

# Years 7/8 Programme



Our day is organised into six subject lessons. You are often taught in your home rooms but also go to specialist rooms, like the gym, the Art House, and Waihanga (makerspace) for practical classes. Your teachers are specialists – experts in the subject they are teaching you.

Classes in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences are in your timetable on most days. Other subjects, such as Physical Education and Health, Art, Music, Religious Education, Languages and Technology, occur once or twice across your week.

Your day is a mix of active, practical and quiet classroom learning. Explore ideas that fascinate you, get creative, think outside the square, solve problems, speak up and collaborate. Teachers will encourage you to incorporate the thinking, habits and skills of Visible Wellbeing™ into your everyday learning, to help you thrive.

Technology is used across all subjects and you need to bring your own device. As well as discovering its potential, you will learn to use technology powerfully and responsibly, to enhance your learning.

All Year 8 students participate in the William Pike Challenge Award, an activity-based programme that runs throughout the year. It includes outdoor activities, community service and developing a new hobby, sport or skill. It aims to develop your confidence, tenacity and teamwork, while pushing you outside your comfort zone – and it's fun! The Year 8 camp helps students meet some of the criteria of the award. Read more about the William Pike Challenge Award at [www.williampike.co.nz/wpca/](http://www.williampike.co.nz/wpca/)

**We challenge you to be the best you can be.**

Marsden *Inspiring Girls*



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## English

In English we want you to develop a lifetime love of literature and language and become confident writers and speakers.

At Years 7 and 8 our focus is on the joys of storytelling. Students will actively engage with books, films, poems and plays, giving them the chance to imagine the world from

a variety of perspectives. There will be the opportunity to perform on stage, to read towards the reading badge, to explore creative writing challenges and to have fun with new language. All learning in our English classrooms aims to foster māramatanga, understanding and connection with the ideas on offer.

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## Mathematics

Mathematics is the study of patterns and relationships to help explain the world around us. We want you to discover and explore many different mathematical ideas in a range of different ways.

As well as developing and maintaining your mathematical skills, you will expand your thinking skills through problem-solving activities, such as the University of Otago Problem Challenge and World of Mathematics activities. Creativity and curiosity are encouraged through your approach to mathematical challenges.

Mathematics classes are grouped according to current levels of confidence in mathematical concepts. Extension activities are available to challenge our enthusiastic and able mathematicians.

All students are enrolled in online Mathematics and offered the opportunity of entering national competitions, such as ICAS.



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## Science

*Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge."*

CARL SAGAN

In Year 7 and 8 we want to encourage your natural curiosity about the world around you, develop your observational and thinking skills and inform your problem solving and decision-making.

You will learn about the scientific method, plan your own experiments and constructively criticise your own investigations, seeing yourselves as scientists. Studying forensic science and environmental education will develop your skills in problem-solving, co-operation and evaluation. Year 7 students learn about the concept of kaitiakitanga and the importance of being guardians of the environment, based on Māori world view. You will also complete an independent investigation for your first CREST Award and work towards Science badges.

A weekly CASE activity (from King's College University of London's Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education) gives your brain a workout.

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## Social Sciences

In Social Sciences we encourage you to think logically, critically and creatively, to discover and use strategies for positive change and sustainability.

Confidence, curiosity and leadership are part of each day's learning. In contexts that are varied and interesting, you will read widely, learn to research effectively and write competently. We want you to explore ways in which societies work and discover how you can participate and take action

as informed and responsible citizens. You will learn the discriminatory skills which help you become informed, rational and caring members of society. In Years 7 and 8 Te Reo and tikanga (Māori language and protocol) are integrated into our programme. Year 7 experience a day on a marae, including participating in a pōwhiri. In Year 8, you undertake a self-directed social action campaign. Field trips are a regular part of learning.

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## Languages

“To speak a foreign language is to have another soul.”

CHARLEMAGNE

To be a truly global citizen, the ability to communicate and connect with people from other cultures is important. Learning another language also enables us to reflect on our own culture and language. At Years 7 and 8 you have the

opportunity to experience Te Reo Māori, Mandarin Chinese and French languages in ‘taster’ courses. A different language is the focus of each term and each is taught by a specialist language teacher. This experience will help you select the language or languages you may later wish to study in greater depth. Language learning is a requirement at Marsden until the end of Year 9 and many students choose to continue it into their senior years.

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## Technologies

“What Technology does is create new opportunities.”

TIM O'REILLY

In Years 7 and 8, you will explore technology through three inter-related contexts: food, textiles and digital technologies. You will develop your understanding of food and nutrition, exploring food options as well as testing your innovation, creativity and entrepreneurial skills.

All students will have dedicated time to develop their speed and accuracy using an online touch typing programme.

All students are offered the opportunity to enter the ICAS Digital Technologies Assessment and other competitions.

There are small additional costs for class materials used throughout the year. Year 8 students will also have access to Adobe for a \$10 annual subscription.

### Year 7 Technologies

In Year 7 Technologies you will learn how to develop a brief, and follow the process of researching, planning, creating, constructing and evaluating.

Learning will include exploring an understanding of how the early Māori adapted to the land, using new materials, gaining skills and expressing their identity. You will become a creative problem solver in the textiles classroom and in our Waihanga (makerspace) you will work on innovative projects such as Scratch animation programming, and build Scribblebots.



Managing your time, working cooperatively, learning from a digital platform and working safely in a workshop environment are important aspects of this course.

### Year 8 Technologies

In Year 8 Technologies you will explore an understanding of sustainability, building on the foundation skills acquired in Year 7 and learning more about how to develop a brief. You will look at how to reduce textile waste using your sewing skills, and learn to cook locally and sustainably using vegetables from the Marsden garden. In the Waihanga (makerspace) you will be coding and manipulating robots to work through and compete in races. You will also be exploring the potential of Adobe Illustrator.





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*Imagination is  
the source of every  
form of human  
achievement.”*

SIR KEN ROBINSON

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## Art

Art encourages curiosity, creativity, independent thinking and risk-taking. We want you to develop your critical thinking skills through digital and traditional art-making processes. You will have the opportunity to explore new and exciting ways of creating art. In Year 7 you use a range of media and processes, learning about line, tone and colour and exploring methods of drawing, printmaking, designing and working in three dimensions. In Year 8 you will build on these skills with a major focus on Māori art, including kowhaiwhai, taniko, tukutuku patterns and their meanings.



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## 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 7 Band Programme

Whether you are a budding musician or have never played before, the Year 7 Band Programme is a journey of discovery in learning an instrument and being able to perform as part of a band. You will play one of five wind instruments: flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet or trombone. You will hire your instrument and it is yours to look after, and to practise. A specialist team of teachers will support your learning in a small group. With five minutes practice a day, you will be amazed at the progress you make! The band performs at



assemblies each term and your parents are welcome to come along and listen.

### Year 8 World Music

Year 8 offers an exciting trip around the musical world. From dancing Irish reels to performing on the beautiful gamelan from Indonesia, you will learn how different cultures use the same elements to create their unique musical styles.

Incorporated into each the year 7 and 8 music programmes, is a general music course. It explores the elements of music through singing, composition, notation, performing, listening and assessing your own and others' performances.

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## Health and Physical Education

In Health and Physical Education, the focus is on your own wellbeing, as well as on the wellbeing of others and society as a whole.

### Physical Education

You will participate in a wide variety of activities, such as athletics, cricket, badminton, touch rugby, fitness, basketball, cross country, football, hockey, gymnastics and dance. We want you to acquire new skills and strategies, develop existing motor skills and develop positive interpersonal skills and teamwork.

### Health

Year 7 Health explores the physical and social changes associated with growing up and ways of responding to pressure from others. Year 8 further develops ideas about wellbeing, identity, rights and responsibilities, puberty, resilience and body systems.





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## Religious Education

### **The Life and Times of Jesus (Year 7); The Early Church in Aotearoa (Year 8)**

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. Its aim is to deepen your awareness

and experience of spiritual, religious and ethical knowledge. You will also receive religious education through assemblies and a church service each term. In Year 7 our class focus is on the life and times of Jesus and storytelling from the New Testament. In Year 8 we explore the introduction of Christianity to Aotearoa, heroes of faith and strong women in The Bible.

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## Learning Support

### *Ko te ākonga te pūtake o te ako.*

*The learner is at the centre of learning.*

Our teachers are able to adapt learning programmes to enable all students to experience challenge and success. We are aware, however, that learning can be overwhelming for some students, some of the time. Flexibility of class structures allows for small groups to work on building strategies to improve literacy and numeracy skills, as needed. Our Head of Personalised Learning oversees the allocation of

teacher aide support to students who may need additional in-class assistance. Where parents have specific concerns about their daughter's additional learning needs, we recommend a discussion with our Head of Personalised Learning to explore options. For those seeking one-on-one tuition, we partner with an external provider for add-on in-school learning support.



### **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.



