



YEAR 9
SUBJECT INFORMATION

2025

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to explain the subjects we will offer for the 2025 Academic Year.

Students who are not sure about what subjects to take should ensure they choose a wide range of subjects.

The school staff is available to advise students or meet with parents about subject choices.

Please phone our school office on 09 423 6030 to arrange an appointment should you need further information.

When choosing your subjects, keep in mind:

1. English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Physical Education and Health, and Māori are compulsory at Year 9.
2. That a good general ability in a range of subjects is what many jobs require.
3. To ensure that all learners have the opportunity to become digitally capable individuals, the Ministry of Education is promoting students to take a Digital Technology subject at Junior level.

Year 9 Compulsory Curriculum Structure

- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education and Health
- Science
- Social Studies
- Māori (one semester)

Year 9 Options - select **three** from the following:

- DVC
- Digital Technology
- Drama
- Engineering Technology (Metal based)
- Food Technology
- Material and Technology (Wood based)
- Music
- Spanish
- Sport
- Visual Arts

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Note: Bold Type indicates subjects students must take. Other subjects listed are options that students may choose to take.

LEARNING AREA	YEAR 9 COURSES	YEAR 10 COURSES
English	English	English
Languages and Culture	Māori Spanish	Te Reo Māori Spanish
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science	Science
Social Sciences	Social Studies	Social Studies Enterprise Studies
Health and Physical Well-Being	Physical Education and Health Sport	Physical Education and Health Sport
Technology	Food Technology Materials and Technology - Wood Engineering Technology - Metal DVC Digital Technology	Food Technology Materials and Technology - Wood Engineering Technology - Metal DVC Digital Technology
The Arts	Drama Music Visual Arts	Drama Music Visual Arts

ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

The framework below shows where Year 9 subjects can lead to in Years 11, 12 and 13 to ensure all students have a pathway to success.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	FUTURE
English	English Media Studies	English Literacy English Media Studies	U/P U/P U
Māori Spanish	Māori Spanish	Māori Spanish	U/P U
Mathematics	Mathematics Mathematics with Statistics	Mathematics with Calculus Mathematics with Statistics	U/P U/P
Science	Biology Chemistry General Science Physics	Biology Chemistry Physics	U/P U/P U/P
Geography History Commerce	Geography Tourism History Business Studies Financial Literacy	Geography Tourism History Business Studies Financial Literacy	U/P P U U/P A/P
Physical Education Health	Physical Education Health	Physical Education Health	U/P U
Construction Materials Technology (Wood) Engineering Technology DVC Digital Technology or Computing Hospitality	Building Construction & Design Engineering Technology DVC Digital Technology Hospitality	Building Construction & Design Engineering Technology DVC Digital Technology Hospitality	A/P A/P U/P U/P P
Art Music Drama Performing Arts Technology	Art Photography Music Drama Performing Arts Technology	Art Photography Music Drama Performing Arts Technology	U/P U/P U/P U/P P

Future Key:

A - Apprenticeships

U - University

P - Polytechnic

Academic Counselling is a class that happens once a week. Students get to discuss their achievements, future subject choices and pathways. PST (parent, student, teacher interviews) are an important part of this process.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

Year 9 English

English is part of the compulsory programme. This course focuses on the development of students' oral, written and visual language. Students study a range of texts such as novels, poetry and film based on an exciting array of themes; such as 'Overcoming Challenges' and 'Creating a Better World'. They take part in oral and visual presentations, such as debates and producing posters, and they write in a range of styles. The programme will include standardised reading and writing testing (asTTle) as well as 5 topics that contribute toward the Junior Certificate of Educational Achievement.

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Reading	Term 1	Yes
Visual	Term 2	Yes
Oral	Term 2	Yes
Writing	Term 3	Yes
Response to Text Essay	Term 4 – Exam	Yes
Close Reading of Unfamiliar Texts	Term 4 – Exam	Yes

Year 9 Mathematics

Mathematics and Statistics is a part of the compulsory programme. Content is grouped into curriculum levels in Number, Algebra, Statistics, Probability, Geometry, and Measurement to form a two-year programme for the Junior school, which allows individual students to work at their own level. Students work at their existing level of mathematical competence and are challenged to develop the skills required for success at the next level. The minimum goal in Year 9 is to achieve at NZ Curriculum Level 4 proficiently. There are two key competencies that are particularly important for mathematics; to be effective thinkers, and to be able to communicate one's thinking with accuracy and precision.

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Topic 1 Measurement and Number	Term 1	Yes
Topic 2A Statistics Univariate	Term 1	Yes
Topic 2B Statistics Time Series	Term 2	Yes
Topic 3 Algebra and Number	Term 2	Yes
Topic 4 Probability and Number	Term 3	Yes
Topic 5 Geometry	Term 3	Yes
End of Year Exam	Term 4	Yes

Year 9 Physical Education & Health

Physical Education and Health is a compulsory core subject and is timetabled 3 lessons per week. Students will learn and develop strategies to enhance the wellbeing of themselves, others and society. Specifically, in Physical Education, students will learn about movement through a range of sporting and exercise contexts and situations. In Health, students learn about the skills and knowledge required to make safe and sensible decisions. The topics included Hauora (Well-being), Social Responsibility, Relationships and Sexuality. The course runs for the entire year and assessments are at Curriculum Level 4.

Equipment: Activewear for all practical lessons. Device, pens or pencils for theory lessons.

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Hauora (Well-being)	Term 1	Yes
Aquatics	Term 1	No
Bullying Prevention	Term 2	Yes
Social Responsibility	Term 3	Yes
Relationships & Sexuality	Term 3	No
Skill Development	Term 1, 2 & 3	Yes

Year 9 Science

Science is a foundation course designed to give students an understanding of concepts needed for further study in science and to develop science literacy, numeracy and writing; research skills and investigative skills. Key Competencies and Science Capabilities are developed through the Nature of Science with incorporation of Mataranga Māori, which flows through all topics. Assessments are at Curriculum Level 3, 4 & 5 giving all students a chance to achieve or excel. SCIPAD workbooks are at 3 levels as well, letting students work at a level they can understand and be successful at.

Equipment: Year 9 SCIPAD \$25

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Working Scientifically	Term 1	No
Digestion and Nutrition	Term 1	Yes
Matter, Atoms and Elements	Term 1	Yes
Space	Term 2	Yes
Waves and Energy	Term 3	Yes
Life and the Taiao	Term 3	Yes
Plants	Term 4	

Year 9 Social Studies

Social Studies is the study of people: how we work together, make decisions, respond to challenges and interact with the natural environment. Students will explore a range of current and historical issues, while developing their information literacy, writing and inquiry skills.

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Whakapapa me te Whanaungatanga - Our Place and Identity	Term 1	Yes
Peopling Aotearoa – Migration	Term 2	Yes
Who's the Boss – Government	Term 3	Yes
Tagata Pasifika - Aotearoa and the Pacific Region	Term 4	Yes

Year 9 Māori

Students will be introduced to the four strands in the reo Māori Curriculum; these include Pānui (reading), Tuhituhi (writing), Kōrero (talking), Whakarongo (listening). The course will focus on building a strong foundation to construct students' pathways forward with te reo Māori. There will be lots of group work with the expectation of raising confidence in the four strands. Students will start with karakia and waiata using these as a basis to refine using vowels, alphabet, phonetics and diphthongs. Then they will move to identifying simple instructions, asking and responding to simple questions to build the ability for everyday use of te reo Māori. Once the fundamentals are established while still upholding tikanga we will shift our focus to Māori traditions and tikanga around Te Ao Māori.

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Tikanga Māori	Term 1/3	Yes
Pōwhiri	Term 2/4	Yes
Kōrero	Term 2/4	Yes

OPTION SUBJECTS

Year 9 Design and Visual Communication (DVC)

This one semester (two terms) course introduces the creative world of design. Students develop their knowledge and drawing skills, building up an understanding of design language and drawing techniques which are applied to problem solving design issues. It is fun with a key focus on freehand drawing, rendering and the presentation of work with the opportunity to make a 3D model. No prior experience is required as all skills are taught during the course. The course carries through to Year 13 and provides an excellent basis for tertiary study in most subjects.

\$10 Contribution

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Freehand Sketching	Term 1/3	Yes
Spatial Design and Perspective	Term 1/3	Yes
3D Modelling and Presentation	Term 2/4	Yes

Year 9 Digital Technology

This course focuses on providing the skills to develop an understanding of a brief that will provide ideas to begin a design process. Students will learn to design and develop a website using html and css. They will experience using a coding language to meet a given brief and understand how coding is used in the world wide web and to build electronics programmes. They will also develop resilience in problem solving skills when working within teams to develop a final electronics project.

Contribution: \$25

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Basic Web Page Design	Term 1/3	Yes
Basic Game Design using Scratch (Python)	Term 1/3	Yes
Basic Soldering and Electronics skills	Term 2/4	Yes

Year 9 Drama

Drama is a creative programme running for one semester (two terms) at Curriculum Level 4. Students are introduced to the Elements and Conventions of drama and will learn to develop acting techniques. They will learn such skills as basic mime, improvisation and role play. They will also devise and perform a short, improvised scene. They will develop a character in a short play and investigate and perform a scene from a theatre form ie melodrama and much more. Drama helps develop confidence and the opportunity to step beyond the comfort zone. Also cooperation, participation and through group work, as well as the performance skills. It can also enhance memory, literacy, creative skills and imagination. Part of the course now involves Performing Arts ie mask and prop making.

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Devise and improvise a show scene	Term 1	Yes
Performing in a short play - creating a role	Term 1	Yes
Exploring a theatre form	Term 2	Yes
Exploring world theatre	Term 2	No

Year 9 Engineering Technology

Year 9 Engineering Technology is all about learning and improving knowledge and skills in engineering. The course introduces the use of machines, hand tools, machining and basic welding, which enables students to produce a range of engineering projects. The course also covers workshop safety and the basics of drafting for engineering and 3D drawing. This course leads on from Year 7 and 8 manual classes but requires no prior experience.

Course contribution: \$40

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
The function and aesthetics of products	Term 1/3	Yes
Sheet metal tool tray construction skills	Term 1/3	Yes
Everyday carry tool	Term 2/4	Yes

Year 9 Food Technology

Food Technology covers the basics of the technology curriculum, so they are able to prepare dishes independently and plan a meal within a budget. The core components are safety, hygiene and the use of equipment. The key competencies underpin all learning activities along with the RESPECT Code.

Covered shoes and hair ties (for long hair) are compulsory for health and safety.

Course contribution: \$90 Equipment: sealed container to take food home, hair ties

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Fast, Clean and Safe	Term 1/3	Yes
Sweet Dishes	Term 2/3	Yes
Savoury Dishes	Term 2/3	Yes

Year 9 Materials and Technology - Wood Based

This is a one semester (two terms) course where students will make set projects which require some individual design and problem solving capability associated with mainly wood related materials.

Although not compulsory, it is an advantage to have satisfactorily completed this course before selecting a technology course in Year 10.

Course contribution: \$50

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Workshop safety and responsibility	Term 1/3	Yes
Knowledge and understanding when using resistant materials	Term 1/3	Yes
Applied use of tools, materials, process and techniques	Term 2/4	Yes

Year 9 Music

Music is part of the option programme in Year 9. The course runs for one semester (two terms) and assessments are at Curriculum Level 4. Students will explore a wide range of topics. The course is designed to allow students the chance to develop instrumental skills. They learn about the elements of music and the development of film music and popular music, as well as developing knowledge of basic music theory concepts. Students will also learn about Taonga Pūoro through constructing Māori instruments. Students intending to study Music beyond Year 9 are encouraged to be learning an instrument (including voice), either through the Group Itinerant Music Scheme at school or privately.

Please see HoD Music to discuss further.

Equipment: 1 x document wallet, 1 x clearfile, 1 x headphones

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Elements of Music and Film Music Study	Term 1	Yes
Instrumental skills - keyboards and ensemble work	Term 1/2	Yes
Music theory	Term 2	Yes
History of Popular Music Study	Term 2	Yes

Year 9 Spanish

Year 9 Spanish introduces four topics that contribute toward Junior Certificate of Educational Achievement (JCEA). The course runs for one semester in Year 9 and assessments are at curriculum Levels 1-2. This programme is made up of three internal assessment tasks. The four topics give students the opportunity to learn basic words and phrases in Spanish and communicate about themselves and their immediate environment. The topics are: Introducing Myself; School; Family and Pets; Describing Myself and Others.

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Cultural project	Term 1/3	No
Understanding Spoken Spanish - Listening	Term 2/4	Yes
Understanding Written Spanish - Reading	Term 2/4	Yes
Speaking in Spanish	Term 2/4	Yes
Writing in Spanish	Term 1/3	No

Year 9 Sport

Year 9 Sport is an option subject and runs for one semester. It has a heavy emphasis on practical participation; however some theory will be involved to enrich student learning. Topics covered are based on Active Participation, Adventure Based Learning & Team Building, Leadership and Exercise and the Body. These will be completed through a combination of demonstrations, as well as student/peer/teacher judgements. As with Year 9 Physical Education & Health, assessments are at Curriculum Level 4.

Equipment: Activewear for all practical lessons. Device, pens or pencils for theory lessons.

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Active Participation	By semester end	Yes
Adventure Based Learning and Team Building	By semester end	No
Exercise and the Body	By semester end	Yes
Leadership	By semester end	Yes

Year 9 Visual Arts

The course covers a variety of different projects based on improving skills in observational drawing, painting techniques and 3 Dimensional works. This is in preparation, and is recommended, for Year 10 Art which leads to NCEA level 1 and carries through to Level 3, and entry into the creative arts at tertiary level.

Course contribution: \$20 take home materials

Topic Name	Assessment Dates	Selected for JCEA
Observational Drawing	Term 1/3	Yes
Printmaking	Term 1/3	Yes
Sculpture	Term 2/4	No
Painting	Term 2/4	Yes

(Subject to change)

ONLINE COURSES

It is possible for junior students to enrol in either Kōtūi Ako Virtual Learning Network or Te Kura.

Kōtūi Ako Virtual Learning Network is where the student meets once a week online with an allocated teacher. This meeting will be when they have a normal timetabled class. The student must attend the online class. After that, the student will have three lessons (usually timetabled in the Library) to keep up to date with their online work. The following courses will be offered for Kōtūi Ako in 2025:

<https://www.kotuiako.school.nz/secondary-programmes-kaupapa-ako-kura-tuarua/>

Te Kura is where the student completes all their work online. There is a series of lessons which the students work through. The student will have three lessons (usually timetabled in the Library) to keep up to date with their online work. The current courses are offered by Te Kura.

<https://www.tekura.school.nz/subjects-and-courses/>

These may be subject to change in 2025.

Online courses are available to students who demonstrate a strong work ethic and enjoy working by themselves in an online environment. Students can choose different subjects to those that are offered at Rodney College. Students can also choose a course which they are not able to do at Rodney College due to a subject clash. Students can also choose which level they work at: Year 9 - Curriculum Level 4; Year 10 - Curriculum Level 5, NCEA Level 1.