

Year 9 Programme



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 and 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 to develop an understanding of your personal hauora and the strategies that will help 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 prior experiences. If you are joining Marsden from a school without lab facilities, a special science workshop is organised to give you confidence with basic lab procedures. Technology is integrated across all curriculum areas and your personal device is an important 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 each a week. In addition, all students take Physical Education and Health, Music, Visual Art and Religious Education throughout the year. Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori is taught as a core subject for half of the year and students can continue Te Reo Māori as a language for the remainder of the year if they choose.

Chinese and French are also available as language options in Year 9. If you request Learning Support, this takes the place of a language option. All other options run for a semester (half-year course).

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 Technology and Robotics	Photo Magic
Chinese	
Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori (core subject pre-selected)	International Cuisine

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.

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.

In Year 9 we want you to learn to recognise the importance of scientific knowledge and processes in the world around you, by studying plants and animals, chemicals, astronomy and physical phenomena. You will improve your scientific literacy by developing your observation, problem-solving and research skills, and by learning to recognise relationships and patterns. You will work towards an independent investigation in the school science fair exhibition to improve your planning, interpretation and reporting skills.

Social Sciences

In Social Sciences, you will be challenged to think logically, critically and creatively, and to explore strategies for positive change and sustainability. You will grow in confidence and leadership while developing strong reading, research and writing skills.



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 the community such as government and human rights. Te Reo and tikanga (Māori language and protocols) are

integrated in the context of learning about our society. A highlight of the Year 9 Social Sciences programme is our annual trip to see Parliament and te Tiriti o Waitangi. Year 9 social scientists also carry out a valuable inquiry into their own family or culture's impact on New Zealand, honing their research skills and creativity.

Visual Art

Art encourages creativity, independent thinking and a willingness to take risks.

You will explore both traditional and digital processes, discovering new and exciting ways to create art. Ideas are introduced through the study of artists, their work and their practice. Exploration of cultural and historical contexts is continued and you become aware of the process involved in developing ideas from drawings through to resolved artworks.

Music

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

ROY AYERS

Music is an integral part of life at Marsden, with opportunities for every student to be involved.

Year 9 Music takes you on a journey through the Southern States of the US, exploring how slavery shaped many of the musical styles that underpin 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 using keyboards and drum kit.

Students can join a choir or take private lessons in their chosen instrument with our team of itinerant teachers. Lessons take place during the school day on a rotational timetable, and there are many performance opportunities throughout the year. Musicians can also take part in orchestras, auditioned choirs, jazz and smaller ensembles. Co-curricular music is optional and sits alongside the core Music programme taken by all students.



Health and Physical Education

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 and Tikanga 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.

This foundational course introduces students to their place in Aotearoa. Students will develop basic language skills, including vocabulary and sentence structures, and will learn waiata, mihi, pepeha and karakia.

There will be an emphasis on tikanga Māori (customs and protocols). The insights and experiences that you gain will enrich and broaden your understanding of the uniqueness and complexity of te ao Māori (the Māori world). Students can continue Te Reo Māori as a language option for the remainder of the year if they choose.

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 9 students will become skilled in the power of reflective practice and may explore topics such as emotional management, respectful relationships, inclusion and belonging.

Option Subjects

Photo Magic (half-year option)

You will learn about the elements of photo image-making and the creative possibilities of photography. Discover what is required to take a great photo, then explore techniques to enhance and distort imagery, creating new and exciting visuals. Through the magic of digital tools and handcrafted techniques, you will build a fantastic portfolio of photographic works. A camera or phone capable of taking high-quality photographs and a laptop that supports Adobe design software are required.



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. Students may begin learning any of the languages offered without prior knowledge. Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori is taught as a core subject for half of the year and students can continue Te Reo Māori as a language option for the remainder of the year if they choose. Chinese and French are also available as language options unless students have opted for Learning Support, which targets those with additional learning needs. Whether you're starting a new language or continuing one you've already begun, we'll help you find the right level for your learning journey.

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.

Te Reo Māori (full-year option)

You will develop a core understanding of Te Reo Māori (Māori language) and protocols in this full-year course. This subject choice will give you a strong foundation in Te Reo Māori for further study.

Learning Support (half-year or full-year option)

The Learning Support class is taught in a small group and is available to students who experience gaps in their knowledge and who have specific learning differences, including dyslexia, processing and working memory issues. You will learn strategies to improve your literacy and numeracy skills and enhance self-management. Our specialist Learning Support teacher will liaise with teachers to support your learning in other subjects. Learning Support can be offered as a half-year or full-year course.

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 Technology 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 (makerspace), and the principles of make, build, construct, erect, create, develop and generate. You will also explore artificial intelligence and develop an understanding of how it can be used in responsible and ethical ways.



Taste and Technique (half-year option)

Get ready to cook, create, and explore the world of food! In this exciting Year 9 Food Technology course, you'll dive into hands-on cooking experiences, mastering a variety of techniques to craft delicious and nutritious meals. Experiment with bold flavors using herbs, spices, and unique ingredients while discovering how different processes can elevate your dishes. Whether you're a beginner or a budding chef, this course will sharpen your culinary skills and ignite your passion for cooking! 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.

Fibre Obsession (half-year option)

Are you passionate about creativity, textiles, and hands-on making? Do you want to explore the rich meanings behind traditional textile arts while mastering modern techniques? In this course, you'll bring your ideas to life by transforming raw materials into stunning, handcrafted pieces. From time-honoured methods to cutting-edge innovations, you'll develop the skills to design and create unique works of art. Get ready to experiment, craft, and express yourself through fabric and fibre! There are some additional charges for materials.

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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