

# 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 help you to develop an understanding of your personal hauora and the strategies that will help you to 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.**

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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.

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

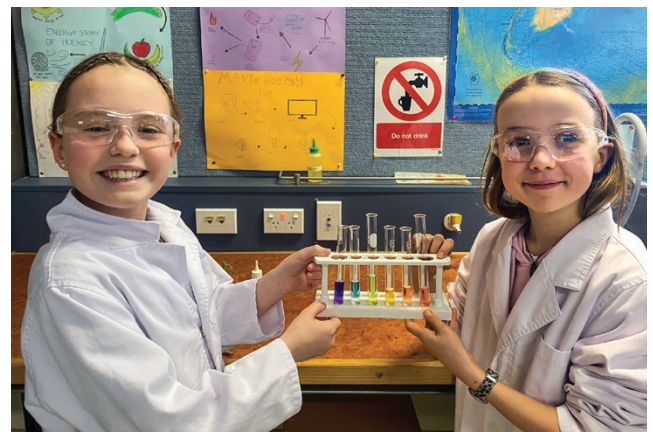
*Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge."*

CARL SAGAN

In Years 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 share your learning, seeing yourselves as scientists. Studying a diverse range of subjects from the chemistry of colour to forensic science, you will develop skills in problem-solving, co-operation and evaluation.

You will learn about the importance of being kaitiaki of the environment, completing an environmental education



investigation. You will be taught by science teachers in specialist laboratories, and as extension, work towards science badges. Regular CASE activities (from King's College University of London's Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education) prepare you to 'think like a scientist'.

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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 skills you need to become an informed member of society.

Tikanga and te reo Māori (Māori language and culture) are an important part of our programme. Year 7 students learn about the history of Marsden, Aotearoa, and ancient civilisations, as well as exploring sustainability issues in our community and travel and tourism. In Year 8, we explore our local Wellington history and environment, the Pacific Ocean, Business Studies, and carry out an inquiry about heroes of Aotearoa.



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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 studied for 12 weeks 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 Waihangā (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 Waihangā (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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## Visual 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 student 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 six wind instruments: flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, trombone or oboe. 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 of 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. You will explore how aspects of your hauora/wellbeing can be influenced by physical activity in a range of contexts.

### 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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## Awhi

*Tukua kia tū takitahi ngā whetū o te rangi.*

*Let each star in the sky shine its own light.*

Awhi, 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 Year 7 students may explore topics such as identity, self-management, strengths and talents, and belonging. As they move into Year 8 they will build on their understanding of emotional management, respectful relationships, inclusion, collaboration and balance. Students across both year groups will become skilled in the power of reflective practice.

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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. 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.

Year 8 camp



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

(04) 476 8707

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