

A wise man carves
his own fortune

2025 Academic Curriculum Guide

Year 9



**HAMILTON BOYS'
HIGH SCHOOL**

Te Kura Tamatāne o Kirikiriroa

WELCOME TO

Hamilton Boys' High School

At Hamilton Boys' High School, our comprehensive curriculum is designed to encourage students to pursue academic excellence. We prioritise independent learning, problem-solving skills, and innovative thinking, equipping our students to become self-sufficient learners. Our educational programmes are customised to match the diverse needs and interests of our students, providing varied educational pathways for every learner. Our faculty, skilled in boys' education, create dynamic learning environments that focus on hands-on activities, interactive learning, enjoyment, and the integration of technology. Our educational philosophy centers on techniques that are most effective for boys, while also fostering strong, positive relationships between teachers and students. Ultimately, our school excels in nurturing independent thought and a commitment to excellence in all areas.



Mr Jarred Williams
HEADMASTER



Academic Curriculum

Hamilton Boys' High School recognises, respects, and responds to the educational needs of all students, including those with exceptional, different, and special needs. All teaching programmes at Hamilton Boys' High School focus on the specific learning needs of boys.

New students have their strengths and weaknesses assessed through standardised diagnostic testing and profiling data (e.g. from contributing schools and enrolment information). This information is carefully analysed and students are placed in classes which offer differentiated programmes of learning, providing work at the relevant speed, depth, and complexity. The following is a basic overview of the three main programmes:

Advanced Learning Programme: these classes provide challenge, enrichment, and acceleration for students who enter high school working at a higher level of the national curriculum than their chronological age.

Enhanced Learning Programme: these classes consist of students who enter high school working at or near their chronological age. Students in this programme are challenged and supported to make more than one year's progress for each year of learning.

Supported Learning Programme: these classes consist of students who enter high school working below their chronological age. These classes are smaller and most will have a teacher aide present in core subjects. For these students, we are doing our best to close the gaps that have emerged in previous years of schooling.

Curriculum Overview

YEAR 9

YEAR 10

ENGLISH (EN)

English
English Language Learning
Reading

English
English Language Learning
Reading

HEALTH & PHYSICAL WELL-BEING (HPW)

Athlete Development
Health Education
Physical Education

Athlete Development
Health and Physical Well-Being
Physical Education
Outdoor Education

LANGUAGES, ARTS & MUSIC (LAM)

Aotearoa Studies
Art
Chinese
Drama
Film and Television
German
Music
Spanish
Te Reo Māori

Painting and Printmaking
Photography and Design
Chinese
Drama
Film and Television
German
Music
Spanish
Te Reo Māori

MATHEMATICS (MX)

Mathematics

Mathematics

SCIENCE (SC)

Science

Science
Electronics

SOCIAL SCIENCES (SS)

Social Studies
Financial Literacy

Social Studies
Commerce
History/Geography

TECHNOLOGY (TEC)

Food Technology
Design and Visual Communication
Information Technology
Materials Technology Metal
Materials Technology Wood

Food Technology
Design and Visual Communication
Information Technology
Materials Technology Metal
Materials Technology Wood

Subject Information

Learning Areas in Year 9

The National Curriculum requires students to undertake study in all eight Learning Areas: English, Languages, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Social Sciences, the Arts, and Health and Physical Education. To achieve this, all Year 9 students at Hamilton Boys' High School study the following:

Full-year compulsory courses:

- ▶ English
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Science
- ▶ Social Studies
- ▶ Physical Education

One-semester compulsory courses:

- ▶ Health
- ▶ Aotearoa Studies
- ▶ Information Technology

A choice of five courses from the following one-semester courses:

- ▶ Art
- ▶ Chinese-Mandarin
- ▶ Drama
- ▶ Athlete Development (two-semesters)
- ▶ English Language Learning
- ▶ Financial Literacy
- ▶ Food Technology
- ▶ German
- ▶ Design and Visual Communication
- ▶ Māori
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Music Advanced
- ▶ Reading
- ▶ Spanish
- ▶ Technology Metal
- ▶ Technology Wood

Optional Semester Courses Available in Year 9

ART

The Year 9 Art course allows students to experience art-making in the fields of observational drawing, expressive painting, print-making, design and sculpture. Critical appreciation of tradition within the arts allows the student to broaden his understanding of the visual arts and how they fit into today's society. Parent fee for this course is approximately \$10; additionally, there is a compulsory art pack that needs to be purchased from the school shop. The cost for this is approximately \$10.

DRAMA

This course introduces students to the basic skills of performance. It is a practical course that introduces theatre form to students. The theory aspect covers dramatic language, theatre elements and conventions. There is no cost for this course.

ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

The Year 9 Athlete Development programme allows talented sportsmen and athletes the opportunity to improve in the sporting arena. The course consists of practical components, including regular fitness testing and assessment, fitness training (including speed, strength and agility sessions), and sports specific training. Theory lessons cover sports nutrition, injury prevention, self analysis techniques, goal setting, and mental toughness. In order to be considered for inclusion in this course, students must complete the Athlete Development application form as part of the enrolment process. The fee for this course is approximately \$63.50 (which includes the cost of the Athlete Development t-shirt). Please note that this is a two-semester option. Students in this course will do one less semester-long option.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

This class provides extra help for students whose first language is not English and who are developing their English language knowledge. The course covers reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The specialist teacher will help students settle into school routines and provide assistance in understanding the language of assignments in all subject areas. Please note, ELL is a one-year course.

Subject Information

FILM AND TELEVISION

This course teaches students fundamental production and post-production skills. Students complete a moving image project while learning about shot composition, sequencing, and editing video and audio elements. The skills learnt in this course are the foundation for more complex projects which prepare students for the film and television industry. The school provides all cameras for shooting and iMacs for editing.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

Financial literacy is a core life skill for participating in modern society. Our young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world where they will need to take charge of their own financial future. This course will help them to develop the skills needed to manage their personal resources. Topics in the nine-week course include budgeting, income and spending, and Kiwisaver. Young adults stand a far greater chance of leading an abundant life of security with some elementary financial skills.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

This course offers both a theoretical and practical introduction to producing, preparing, and presenting food. The major focus for all practical lessons is preparing food that is safe to eat. Theory lessons focus on basic nutrition and the technology cycle. Fees for this course are approximately \$55.

DESIGN AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION

This course teaches students freehand and digital design skills through projects that utilise the 3-D printer and laser cutter. The skills learnt in this course are the foundation for senior design where students are involved in C.A.D and 3-D printing of design solutions. Fees for this course are approximately \$10.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Dive into the dynamic world of Information Technology and Computer Science with this hands-on course designed to equip learners with digital skills for the 21st century. Learn to create digital outcomes using a range of common software tools to present and share ideas. Develop programming and computational skills through problem solving. Gain an understanding of computer systems and technological theory. Learn how to be a responsible digital citizen, navigate the risks of the online world, and become a capable online learner.

LANGUAGES

In all introductory language courses, students learn the basics of communicating in another language and gain some knowledge of the culture, traditions, and heritage of speakers of that language. We are proud to offer the following languages:

- ▶ **Chinese-Mandarin**
- ▶ **German**
- ▶ **Māori**
- ▶ **Spanish** (There is a \$5 fee for this course.)

MUSIC

This course is designed for students who have an interest in music but no formal training. It covers the elements of music, instruments, and teaches basic practical guitar skills.

MUSIC (Advanced)

This course is aimed at students with previous musical experience. It covers composition and technology elements not taught in the general course. The course has a practical approach and gives students a clearer idea of what it is to be a musician and student of music.

TECHNOLOGY METAL

In this practical course, students learn how to use a variety of tools and machinery in a safe manner. Each student will construct a model off-road buggy using aluminium and plastic. Fees for this course are approximately \$75 inclusive.

TECHNOLOGY WOOD

In this practical course, students learn how to use a variety of tools and machinery in a safe manner. Each student will construct a model Land Rover. Fees for this course are approximately \$55.

Online Course Selection using Google Forms

All Year 9 option courses are selected online. Please click on the link and complete the form.

Selecting Options

Year 9 students take eight option subjects. Three are compulsory and five are optional. The compulsory options are Aotearoa Studies, Health, and Information Technology. Students do not select these. Students take two options each semester and there are four semesters in the year (of ten weeks duration).

Options choices: Each Year 9 student must choose one Art option (Section A), and one Language option (Section B), and then select any three additional options from Sections A – C.

Please note - students are asked to select TWO alternative options as backups from columns A – C and indicate these options in Section D – Backup Choices. This is in case one of their preferred options is not available due to popularity

or timetable clashes. (Backup choices must be different to previously selected options.) In addition, if you have completed an application for the Athlete Development programme, please select the appropriate field. This is in addition to the seven selections above. If you have not applied for this, click NO.

Athlete Development Programme

Please only select this option if you completed a Athlete Development application with your original enrolment application. Please note that entry into this course **requires selection**. You will receive information regarding trials once your application has been received. Successful applicants will be included in the programme and need to be aware that this will take the place of two of their options. **If students do not want to be considered for this programme, click NO.**

Please read the FAQs following this section before contacting the school.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can we do the selection process on paper forms?

Yes. Paper forms can be collected from school reception and must be returned to reception upon completion by the due date (1/11/2024). Online is our preferred method.

2. We are unsure which courses to select.

Year 9 is about experiencing a range of courses and having a go at new subjects.

3. How will we know if our course selection form was received?

You will receive a copy of your selections. It will be sent to the email address you provided.

4. Can we change our selections after the form has been submitted?

You can not electronically alter your entries. Please read the Curriculum Guide carefully before making your selections. However, you could email the Junior Curriculum Coordinator if you'd like to change the option selections.

5. When will we know what subjects are confirmed?

When your son receives his timetable at the beginning of school next year.

6. Why do we select two backup courses?

Occasionally, a course that a student selects is too popular for all students to be accommodated or it may not work due to timetable clashes. In these situations, we resort to the backup courses.

7. Are the fees for option subjects compulsory?

Yes, as a parent/caregiver, you agree to your son being placed in the subjects he has selected. You also agree to pay all associated course costs for the subjects he has chosen. Please understand that the course fees in the Curriculum Guide are approximate and may deviate slightly.

8. Who should I contact if I have any further questions about option selections?

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