

Year 11 Programme

NCEA+



SAMUEL
MARSDEN
COLLEGIATE SCHOOL



In Year 11 the focus for academic study is Level 1 NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement).

Our programmes are personalised and inclusive, designed to challenge and support students across all ability levels. Building on strong foundations, Year 11 focuses on developing effective study habits, intellectual curiosity, and the confidence to explore new ideas. We challenge you to be the best you can be.

Students study five traditional subject courses alongside our distinctive NCEA+ collaboration programme—an innovative, interdisciplinary offering unique to Marsden. Through NCEA+, students select up to three subject areas and engage in real-world contexts that foster collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving, while earning credits on the NZQA framework. The themes for these bespoke courses are chosen from:

- Identity, Belonging and Expression | Whanaungatanga
- Sustainability | Kaitiakitanga
- Entrepreneurship | Rakahinonga

These contexts connect personal, local, and global perspectives, equipping students with the skills and mindset needed for a rapidly changing world. Further details of these courses can be found on pages 9–11.

NCEA is a globally recognised qualification, providing pathways to tertiary study and careers both in New Zealand and internationally. Marsden students consistently achieve excellent outcomes, and our graduates go on to study at leading universities across New Zealand, Australia, the UK, the USA, Europe, and Asia.

As part of our commitment to academic stretch, students also engage with aspects of the Cambridge International (IGCSE) curriculum. Building on learning begun in Year 10, all students continue with the Cambridge Core English Language programme. This blended two-year pathway culminates in external examinations at the end of Year 11, providing valuable experience and a strong foundation for senior qualifications. Selected students may undertake Cambridge Extended Mathematics and English Literature.

Throughout Year 11, students develop essential skills in time management, independent learning, and assessment readiness. They learn to interpret and respond to complex tasks, think critically and creatively, collaborate effectively, and build digital fluency. This year provides both challenge and motivation, setting clear goals and preparing students for the depth and rigour of Level 2 and beyond.

Marsden *Inspiring Girls*

All students study five NCEA subjects/courses and one bespoke interdisciplinary course made up of three achievement standards. English, Mathematics and Science are highly recommended for sound foundational learning. Across your five subjects, you are offered the opportunity to gain 75 credits, and a further 15 credits from your collaborative course. A total of 90 credits are offered at Marsden. 60 credits are required to achieve Level 1 NCEA from six courses. From 2024, there is a one-off co-requisite numeracy and literacy requirement (10 credits each). Learners will only be awarded an NCEA qualification once they have met the 20-credit co-requisite. Most of our learners will have successfully completed the numeracy and literacy co-requisite component in Year 10, although it can be achieved at any time.

Students will be required to gain 14 or more credits in a course at Achieved, Merit or Excellence (including at least 3 external and 3 internal credits) to gain a course endorsement. To gain a Level 1 Certificate endorsement, students require 50 or more credits at Merit or Excellence level, which is a personal goal for many of our learners.

All courses offer a balance of internal assessment (assessed within school and ongoing throughout the year) and external assessment (assessed by national examinations or a portfolio). Additional non-assessed programmes support wellbeing, social awareness and preparation for life beyond school.

SUBJECTS

We highly recommend that all students take English, Mathematics and Science as foundational subjects for further study at Level 2.

To gain an Excellence or Merit endorsement in a subject, you need a minimum of 14 credits. All subjects will offer up to 15 credits.

Marsden's Year 11 Subject offering

English
Drama (NCEA+ collaborative course only)
Mathematics
Science
History
Geography
Commerce (NCEA+ collaborative course only)
Te Reo Māori
Chinese
French
Music
Visual Art
Design (NCEA+ collaborative course only)
Digital Technology
Textiles Technology
Food and Nutrition
Physical Education
Religious Education (NCEA+ collaborative course only)
Guided Study

Plus

NCEA+ collaborative course



English

“While thought exists, words are alive and literature becomes an escape, not from, but into living.”

CYRIL CONNOLLY

In English, we inspire a lifelong love of literature and language. Because success in English is fundamental to success across the curriculum, we emphasise the pleasure that comes through an understanding and growing appreciation of the English language and its literature.

At Year 11, a rich and varied programme allows the majority of students to achieve all of the standards on offer. A balance of internal and external assessments covers the strands of the curriculum: making and creating meaning. You will develop creative and formal writing skills, comprehension skills in relation to written texts, effective communication skills through visual as well as spoken language, and study a variety of engaging written, visual and oral texts.

As part of our commitment to academic stretch, all students continue the Cambridge Core English Language programme, begun in Year 10. This is delivered as a two-year programme alongside the New Zealand Curriculum, integrating Cambridge approaches and content within the NCEA course. Selected students may also be invited to undertake the Cambridge English Literature programme, providing additional challenge through an internationally recognised framework.

Students are encouraged to cultivate their interest in English beyond the classroom through opportunities such as theatre trips, and speaking and writing competitions.

International students with ESOL needs follow an adapted NCEA programme, with targeted support to build vocabulary and comprehension skills while working towards essential literacy credits.

Mathematics

“It is magic until you understand it. It is Mathematics thereafter.”

BHARATI KRISHNA

This course is not only about the acquisition of mathematical concepts and skills but also the application of these to practical problems. You can be creative in the way you apply your knowledge and are encouraged to think critically about your methods and approaches. While there is an emphasis on the development and maintenance of your existing skills, you are given many opportunities to apply these to a range of extended questions.

Flipped learning, collaborative group work, investigations and projects, as well as online skills practice, contribute to your mathematical learning. We encourage you to enter national competitions, such as ICAS and the Australian Mathematics Competition. Students are grouped according to their 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 mathematics more difficult.

Selected students may continue the Extended Mathematics pathway, begun in Year 10, leading to the opportunity to sit Cambridge IGCSE Mathematics at the end of Year 11. This programme runs alongside NCEA requirements and provides additional depth in conceptual understanding and mathematical reasoning.



Science

I didn't want to just know names of things. I remember really wanting to know how it all worked."

ELIZABETH BLACKBURN, MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST

A scientific perspective is essential when exploring many of the major challenges and opportunities that confront our world. Through the sciences, you develop an understanding of the world built on current scientific theories and use scientific knowledge for problem-solving and to gain an understanding of its implications and relevance in your own lives.

The Science course is divided into three modules: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The course includes two internally and one externally assessed achievement standards. The classes rotate in order to share the expertise of specialist teachers in each of the scientific disciplines.



In Year 12, Science splits into three separate courses: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You need a minimum of 10 credits in Level 1 to progress to Level 2 and to have achieved the standard(s) relevant to the science subject(s) you plan to continue studying.

Social Sciences

History

*Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua
I walk backwards into the future with my eyes
fixed on my past*

History is studied because it is essential to individuals and to societies, and because it holds great fascination, opportunity for contemplation, and wisdom for the future. Historians are essential contributors to our society. Employers often deliberately seek graduates with the skills historical study promotes, such as research, analysis and interpretation, critical thinking, and strong written and verbal communication. Level 1 History introduces you to historical inquiry, communication of historical ideas and evidence, and interpretation of differing perspectives.

The course will begin with a focus on the history of protest and resistance in Aotearoa New Zealand, covering the 1981 Springbok Tour and the Polynesian Panthers movement. Student choice is important in History, and students are given the opportunity to focus on events of their own choosing for their assessments. Students have been given the choice of World War II and the American civil rights movement as the class topic for Terms 2 and 3.



Geography

*Whatungarongaro te tangata, toitū te whenua
As people disappear from sight, the land
remains*

Viewing the world geographically is an important skill. We live in times where an understanding of people's relationship with the land and care for the environment is crucial, as the world grapples with a rising number of global issues.

Through themes such as conservation and climate, you will learn how people's diverse values and perceptions influence environmental, social and economic decisions. Geography explores how people's diverse values and perspectives influence social, economic and environmental decision making. Students examine how the distribution of phenomena such as megacities, beaches, and cyclones are shaped by interacting processes, and how these phenomena impact society and future planning. Study of local contexts can include fieldwork to better understand our environment. Geographic skills such as mapping, graphing, analysis, critical evaluation and interpretation are woven into each unit.

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.

Te Reo Māori

*Ko tōu reo, ko tōku reo, te tuakiri tangata.
Tīhei uriuri, tīhei nakonako
Your voice and my voice are expressions of
identity. May our descendants live on and our
hopes be fulfilled*

Five language skills necessary for effective communication, namely listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural awareness, are inter-related and reflected in the Level 1 teaching and learning programme for Te Reo Māori. Students will apply a range of communication skills in a variety of contexts that will enable them to express their thoughts in Te Reo Māori with accuracy, fluency and cultural integrity.

Chinese

You will consolidate and expand on material covered at junior level, with an emphasis on both written and spoken Chinese. Through both internal and external assessment, you will work towards oral, listening and reading standards. A range of topics is covered in this course to develop communication skills. Throughout the year, you will assemble a portfolio where spoken interactions are submitted. We recommend solid achievement in both external and internal standards as a prerequisite for Level 2 study. You will have the opportunity to participate in the New Zealand Chinese Speech Competition.



French

You will consolidate and expand on material covered at junior level, with an emphasis on both written and spoken French. The course comprises both internal and external assessment covering oral, reading, writing and listening skills. A variety of topics and materials are used to develop your communication skills. Throughout the year, you will assemble a portfolio where spoken interactions are submitted. You have the opportunity to reinforce vocabulary acquisition through Education Perfect which is an effective online learning resource. We recommend solid achievement in both external and internal standards as a prerequisite for Level 2 study.

Technology

*The biggest risk is not taking
any risk... In a world that's changing
really quickly, the only strategy that is
guaranteed to fail is not taking risks."*

MARK ZUCKERBERG

Textiles Technology

You will learn how materials and processing technology impacts on people by considering the mātauranga Māori principles of kotahitanga, whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, and kaitiakitanga. This will be done through a range of internally and externally assessed projects. Your own views and knowledge will be challenged as you consider the needs and requirements of their end user to create an outcome that will enhance their lives. Design led by cognitive empathy will unlock your potential as you explore and address authentic personal, whānau, or community-based needs or opportunities.

Digital Technology

*I orea te tuatara ka puta ki waho
A problem is solved by continuing to find
solutions*

Technology is intervention by design. Digital Technology is a broad subject that covers many domains, for example: software programming, electronic environments and embedded systems, digital information systems, and digital media. Computer programming is fundamental to 21st century literacy. Technological innovation has seen exponential growth of career opportunities in the digital world.



Digitech workshop.

Digital Technology focuses on building your capability to apply technological ideas within a digital environment. In this course, you will:

- develop computational thinking skills and the ability to design and develop digital outcomes
- understand how digital technologies outcomes impact on the people who use them
- practice manaakitanga as you learn to prioritise users in the outcomes you develop
- develop an understanding of how data can be organised and the ethical issues surrounding its use
- work with web based languages HTML, CSS and JavaScript.

Food and Nutrition

He oranga ngākau, he pikinga waiora

Positive feelings in your heart will raise your sense of self-worth

Health is about the hauora/wellbeing of individuals, whānau, and communities. It is about developing an understanding of the factors that influence the health of these groups. In Food and Nutrition, you will:

- explore lifestyle-based, economic, social, cultural, political, ethical and environmental factors to develop your understanding of health issues
- learn how food and nutrition relates to hauora, and the health and wellbeing of individuals, whānau, and communities
- choose a food and nutrition-related context to demonstrate your understanding of a decision making process
- develop an understanding of the variety of factors that influence hauora, and subsequently develop food related strategies to enhance your own and others' wellbeing.

The course is assessed through the Health Studies achievement standards. Assessment is both through practical internally assessed standards and external examinations.

The Arts



Visual Art

Te toi whakairo, ka ihiihi, ka wehiwehi, ka aweawe te ao katoa

Artistic excellence makes the world sit up in wonder

In the Visual Arts you will create and respond to works using curiosity, collaboration, courage, critical thinking and creativity.

You will engage in arts practice and extend your skills and understanding, whilst being encouraged in creative and critical thinking to develop your own subject matter for an intended purpose. You will research traditional and contemporary art-making from Māori, Pakeha and your own cultural perspectives to expand your understanding of Aotearoa's rich cultural heritage and inform your creative development. Using a range of media, which could include painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography and design, you will develop a body of work across three assessment standards, each worth 5 credits..

Ākonga will be offered a combination of internal and external credits.



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. Music as an option targets students who also wish to pursue music as a field of academic study.

It is possible to begin your study of music as an academic subject at this point, providing you have already taken instrumental or voice lessons, including theory, for at least two years. It is expected that you will continue with this vocal or instrumental tuition alongside your academic course work in Music.

The Level 1 NCEA course consists of internal and external assessment. Solo and group performances are assessed each term, giving many opportunities for success alongside your work with your instrumental or voice teacher. You will have class time to develop composition skills. You will also develop skills in aural dictation and theoretical music. If you are unsure whether your current level of musical skill is suited to Year 11 Music, please speak with the Director of Music for guidance.

Physical Education

*Taha Tinana - Mauri tu, Mauri ora
Tamariki develop positive physical habits
for life, and an active soul for wellbeing*

In Physical Education, you will

- develop a holistic understanding of hauora/wellbeing through the application of movement
- engage in exercise, sport, games, recreation, adventure and expressive movement across diverse physical and social environments
- learn about the function of the body during exercise and explore factors that affect wellbeing and participation
- practise strategies to enhance unity and collaboration in sporting contexts
- develop physical skills and leadership qualities.

This course combines practical and theory classes.



Awahi

Tukua kia tū takitahi ngā whetū o te rangi.

Let each star in the sky shine its own light.

Awahi, meaning nurture, care for and cherish, is our values-based wellbeing education programme. This programme has been designed to empower Marsden students with the knowledge and strategies to best manage their hauora. Sessions are part of the school's timetable, and learning is intentional and relevant to key stages of development. Learning will usually take place with the form teacher, a year level dean, or student house captains. In the senior school our focus is on ensuring each student has the tools they need to successfully navigate their future beyond Marsden. Classes will explore topics such as collaboration, leadership styles, independence and resilience. Students will learn strategies for time management, balancing priorities and coping with challenging situations.

Hauora (includes Financial Literacy, Religious Education, Physical Education and Health)

Hauora Physical Education

All students will participate in one lesson of Physical Education per week. The focus is on enhancing wellbeing through active recreation, fun and enjoyment. Topics cover personal fitness, team games and dance.

Hauora Health

All students will participate in one lesson of Health per week. Students will learn about life issues in order to keep safe and enhance wellbeing. Topics include exercise, nutrition, safety online, sex education and mental health.

Religious Education

Religious Education classes are taught for one period a week as part of Hauora. 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, the subject of Religious Education is at the core of the school's character.

You will explore ethical dilemmas and, in the context of social justice, devise your own project for greater equity. There is no formal assessment in this course unless you choose it in the NCEA+ Sustainability collaborative course.

Guided Study

It is an NZQA requirement that students who are approved for special assessment conditions must be overseen by our Personalised Learning team. You may opt into a Guided Study programme as an option, where you work in small groups to manage your assessment load across subjects. Your Guided Study teacher gives you direction and strategies to help break your workload down into manageable chunks.

NCEA+

Collaborative Courses

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

This whakatauki talks to community, to collaboration and a strengths-based approach. It acknowledges that everybody has something to offer and by working together we can all flourish.

You will select one of the following NCEA+ collaborative courses and choose up to three different subject areas to explore a real-world context, work collaboratively, think critically and earn credits on the NZQA framework.

Identity, Belonging and Expression | Whanaungatanga

Inā kei te mōhio koe ko wai koe, i anga mai koe i hea, kei te mōhio koe, kei te anga atu ki hea
If you know who you are and where you are from, then you will know where you are going

Who am I? Shape your sense of purpose through creative exploration towards creative outcomes.



Students will:

- explore their own identity and belonging through influencers, visionaries, interests, role models, whānau, community and global connections
- research and identify global events (or current and historical events) to explore the impact on personal, local and global identity (cultural) perspectives
- research and identify a unifying identity, belonging and expression project theme
- choose forms of expression to inform/create/perform/write creative outcomes
- collaborate as a group or individually to express their creative outcome
- visit galleries and engage with guest speakers or workshops from wider community
- have the opportunity to showcase their creative outcome whether that be in the form of writing, music, dance, drama, cultural honouring, costuming and visual arts.

Term 1: Who am I?

- Introduction and Research - students will immerse themselves in the works/worlds of different people/cultures/mediums to create a sense of 'where do I feel most inspired/welcomed/alive?'
- Explore personal, local and global and cultural perspectives
- Evaluate Marsden's identity and values in the wider community
- Develop of folio of 'self' identity for expression in Term 2
- Written assignment about significance of event, people or place

Term 2: Expressing our own identity

- How do I best express myself? Students can choose to work individually or as a group
- Develop expression in one area
- Reflect and refine

Term 3: Showcase

- Celebrate different ways of expressing oneself
- Be part of a wider showcase of all contributors in the Identity, Belonging and Expression collaborative course
- Possible service aspect to the performance/expression
- Submissions completed

Sustainability | Kaitiakitanga

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua
Care for the land, care for the people, go forward

The intersection of the environment, economy and society and showing guardianship for our place.



Students will:

- learn about the world in a local and global context
- investigate how culture and communities embrace/ approach sustainability
- create a sustainability overarching project which encompasses the standards they have chosen
- investigate the impacts of human action on the environment and climate change and look at the positive and negative outcomes
- examine science-related claims in communicated information (from a wide range of sources) and explain how science language and conventions are used to support these
- collect and analyse data and use this to explore ways to innovate and create a sustainable outcome or product.

Term 1: Research - laying the foundation of understanding

- Visit Ngatiawa River Monastery
- Share results with each other
- Explore Aotearoa and global communities
- Select a number of issues related to sustainability to investigate, and analyse the sources and claims. Issues may include: climate change, fast fashion, food waste, carbon emissions, marine plastic pollution among others. Present your findings to others (this may include slide show, report, poster, video etc).
- Branch off into different areas and standards

Term 2: Creation

- Problem solve through Art Design, Digital Technology or Statistics
- Development and testing of idea

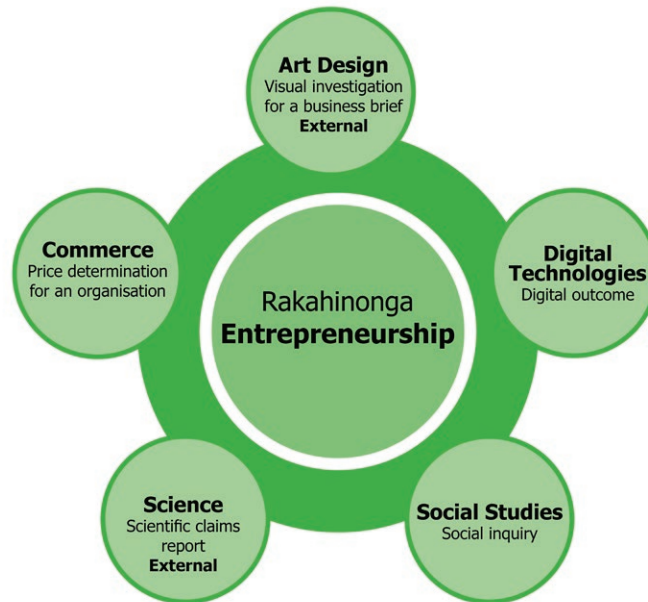
Term 3: Consolidation

- Determine one's point of view through comparison and contrast through an understanding of a range of viewpoints
- This could look like (but not limited to) a report, a technological outcome, a workbook of designs
- Prepare an exhibit for the end of year showcase

Entrepreneurship | Rakahinonga

Ko te pae tawhiti whmāhioia kia tata, ko te pae tata whakamaua kia tina
Seek out distant horizons, cherish those you attain

Innovating a creative, environmentally and responsibly sound social enterprise and solution to a problem, developing that solution and carrying it out effectively.



Students will:

- create an overarching brief for a project and create a client brief or big idea
- create, investigate and analyse an opportunity and/or issue in our wider community
- research and brainstorm the opportunity and undergo an inquiry into the need and opportunity
- examine science-related claims in communicated information (from a wide range of sources) and explain how science language and conventions are used to support these
- understand how to run a business or project and how it can affect social, environmental and economic decisions
- examine an understanding of financial decision making (financial literacy)
- collaborate or work individually to create an outcome for a purpose or idea
- create a visual presentation outcome for the showcase.

Term 1: Investigation

- Foundational understanding of what entrepreneurship is in different contexts including Matauranga Māori and for the wider community
- Create, innovate and brainstorm an idea for a specific purpose
- Write a brief or development plan for business or project

- Planning and organising management of project plan
- Research a range of models/businesses of entrepreneurship specific to idea

Term 2: Development

- Experiment with processes through sketching, mock ups, notations, materials, media or concept
- Test ideas and outcomes with stakeholders, whānau and community
- Develop, create, make predictions and connections through testing and experimenting for a purpose
- Justify the determined price using financial or non-financial information, and a model or concept due to an external factor
- Refine processes through mock ups, notations, materials, media and prototypes
- Reflect and refine to move the project forward

Term 3: Consolidation

- Create a product for an event or exhibition or web outcome
- Evaluate (for example, marketing plan or brief)
- Evaluate financial decision making
- Evaluate personal wellbeing during a difficult / long process

Marsden

Our Values

Hiranga Excellence

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

Manahau Resilience

Our programmes focus explicitly on building resilience, knowing we can pick ourselves up and keep going, giving ourselves the greatest chance of personal happiness and success.

Auahatanga Creativity

We have 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 to create a successful future.

Oha Service

Our students know their place in the local and global community. They will honour the Anglican values and traditions of caring and having consideration for others as fostered and delivered through all our co-curricular programmes.

Whanaungatanga Respectful relationships

We will form and forge reciprocally respectful relationships, where a sense of belonging is nurtured through shared experiences and working positively together as one Marsden family.

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