 9

ART

The Year 9 Art course allows students to experience art-making in the fields of observational drawing, expressive painting, print-making, design and sculpture. Critical appreciation of tradition within the arts allows the student to broaden his understanding of the visual arts and how they fit into today's society.

Parent fee for this course is approximately \$10.00* GST inclusive; additionally, there is a compulsory art pack that needs to be purchased from the school shop. The cost is approximately \$16.00* GST inclusive.

ARTS ACADEMY

This programme allows students with special aptitude in a field of the Arts to explore and develop the skills required in the process of creating a work such as a film, music video, or exhibition. The Academy members are extended through a combination of streaming within option classes, mentoring and co-curricular involvement. Classes will participate in a collaborative project designed to facilitate and extend creative thought and processes. In order to be considered for inclusion in this course, students should have completed the application form as part of the enrolment process.

DRAMA

This course introduces students to the basic skills of performance. It is a practical course that introduces theatre form to students. The theory aspect covers dramatic language, theatre elements and conventions. There is no cost for this course.

ELITE SPORTS

The Year 9 Elite Sport programme allows talented sportsmen and athletes the opportunity to improve themselves further in the sporting arena. The course consists of practical components including regular fitness testing and assessment, fitness training (including speed, strength and agility sessions) and sports specific training. Theory lessons will cover sports nutrition, injury prevention, self analysis techniques, goal setting and mental toughness. In order to be considered for inclusion in this course, students must complete the Elite Sports application form as part of the enrolment process.

Parent fee for this course is approximately \$51.80* GST inclusive (which includes the cost of the Elite Sport T-shirt).

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

This class provides extra help for students whose first language is not English and who are developing their English language knowledge. The course covers reading, writing, speaking and listening. The specialist teacher will help students settle into school routines and provide assistance in understanding the language of assignments in all subject areas.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This course covers both the theoretical and practical introduction to producing, preparing and presenting food. The major focus for all practical lessons is around preparing food that is safe to eat. Theory lessons focus on basic nutrition and the technology cycle.

Parent fee for this course is approximately \$40.00* GST inclusive.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

This course teaches students fundamental freehand and instrumental drawing skills. Students will complete a mixture of set drawings and creative drawings throughout this option. The skills learnt in this course are the foundation for senior design where students are involved in C.A.D and 3-D printing of design solutions.

Parent fee for this course is approximately \$11.50* GST inclusive; additionally, there is a Graphics stationery pack that needs to be purchased from the school shop. The cost is approximately \$30.00* GST inclusive.

HORTICULTURE

Horticulture in Year 9 applies the theory of basic plant processes in the practical setting of the school's Horticulture Unit. Each boy establishes and maintains a small vegetable garden and explores plant propagation techniques. New Zealand native plants, in relation to Horticulture and to the wider indigenous environment will be covered along with introductory landscaping.

Parent contribution for this course is approximately \$10.00* GST inclusive.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

This course is designed to introduce students to the school network of computers and covers fundamental ideas on hardware components and operating systems. It also has a focus on document design and touch-typing skills, which will prove helpful across all subject areas. Commonly used programs for creating documents are covered as well as exploring basic programming concepts and some of the new web technologies that have recently emerged.

LANGUAGES

All languages are offered as either an introductory, one semester course or a two-semester course.

In the **introductory course** students will learn the basics of communicating in another language and gain some knowledge of the culture, traditions and heritage of speakers of that language.

The **two-semester course** will allow students to continue to build on their learning of another language gained in the introductory course. No prior knowledge is required for the two-semester course.

Languages offered: (Introductory 1 semester only)

- **Chinese-Mandarin**

Languages offered: (Introductory 1 semester and two semester courses available)

- **German** Parent fee: approximately \$30.00* GST inclusive
- **Maori**
- **Spanish** Parent fee: approximately \$30.00* GST inclusive

MUSIC

This course is designed for the student who has an interest in music but no formal training. It covers the elements of music, instruments, and teaches basic practical guitar skills.

MUSIC (Advanced)

This course is aimed at students who may have had previous music experience. It covers composition and technology elements not taught in the general course. The course has a practical approach and gives students a clearer idea of what it is to be a musician and student of music.

TECHNOLOGY METAL

In this practical course, students learn how to use a variety of tools and machinery in a safe manner, in the metal workshop. Each student will construct a model off-road buggy using aluminium and plastic.

Parent fee for this course is approximately \$69.00* GST inclusive.

TECHNOLOGY WOOD

In this practical course, students learn how to use a variety of tools and machinery in a safe manner, in the wood workshop. During the course, each student will construct a model Land Rover.

Parent fee for this course is approximately \$57.50* GST inclusive.

The optional semester courses offer Year 9 students the opportunity to experience a diverse range of subject areas. As such, students will make a selection of subjects from each of the three curriculum areas Arts, Languages and Technology. Within these curriculum areas you will find a wide range of options that will expose students to different skills and learning opportunities. This will assist them in making sound subject choices in Year 10 and beyond.

Online Course Selection using Google Forms

All Year 9 option courses are selected online. Please click on the link and complete the form.

Selecting Options

Year 9 Students take eight option subjects - students choose five and three are compulsory. The compulsory options are: Aotearoa Studies, Future Thinking and Health. You do not select these. Students take two options each semester and there are four semesters in the year (of ten weeks duration).

Options choices: Each Year 9 student must choose one Art option (Section A), one Language option (Section B), and one Technology option (Section C), and then select *any two additional options from Sections A – D (Section F).*

Please note- Some of the options have two alternatives in the length of course. For example, the languages, except Pasifika, have both a one and two semester option; the length is indicated in the code (e.g. Maori – Maori (1) or Maori (2). Please ensure you select the one you are wanting to take. Students who select a TWO semester language option, choose only ONE additional option.

Also, students are asked to select TWO alternative options as backups from Columns A – D and indicate these options in Section F – Backup Choices.

In addition, if you have completed an application for the Arts Academy or the Elite Sport programme, please select the appropriate field. This is in addition to the five selections above. If you have not applied for either of those, click NO.

Please make sure you have considered each of the options by reading the information provided in this guide on each of the courses. Every student **must** take at least one option from the Arts, Languages and Technology subjects; making a selection from Section A - C will ensure this.

Arts Academy

Please only select this option if you have completed an Arts Academy application form (link to the online form included in the welcome email) and submitted this or returned a paper form to the school. Please note that entry into this course **requires selection**. You will receive information regarding this once your application has been received by the school. Successful applicants will be included in the programme and need to be aware that this will take the place of two of their options. **If students do not want to be considered for this programme, click NO.**

Please note- If your application is successful, participation in this programme will replace two of the options you have chosen.

Elite Sports Programme

Please only select this option if you have completed an Elite Sport application with your original enrolment application. Please note that entry into this course **requires selection**. You will receive information regarding try-outs once your application has been received by the school. Successful applicants will be included in the programme and need to be aware that this will take the place of two of their options. **If students do not want to be considered for this programme, click NO.**

Please note- If your application is successful, participation in this programme will replace TWO options you have chosen.

Please note- You are welcome to make applications to both the Elite Sports and Arts Academies, however, if successful to both programmes, you will have to choose between them.

Furthermore, attendance in either of these programmes restricts participation in the language option to one semester only.

Alternate Courses

Students also select two backup courses in case one of their preferred options is not available due to popularity or timetable clashes. (These must be different to the previously selected options.)

Please read the FAQs following this section before contacting the school.

Frequently Asked Questions about Online Course Selection

1. *Can we do the selection process on paper forms?*

Yes. Paper forms can be collected from the school reception desk and must be returned to reception upon completion by the due date (4/11/2020). However, online is our preferred method.

2. *We are unsure which course to select.*

Year 9 is about experiencing a range of courses and having a go at subjects that students may never have tried. Select subjects with this in mind.

3. *We have decided on some courses, but not all. Can we do it in parts?*

Yes. Just keep selecting save at the bottom of the screen each time. However, all courses need to be selected by the due date (4/11/2020).

4. *Why do we select two backup courses?*

Occasionally a course that a student selects is too popular for all students to be accommodated or it may not work due to timetable clashes. In these situations, we resort to the backup courses.

5. *When will we know what subjects are confirmed?*

When your son receives his timetable at the beginning of school next year.

6. *Who should I contact if have any further questions about option selections?*

Christelle Cloete
Junior Curriculum Co-ordinator
cloete@hbhs.school.nz
07 853 0440 ext 2125