

Inspiring a Love of Learning

2019 Curriculum Overview

Educating students for success in the 21st Century is a responsibility Marsden Whitby takes seriously. Our vision is to develop confident, independent learners who think creatively and who are challenged to reach their academic and personal potential in a warm, caring Christian environment.

The culture of the school is one where students, supported by their teachers, are open about their desire for academic and personal achievement and work positively to reach their goals. Students are proud of their own successes and the success of others.

Academic programmes at Marsden have been developed in line with the New Zealand Curriculum and cover the essential learning areas of the Arts, English, Health and Physical Education, Languages, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences and Technology. In addition, Religious Education is an explicit programme of learning at Marsden Whitby. In Years 7 to 10 there are numerous opportunities for inter-disciplinary studies. We aim to provide every student with a broad, well-balanced, general education commensurate with their ability.

As a fully BYOD school, all students are expected to bring their own digital devices. Technology enriches the learning process and empowers students to interact with the local and global community and a variety of approaches is used regularly across all curriculum areas as a tool for learning.

Although there is no formal selection process for entry to Marsden Whitby, we maintain a fine tradition of students achieving personal excellence. This can be attributed to the climate of high expectations shared by staff and students, the strong system of pastoral care, the challenges offered for independent creative thought and action, the range of co-curricular activities and the opportunities to participate in and contribute to local, national and international forums.

Academic and pastoral staff work together to ensure that the progress of individual students is carefully monitored, that their particular needs are met and their passions are acknowledged and fostered. Provision is made for gifted students. Learning support is also available for students with additional learning needs.

Qualifications

All Marsden Whitby students work towards achievement in the national qualification, the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA): Level 1 at Year 11, Level 2 at Year 12 and Level 3 at Year 13. NCEA is an internationally recognised qualification which can be used to gain entry to tertiary institutes around the world. It is a standards-based qualification, assessed internally through coursework and also by external examinations in November. Students usually take seven subjects at Year 11, seven subjects at Year 12 and six subjects in Year 13 and are motivated to achieve their NCEA with a Merit or Excellence endorsement.

An additional option is the New Zealand Scholarship examinations which are designed to challenge top academic students in Year 13. Scholarship is aimed at the highly motivated, independent learner and is supported by small group tutorials, online learning or additional work done out of regular class time.

Additional information can be obtained about these qualifications on the following websites:

NCEA:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/understanding-ncea/how-ncea-works/

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/understanding-ncea/the-facts/>

New Zealand Scholarship:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/awards/new-zealand-scholarship/

2019 Curriculum and Course Planner

Learning Area	Year 7/8	Year 9	Year 10
Technology	Digital Technology	Digital Technology	Digital Technology
Physical Education & Health	Physical Education & Health	Physical Education & Health	Physical Education & Health
Religious Education	Religious Education	Religious Education	Religious Education
Science	Science	Science	Science
Mathematics	Maths	Maths	Maths
Social Sciences	Social Sciences	Social Sciences	History
			Geography
			Business Studies
The Arts	Art	Art	Art
Music	Music	Music	Music
Learning Languages	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
English	English	English	English

Key

Compulsory subjects Optional subjects

Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Digital Technology	Digital Technology	Digital Technology
SHAPE	SHAPE	SHAPE
Physical Education	Physical Education	Physical Education
Religious Education	Religious Education	Religious Education
Science	Biology	Biology
	Chemistry	Chemistry
	Physics	Physics
Maths	Maths	Statistics
		Calculus
History	History	History
Geography	Geography	Geography
Economics	Economics	Economics
Art	Painting	Painting
	Photography	Photography
Music	Music	Music
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
English	English	English

Choosing subjects

During Term 3 of each year, we ask students to indicate subject choices for the following year. Our timetable is developed around these options. We endeavour to accommodate all students' preferences but this is not always possible. Students are advised to choose carefully as, once option lines are set and classes established, changes may not easily be accommodated. Subject teachers, Tutor Teachers, Deans and the Academic Dean are all available to advise on subject choices.

Course structure

Years 7 and 8

All students study English, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, Art, Digital Technology, Religious Education, Physical Education and Health, Music and Spanish. Students in Year 8 also participate in the William Pike Challenge, a high quality programme for youth development.

Year 9

All students study English, Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, Religious Education, Art, Music, Physical Education and Health, Digital Technology and Spanish.

Year 10

All students study English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Art, Music, Physical Education and Health, and Digital Technology. In addition, there are half-year courses in Geography/History and Business/Spanish.

Year 11

All students study towards NCEA Level 1 in English, Mathematics, Science and Religious Education. Three optional NCEA subjects are chosen from Art, Music, History, Geography, Spanish, Economics, NCEA PE and Digital Technology. In addition, all students participate in a Senior Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) programme.

Year 12

All students take NCEA Level 2 English and choose five additional options from subjects offered. The optional NCEA subjects are chosen from Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Geography, History, Economics, Spanish, Photography, Painting, Music, NCEA Physical Education and Digital Technology. In addition, all students do Senior Health and Physical Education (SHAPE), Health, Religious Education, Careers, Curious Time and Study.

Year 13

All students study towards NCEA Level 3. Students choose five subjects from the following options: English, Calculus, Statistics, Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Geography, History, Economics, Photography, Painting, NCEA Physical Education, Spanish, Music, and Digital Technology. Scholarship is an additional qualification which targets high achieving students in individual subjects. In addition, all students do Senior Health and Physical Education (SHAPE), Health, Religious Education, Careers, Curious Time and Study.

Note:

- Multi-level courses may be scheduled for students with an advanced background in a particular subject if the timetable allows.
- Small classes may combine year levels in order to be viable. Insufficient demand for a subject may mean that it cannot be timetabled.
- If a student wishes to study a subject not offered at Marsden Whitby it may be possible for that study to be undertaken through Te Kura. From 2019 additional fees may be incurred for this service.
- Learning Support is available for students with additional learning needs.

Tertiary study and beyond

While some specialisation may be necessary in the Senior School, it is wise to keep options open. Students should both recognise their strengths and respond to challenges. At school students learn how to learn and develop the values, knowledge, and competencies that will enable them to live full and satisfying lives. They learn how to become life-long learners. Research shows us that today's students will work through a mosaic of different phases, roles and careers in their lifetime. Education must prepare them to be adaptable. Learning to think independently, and to be creative, flexible problem solvers is as, if not more, important than acquiring knowledge in a particular discipline.

There are many ways students can find out about future options for study and work. Students are welcome to make an appointment with the Academic Dean or browse through resource material during sessions with their Tutor Teacher. University representatives visit the school on a regular basis to meet with senior students and a Careers Evening is held annually, at Marsden Karori, for students from Years 10–13.

The following websites provide useful information about work and study:

Careers:

www.careers.govt.nz/

New Zealand tertiary institutes:

www.victoria.ac.nz

www.auckland.ac.nz

www.otago.ac.nz

www.massey.ac.nz

www.waikato.ac.nz

www.canterbury.ac.nz

www.whitireia.ac.nz

www.lincoln.ac.nz

www.weltec.ac.nz