

YEAR 9

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AWATAPU
COLLEGE

Course Information

COURSE INFORMATION BOOKLET

GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE SELECTION

Please refer to the following pages for courses offered at Awatapu College. When students are making their course selections, it is important they keep in mind their ability, their interests and their possible future course of study and/or occupation.

YEAR 9 COMPULSORY CORE SUBJECTS

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health & Physical Education
- Food & Nutrition
- Careers Pathway

Placement: Students will be placed into an Extension, Core, or Foundation English/Maths class based on data from contributing schools and a series of in-class tasks. Movement may occur between courses as warranted during the year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: SUBJECT CHOICE SELECTION POINT-SYSTEM

A '**Six(6)-Point**' system is used when selecting Year 9 option choices.

Selecting 'Language Vs Non-Language' Course:

- **Languages are a full-year course** – Selecting a language as a subject choice will make up two (2) points of the total six (6) points.
- **Non-Language courses are half-year courses** – Totalling one (1) point per course selected.

Please note: As part of the enrolment process — Students enrolling for Year 9 will be required to select their options/subject choices at their enrolment meeting.

YEAR 9 – CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

9ENG

Course Outline: Year 9 English focuses on storytelling as a means to develop key literacy skills. We make meaning of the world through our understanding of the stories we read, see, and hear. Alongside this, we participate in the world by making stories that communicate our ideas, values and experiences.

Assessment: Students will work on three broad portfolios (Speaking & presenting, engaging with & understanding texts, and Writing skills) throughout the year and complete some common literacy testing. These results will help determine class placement in Year 10.

Course Length: Full Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 English

Entry Requirement: N/A
Contact: Mr Tuck

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9ELL

Course Outline: This course is skills based at the basic level, focusing on speaking, listening, reading and writing for students from non-English speaking backgrounds. Texts used are closely graded and controlled, and writing tasks are carefully guided.

Assessment: This is an internally assessed course based on class tests and school examination.

Course Length: Full Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 English Language

Entry Requirement: Decided by HoD
Contact: Mrs Mathews

MATHEMATICS

9MAT

Course Outline: This course is based on Phase 4 of the New Zealand Mathematics Curriculum.

Areas covered are: Measurement, Algebra, Geometry, Statistics and Number. The emphasis is on teaching and practice of skills, as well as the development of problem-solving strategies. Students are pre-tested and will be placed in an Extension, Core or Foundation class. Extension classes build on the core programme, with extension in the form of broadening knowledge and skills. Core classes follow the standard year level programme. Foundation class sizes are kept small and focus on developing student abilities and addressing areas of weakness in the curriculum.

Assessment: Common tests at the end of each topic.

Course Length: Full Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 Mathematics

Entry Requirement: N/A
Contact: Mr Flynn

SCIENCE

9SCI

Course Outline: Year 9 Science aims to give Ākonga experience in all the Science domains (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth and Space Science) with a key focus on skills required to be successful in Science. Students generate and test ideas while gathering evidence to understand, explain, and develop knowledge about the scientific world.

Assessment: End of topic assessments and Research assignments.

Course Length: Full Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 Science

Entry Requirement: N/A
Contact: Mrs Mapuilesua
(Whaea Pip)

YEAR 9 – CORE SUBJECTS

SOCIAL STUDIES

9SOC

Course Outline: In this course, students will develop skills in researching, analysing information, exploring points of view, and making decisions.

This course will enable students to understand:

- New Zealand events: Cause and Effect
- Community Challenge
- Power and Politics
- Our Heritage

Assessment: Research assignments and end of topic assessments.

Course Length: Full Year

Entry Requirement: N/A

Where does it lead? Year 10 Social Studies

Contact: Ms McKinnon

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

9PED

Course Outline: Students will gain knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and to contribute actively to the well-being of other people and the well-being of their communities. The focus is on students taking an increasing responsibility for their own health and well-being. They will develop the skills that will enable them to enhance their relationships with other people, and they will participate in creating healthy communities. Topics include adventure-based learning, badminton, health (personal and community), invasion games, movement concepts and small ball skills.

Assessment: A variety of assessments which include self, peer, and teacher.

Course Length: Full Year

Entry Requirement: N/A

Where does it lead? Year 10 Health and Physical Education

Contact: Mr Crawford

CAREERS PATHWAY

9CAR

Course Outline: This option has been introduced to give Year 9 students a taste of both the 'World of Work' and Financial Literacy.

'World of Work' - This component covers learning about personal strengths and skills, researching careers of interest, requirements of certain courses and jobs and what school subjects are useful for them. Another focus is creating a CV and learning about the importance of volunteering.

Financial Literacy - This component covers learning basic financial literacy principles with the focus being on income, credit and interest. Students use the online Banquer resource to investigate banking systems, debt, KiwiSaver, renting/purchasing property and insurance. This allows the students to get a well-rounded knowledge of managing finances later in life.

Course Length: 1 Term per component

Entry Requirement: N/A

Where does it lead? Future informed decision making around vocational pathways and financial literacy

Contact: Ms Johanson

ACROSS-CURRICULA

MINDPLUS GIFTED EDUCATION

9MPS

Course Outline: This course is offered in collaboration with the New Zealand Centre of Education's MindPlus programmes. In the programme, we explore giftedness and how to personalise learning to develop an individual's talent through a passion project. The course centres around the concept of discovery and includes topics like our learning styles, creative thinking, problem solving, catalysts, the brain, and neurodiversity. Students have the opportunity to join nation-wide clubs to extend themselves and develop their gift. Students complete a questionnaire upon enrolment and parents, caregivers and whānau can submit an expression of interest for entry.

Assessment: The course is assessed against the New Zealand Centre of Education's Ministry approved curriculum strands: Conceptual, Talent and Personal. Students are assessed against their progress in these strands, which includes the development of their passion project or independent study programme.

Course Length:	Full Year	Entry Requirement:	Decided by TiC
Where does it lead?	Year 10 MindPlus Gifted Education	Contact:	Mr Reid

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

PROJECT/PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

9PBL

Course Outline: Project/Problem - based learning (PBL) is an approach in which students gain knowledge and skills by working to investigate and respond to a number of engaging and complex questions, problems, or challenges while identifying and responding to any literacy and/or numeracy gaps. At the end of the option, students may have completed a project, based on their interests or about a topic they are passionate about.

PBL provides opportunities for students to build key-competencies and skills such as:

- Literacy and Numeracy skills
- Critical and/or creative thinking
- Problem-solving
- Self-management

Criteria for Entry:

- Identified or perceived problems in numeracy (Maths) and/or literacy (reading, writing or spelling)

Course Length:	Half-Year	Entry Requirement:	Decided by TIC
		Contact:	Ms Wallis

ART

9ART

Course Outline: This course is an introduction to art and art skills. The module will encourage competency in at least three art disciplines, from drawing, painting, sculpture, design or printmaking.

Assessment: Practical assessment throughout the course on both bookwork and finished work.

Course Length:	Half-Year	Entry Requirement:	N/A
Where does it lead?	Year 10 Art	Contact:	Mr Dobson

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

DANCE

9DAN

Course Outline: This is an introductory course catering to students with a wide range of abilities. It involves physical learning through the creation and invention of movement and incorporates skills from a variety of dance genres. In dance, students are given the freedom to develop their confidence and identity, placing value on who the learner is and what they bring with them to the learning space.

Assessment: Variety of assessments. Students have the opportunity to join our extra-curricular dance group, participate in dance workshops and perform in regional competitions.

Course Length: Half-Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 Dance

Entry Requirement: N/A
Contact: Ms Berge

DRAMA

9DRA

Course Outline: This course introduces students to the fundamental skills of performance, including improvisation, mime, character development through script work, and storytelling. It is a highly practical class where students learn by doing—playing drama games, creating performances, and exploring creative expression. Alongside performance, students strengthen their literacy skills through reflection and self-evaluation, learning how to talk and write about their own progress. The focus is on building confidence, working collaboratively, and having fun while developing the foundations of drama.

Assessment: Practical assessment throughout the course. Some book work will also be required. This is an internally assessed course based on class tests and school examination.

Course Length: Half-Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 Drama

Entry Requirement: N/A
Contact: Mrs Oatway

FASHION AND MATERIAL TECHNOLOGY

9FMT

Course Outline: Welcome to the studio environment where your journey begins by mastering professional equipment and essential safety protocols. This course provides students with the opportunity to develop the following:

- The Language of Textiles: Learn the theoretical foundations of raw materials, exploring the differences between natural and synthetic fibres and how they behave
- Technical Mastery: Develop confidence in a professional workshop environment through manual and machine-based sewing skills
- Start-to-Finish Construction: Follow a complete design journey, translating visual and written technical instructions into high-quality physical products

Assessment: Practical work completion and assessments.

Course Length: Half-Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 Fashion and Material Technology
Contact: Mrs de Lange (Whaea Chantelle)

Entry Requirement: N/A

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

MUSIC

9MUS

Course Outline: Year 9 Music welcomes both beginners and students who already have some musical experience. Students will create music using Soundtrap, build loops, and develop their own musical ideas. The course focuses on performance, building musicianship, confidence and rehearsal skills. Students will also complete music theory digitally and explore the elements of music through listening to music.

Assessment: Performance Assessments (assessed in front of teacher and/or small groups) / Music theory Assessment / Composition assessment

Course Length: Half-Year

Entry Requirement: Interest in music and willingness to learn an instrument. Lessons are provided free of charge, and students can borrow Awatapu instruments.

Where does it lead? Year 10 Music

Contact: Ms Trent

BUSINESS STUDIES

9BUS

Course Outline: This course gives students the opportunity to have a basic understanding of how to run a business and key concepts involved; this includes:

- Introduction to business
- Entrepreneurship
- Marketing
- Applying the marketing mix to a new product
- Forms of ownership
- Basic concepts of financial literacy, including budgeting

Assessment: By a variety of methods including class work, knowledge test and practical work.

Course Length: Half-Year

Entry Requirement: N/A

Where does it lead? Year 10 Business Studies

Contact: Mr Hatch

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

9DIT

Course Outline: Students will begin their journey as creators of digital technology. This course introduces digital literacy, design thinking, and foundational computer science concepts such as algorithms and debugging. Students will use contemporary digital tools and platforms to develop and test basic digital outcomes through coding and design challenges.

Assessment: A variety of methods including practical projects and in-class tasks.

Course Length: Half-Year

Entry Requirement: N/A

Where does it lead? Year 10 Digital Technology

Contact: Mr Carpendale

FOOD & NUTRITION

9NUT

Course Outline: In this course, ākonga will investigate current issues in nutrition to allow them to identify factors that influence food choices and behaviours. They will apply this knowledge to make informed decisions for themselves and others. Through preparing, cooking and serving food, ākonga develop understanding and skills contributing to their well-being.

Assessment: A variety of assessments, which include self, peer, and teacher.

Course Length: Half-Year

Entry Requirement: N/A

Where does it lead? Year 10 Food & Nutrition

Contact: Ms Sutton

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

SPATIAL AND PRODUCT DESIGN

9SPD

Course Outline: Spatial and Product Design (SPD) is about creative problem-solving, where students bring ideas to life by identifying needs, exploring options, and utilising visual communication techniques to present their ideas. Students explore the design of products, spaces, and architecture.

Students will learn to:

- Think like a designer
- Communicate ideas clearly
- Draw, model, and present their ideas
- Be inspired by culture, history, and the world around them to generate ideas

Assessment: Teacher assessment of projects and class exercises

Course Length: Half-Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 SPD

Entry Requirement: N/A
Contact: Mrs Jorgensen

HARD MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

9HMT

Course Outline: This is a practical based subject in which students will work with two materials; wood and metal. They will study the natural resource and the process it goes through to become a usable material. By designing and making various projects in each material they will learn how to handle them and the safety requirements that need to be practiced. Students will be given instruction and practice with hand tools and limited machinery to prepare, assemble and finish the materials to high standards.

Assessment: Self-evaluation and teacher assessment of the projects and exercises completed in class exercises.

Course Length: Half-Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 Wood Materials **or** Year 10 Engineering Technology
Contact: Mr Brears (Wood Materials)
or Mr Dowrick (Engineering Technology)

Entry Requirement: N/A

YEAR 9 OPTIONS (FULL YEAR)

JAPANESE

9JAP

Course Outline: Students will be taught to understand spoken Japanese, and to speak, read and write Japanese. This includes becoming competent in reading and writing Hiragana (Japanese script) and familiarisation with Japanese culture and customs. The course is very interactive and includes role plays, games, videos, Japanese food and dress-ups. Students will be given the opportunity to Participate in a variety of language and cultural activities including Japanese Club, the Regional Japanese Trivia Contest and activities with visiting Japanese students.

Assessment: Regular testing of units (listening, speaking, reading and writing in Japanese script), and cultural knowledge.

Course Length: Full Year
Where does it lead? Year 10 Japanese

Entry Requirement: N/A
Contact: Mr Chapple

Course Outline: Te Reo Māori aims to develop and enhance students' knowledge of Te Reo Māori in:

- Speaking and comprehending the spoken word
- Writing and comprehending the written word
- As well as the following concepts and understandings: whakapapa, tapu, noa, tikanga and kawa.

Assessment: Ākonga will be assessed at the end of each Unit during the year. They will be assessed on their oral, written, aural and reading skills.

Course Length: Full Year

Entry Requirement: Offered to students who would like to develop and enhance their knowledge of Te Reo Māori

Where does it lead? Year 10 Te Reo Māori

Contact: Pā Kevin Waho