

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 spaces such as the gym, the Art House, and Waihanga (makerspace) for practical subjects. 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.

Each day brings a dynamic mix of learning. You might be thinking deeply, creating, collaborating or tackling real-world challenges. You will be encouraged to explore your interests, think creatively, solve problems and contribute your ideas with confidence. Alongside this, teachers will support you to develop a strong understanding of your

personal hauora, equipping you with strategies to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Technology is integrated across all subjects. You will bring your own device and learn how to use it effectively, responsibly and creatively to enhance your learning.

In Year 8, all students take part in the William Pike Challenge. This activity-based programme runs throughout the year and includes outdoor experiences, community service and the development of a new hobby, sport or skill. It is designed to build confidence, resilience and teamwork, while encouraging you to step beyond your comfort zone and have fun along the way. The Year 8 camp contributes towards completing the Challenge. Learn more at www.williampike.co.nz

We challenge you to be the best you can be.

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.

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 an online Mathematics platform and offered the opportunity of entering national competitions, such as ICAS.

Science

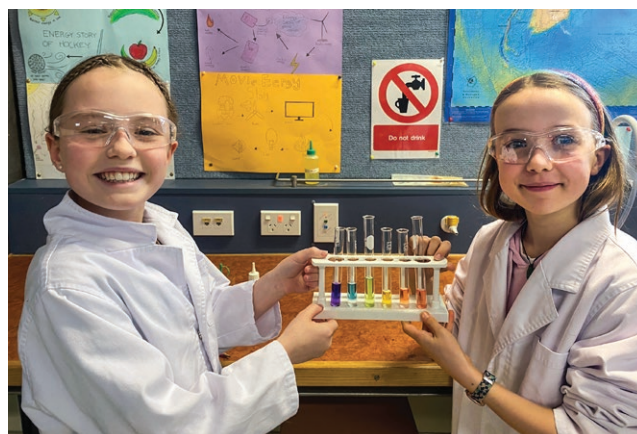
Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.”

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 critical thinking, co-operation and evaluation.

You will learn about the importance of being kaitiaki of the environment, taking part in a practical investigation into



how we can care for and protect it. 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'.

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, natural disasters in the Pacific, business studies and financial literacy, empires, and carry out an inquiry into suffragists.

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.

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.

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, building Scribblebots and exploring micro:bit technology. You will also begin to explore the world of artificial intelligence and develop futures literacies, including learning to use digital technologies in responsible and ethical ways.

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 sustainability, building on the foundation skills acquired in Year 7 and extending your understanding of how to develop a brief. You will look at how to reduce textile waste using your sewing skills, and learn to cook locally sourced, nutritious and sustainable meals. In the Waihanga (makerspace) you will code and manipulate robots to complete challenges and compete in races. You will also explore the creative potential of Adobe Illustrator, and continue to develop your understanding of digital technologies, including how tools such as artificial intelligence can be used in responsible and ethical ways.



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

SIR KEN ROBINSON

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, patterns and their meanings.

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.

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.

Year 7 Music

The Year 7 Music programme includes two lessons each week, combining classroom music and the Band Programme.

In one lesson, you will learn to read, write and compose music, and perform your own pieces. Learning is collaborative and pair-based, with keyboards used as the foundation instrument to support your understanding of musical concepts.

In the Band Programme, whether you are a budding musician or have never played before, you will learn an instrument and 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 take responsibility for caring for it and practising regularly. A specialist team of teachers will support your learning in small groups. With just five minutes of practice a day, you will be amazed at the progress you make. The band performs at assemblies each term, and families are warmly invited to attend.

Year 8 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 the Year 8 Music programme is a general music course. It explores the elements of music through singing, composition, notation, performing, listening and assessing your own and others' performances.

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.



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.

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.

Learning Support

Ko te ākongā te pūtāke o te ako.

The learner is at the centre of learning.

Our teachers adapt learning programmes to enable all students to experience both challenge and success. Flexibility within class structures allows for small groups to build strategies to strengthen literacy and numeracy skills, as needed. Our Head of Personalised Learning oversees the

allocation of teacher aide support for students who may need additional in-class assistance. Where parents have specific concerns about their daughter's learning needs, we recommend a discussion with our Head of Personalised Learning to explore options. Identified students may also participate in Year 7 and 8 Structured Literacy classes, where a specialist teacher provides explicit, targeted literacy intervention.

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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