

# Year 9 Programme



SAMUEL  
MARSDEN  
COLLEGIATE SCHOOL



The step up to Year 9 is an opportunity for you to develop your skills as a creative, confident, independent thinker, who can make connections across the curriculum as well as develop depth of understanding in individual subjects. Take your learning beyond the classroom, stretch your thinking and work constructively and collaboratively with your classmates. Teachers will help you incorporate the thinking, habits and skills of Visible Wellbeing™ into your everyday learning, to enable you to thrive.

We challenge you to be the best you can be.

Across the curriculum, programmes are differentiated to challenge and meet the needs of students with a range of ability levels and background experiences. If you are transferring to Marsden from a school without lab facilities, a special science workshop is organised to give you confidence with basic lab procedures. Technology is used across all curriculum areas and your personal device is part of your everyday learning.

You will follow a six-period, two-week timetable taught by subject specialists. All students study the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences for four periods a week. In addition, all students take PE and Health, Music, Art, Religious Education throughout the year. Te Reo Māori is taught for one semester (half-year), in addition to your language option. 'Remarkable Time' runs for a semester for all students. This is project-based learning where you create something unique by developing your understanding around a self-selected topic.

Marsden *Inspiring Girls*

From Year 9 through to Year 13, three language options are offered: Chinese, French and German. These are all full-year courses and you will choose one of these in Year 9. If you request Learning Support, this takes the place of a language option. All other options run for a semester. Options are

creative and practical and a taster for subjects in the senior school. You will combine half-year and full-year courses to make up your selection for the year. The following table illustrates how options may combine:

### Sample Option Combination

1st semester	2nd semester
Digital Technologies and Robotics	Photo Magic
Chinese	
Sports Science	International Cuisine
OR	
German	
French	
Digital Animation	Performance Media

## Core Subjects

### Mathematics

*“The book of nature is written in the language of Mathematics.”*

GALILEO

Mathematics is the study of patterns and relationships to help explain the world around us.

We want you to discover and explore different mathematical ideas in a range of different ways. Learning is varied and involves collaborative group work, investigations, projects and online skills’ practice. You will have the opportunity to enter national competitions, such as ICAS and the Australian Mathematics Competition. In class, we group you according to your current level of mathematical achievement. This enables us to offer invigorating extension work to those who thrive on mathematical challenges, as well as strong levels of support for those who find it more difficult. Our top achieving Year 9 students may complete a few NCEA Level 1 assessments during the year as part of the extension programme. Our top achieving Year 9 students may be invited to start their NCEA programme in Year 10.



### English

*“A book is a device to ignite the imagination.”*

ALAN BENNETT

In English we inspire a lifetime love of literature and language. Because success in English is fundamental to success across the curriculum, we emphasise the pleasure that comes through a knowledge and understanding of the English language and its literature. English at Year 9 focuses on making and creating meaning through a variety of enjoyable contexts: studying a range of written, visual and oral texts and involvement in activities such as theatre visits, debating, regular library sessions and writing competitions. We develop your critical thinking skills in relation to language and literature. A full range of communication skills is taught, with a particular focus on engaging with the meaning in stories. PAT tests help us monitor your progress, identify strengths and weakness and develop ways in which we can best support your learning.

## Science

*“Basically, I have been compelled by curiosity.”*

MARY LEAKEY

Many of the major challenges and opportunities that confront our world need to be approached from a scientific perspective. Through the sciences, you develop an understanding of the world, built on current scientific theories and use scientific knowledge for problem-solving to consider its implications and relevance in your own lives.

You will learn to recognise the importance of scientific knowledge and processes in the home, industry and the world around you, through studies of plants and animals, chemicals and physical phenomena. Development of observation, problem solving, research skills, relationships and patterns and scientific attitudes are also important. During the year, you undertake several independent investigations and complete challenges. Working towards the Bronze Crest Awards and participating in the School CREST exhibitions will promote high level, ethical and independent scientific thinking.

## Social Sciences

In Social Sciences, we encourage you to think logically, critically and creatively, to discover and implement strategies for positive change and sustainability. We foster confidence and leadership and develop wide reading, effective research and writing competence.

You will explore the ways in which societies work and look at how you can participate and take action as informed and responsible citizens, gaining knowledge and understanding of key facets of community such as government, human rights and human response to the natural environment. You will learn the skills that help you become informed, rational and caring members of society. Te Reo and tikanga (Māori language and protocols) are integrated in the context of learning about our society. Field trips are part of our learning programme.

## Art

**Art encourages creativity, independent thinking and risk-taking.**

Digital processes and traditional art processes are combined as you explore new and exciting ways of creating art. Art ideas are introduced through the study of artists, their work, and their practice. Exploration of cultural and historical differences is continued and you become aware of the process involved in developing ideas from drawings through to a resolved artwork.



## Music

*“The true beauty of music is that it connects people.”*

ROY AYERS

Music is an integral part of life at Marsden and there are musical opportunities for all students.

Any girl can participate in a choir or take private music lessons in a chosen instrument from one of our excellent team of itinerant teachers. Lessons occur in school time on a rotational timetable. There are a number of performance opportunities throughout the year. Musicians can also be part of the orchestras, auditioned choirs, jazz and smaller ensembles. Co-curricular music is optional and separate from the core Music programme taken by all students.

Year 9 Music is a ‘trip’ to the Southern States of America where you will look at how slavery influenced so much of the music that is the basis of pop music today. We study blues, ragtime, jazz and rock, and create our own group compositions in the various styles. We continue to learn how to notate our pieces and then have fun performing to, and with, the rest of the class.

## Physical Education and Health

Health and Physical Education is about promoting healthy living. We focus on the four dimensions of Hauora/wellbeing: to develop self-management, goal setting, leadership, and teamwork skills.

Practical classes cover a variety of cooperative and competitive activities such as athletics, adventure-based



learning, football, fitness, dance and kī-o-rahi. We will also focus on the development of effective interpersonal skills in health-related situations, such as decision-making, conflict resolution and communication and learn about risk management, drugs and alcohol and sexuality.

## Religious Education

Marsden is an Anglican school whose wellbeing and organisation is under the care of the Anglican Diocese of Wellington.

Although you are not required to be a member of this, or any church, Religious Education is at the core of the school's character. Students have one lesson a week and the focus is on faith and belief. Students investigate ideas such as ‘Where do I belong?’, ‘Who or what is God’, and ‘What is faith?’

## Te Reo Māori (half-year course)

*Ko taku reo taku ohooho, ko taku reo taku mapihi mauria.*

*My language is my awakening, my language is the window to my soul.*

Te Reo Māori is our indigenous language. As part of our commitment to growing culturally competent young New Zealanders, with an understanding of our place in the world, all students are given a basic introduction to Te Reo Māori (Māori language) and protocols. The insights and experiences that you gain will enrich and broaden your understandings of the uniqueness and complexity of te ao Māori (the Māori world).

## Remarkable Time (half-year course)

In this course you will pursue a personal interest to create something unique. Over two terms you will work on two projects of your own choosing. This is a chance for some creative, independent, innovative thinking; a chance to turn a remarkable idea into something tangible, that works, has value and brings pleasure. There are endless possibilities and it's up to you to choose. You will work with a mentor teacher to bring your projects to fruition.

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## Option Subjects

### Photo Magic (half-year option)

From the darkroom to digital, you will learn about the elements of photo image making and the creative possibilities of photography. Through the magic of photochemistry, painting with light and using digital tools, you will create a fantastic portfolio of photographic works, with your best images exhibited. You will need a camera (BYOD phone camera, iPad or similar) with the ability to download and share images to your school email account. It is helpful to have a laptop computer that can support Adobe design software.



Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival performance.

### Performance Media (half-year option)

This course encourages curiosity and creativity, where you communicate your understanding through the use of a range of technologies. You will tell unique stories through the media of drama and film and develop a range of skills, including research, script writing, story-boarding, filming and drama. The end product is a short documentary or narrative film based on your research topic.

### Sports Science (half-year option)

Enhance your love of sport by learning more about principles and methods of training, types of fitness, sports nutrition, fair play, tournament organisation, sports in the media and sports psychology. Explore what it takes to excel in your sporting field. The course includes some written components; physical activity, personal reflections, fitness testing and research.

### Languages

Communicating with people from other cultures is an important skill in this age of global mobility. Learning a language also helps you analyse and understand your own culture and language. All students may begin learning any of the languages offered without prior knowledge. All students take one of Chinese, French or German, unless they have opted for Learning Support, which targets students with additional learning needs. Maybe you already have prior learning of a language. We can help you work out the right level of study for you.

#### Chinese (full-year option)

You are introduced to the language and culture of Chinese speaking countries by learning basic greetings, conversation skills and grammar. You will also learn Chinese calligraphy and experience Chinese culture through a range of activities. Confident speakers have the opportunity to enter the New Zealand Chinese Speech Competition.

#### French (full-year option)

Learning through a range of oral, aural and written tasks and being actively encouraged to use the language, you will learn

about the language and culture of France. Basic conversation skills and grammar are taught and we encourage you to practise speaking as much as possible.

#### German (full-year option)

You are introduced to the language and culture of Germany through a range of oral, aural and written tasks. Basic conversation skills and grammar are taught and we encourage you to practise speaking as much as possible. You also have the opportunity to enter the Goethe Language Competition to extend your conversational skills.

### Learning Support (full year option)

Classroom learning can be overwhelming and the opportunity to review learning in a small and quiet space can help make sense of the day. The Learning Support class is taught in a small group and is available to students who struggle disproportionately in aspects of their learning, who experience gaps in their knowledge and who have specific learning differences, including dyslexia and processing issues. You learn strategies to improve your reading and writing skills and enhance your comprehension and time-management. Our specialist Learning Support teacher will liaise with other teachers to support your learning in other subjects. Learning Support is a year-long option subject and takes the place of a language.

### Technology

Change, flexibility of thought, adaptation and innovation are at the heart of technological practice.

You will learn through inquiry how society is affected by design and what influences it has upon society. Sustainability of product, design, influence, and innovative and creative thinking sit inside this learning.

#### Digital Animation (half-year option)

Discover and experience the process involved in creating digital animations. Animators working in the industry will talk to you about their experiences, and use online simulators created by Pixar to explore techniques. You will learn how to create storyboards, develop character and plot. Adobe Animate Software will be used as a platform for the creation of a major animation project.



### Digital Technologies and Robotics (half-year option)

You will explore creative solutions in a number of contexts, using CAD software to design and print 3D objects. You will build on computer programming basics to code games and animations. The robotics component of this course involves physical construction, along with programming and the completing of challenges. The class makes use of our Waihanga space, and the principles of make, build, construct, erect, create, develop and generate.

### Local Cuisine (half-year option)

You will learn practical and technological practices in cheese making and developing café foods, using foods from a local source. We explore the four dimensions of hauora and investigate the body's nutritional requirements, looking at ways to meet these by designing and creating tasty, nutritious, snacks and meals, with an emphasis on baked and dairy goods. There are some additional charges for food items.

### International Cuisine (half-year option)

Immerse yourself in foods from around the world. Plenty of hands-on cooking experiences are provided, including pasta making, Asian cookery, speciality breads and global trends in the food industry. You will use safe food practices to make a variety of dishes. You will learn about factors that influence food choices from around the world to help understand the cultural differences and connections to New Zealanders. This is a practical course. Once you master the routines and food safety requirements, you will start to choose recipes to fit a brief. There are some additional charges for food items.

### Creative Textiles (half-year option)

Are you up for fun and innovative challenges? Mastering the zip will lead you to the creative world of dresses, skirts, shorts pants and crafty projects. Learn new techniques and skills working with all types of fabrics. You will learn how to read



a commercial pattern, photograph your work for portfolios and integrate digital technology programmes, such as laser-cut stamp making. There are also great competitions to enter. All students will have access to Adobe for \$10 for the year. There are some additional charges for materials. There are also great competitions to enter.

### Creative Design Challenge (half-year option)

Are you interested in creativity, cultures, gift giving and technology? Are you wanting to know more about the meanings of traditional Māori or Pasifika design? Using traditional and modern construction methods, you will create precious pieces. You will learn the skills necessary to turn raw materials into a beautiful finished products, using equipment and techniques such as the laser cutter, 3D printer and weaving. These challenges and fun projects will be displayed at an end-of-year celebration of all things technology. All students will have access to Adobe for \$10 for the year. There are some additional charges for materials.



### Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

Marsden recognises the need for a proactive, preventative approach to mental health to help students flourish psychologically and socially, as well as academically.

Through the delivery of the curriculum, the integration of our Visible Wellbeing™ approach and our pastoral programmes we will equip you with the knowledge and skills to foster positive emotions, engage in and appreciate new learning, value and build caring relationships, develop a sense of purpose and meaning, and pursue worthwhile endeavour.

Left: Professor Lea Waters introduces Visible Wellbeing™ to our students.

# Marsden

## *Our Values*

### **Excellence** **Hiranga**

Marsden School has a high-performance environment where everyone aspires to be the best they can be in their academic and co-curricular pursuits.

### **Resilience** **Manahau**

Those who can pick themselves up and keep going have the greatest chance of personal happiness and success. Resilience is the explicit focus of a number of our programmes.

### **Creativity** **Auahatanga**

The ability to think outside the square, to respond to the challenges of today in innovative ways, to find new ways of working, thinking and living is vital to a successful future.

### **Service** **Oha**

It is important for our students to be aware of their place in the local and global community. In keeping with Anglican values and tradition, consideration for others is fostered and delivered through co-curricular programmes.

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Samuel Marsden Collegiate School  
Marsden Avenue, Karori, Wellington  
Private Bag 17000  
Karori, Wellington 6147

(04) 476 8707

[marsden.school.nz](http://marsden.school.nz)