



# Waiheke High School

## Junior Curriculum Guide

2008



# Welcome

This Junior Curriculum Guide is designed to help you understand the teaching and learning that takes place in Year 7-10 at Waiheke High School. This guide provides information about:

- Class Structure
- Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme
- Subject Pathways
- Year 7-10 core subjects
- Year 7-10 option subjects

## Class Structure

Year 7 & 8 students benefit from belonging to a core group with a home-room teacher who is their first point of call for pastoral care. Grouping will take place in core subjects in order to cater for each individual student's needs. Year 7 & 8 students also benefit from an option structure which introduces students to all options on a term by term rotation basis.

In Year 9 & 10 students will be grouped in form classes according to abilities and particular learning needs. The form teacher is their first point of contact on a daily basis. Extension learning is offered and teaching programmes are tailored to meet the needs of the students. Year 9 students also choose up to four option subjects for two or four terms and Year 10 students choose two option subjects for the full year.



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE  
International Examinations

## Year 7-9 Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme

The Junior School Curriculum for 2008 will include the addition of the Cambridge Lower Secondary Programme. This programme is also known as 'Checkpoint'. Checkpoint is a framework for students in Year 7-9 in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. The programme provides Head of Faculties with resources for teaching, learning and assessment. The specific Checkpoint Tests are standardised and provide students and parents with an international benchmark of student achievement.

The major benefit for Year 7-9 students at Waiheke High School is the clear continuation of their learning throughout their years in the Junior School until they prepare for NCEA in Year 10. Teachers and parents alike will be able to track each individual student's achievement and progress from Year 7 through to the end of Year 9. Skills in English, Maths and Science will be built upon continuously and the programme guidelines for prior learning and learning outcomes will provide teachers with a basis for rigorous teaching and personalised learning.

Secondly students in Year 7 and 8 will benefit hugely from a more specialised approach to teaching and learning, especially in the learning area of Science. In addition to their valuable Science lessons with their homeroom teacher students will be able to enjoy lessons with a specialist Science teacher in our purpose built Science Labs.

## WHERE ARE YOU NOW

<b>SUBJECT PATHWAYS YEAR 7-10</b>			
<b>YEAR 7</b>	<b>YEAR 8</b>	<b>YEAR 9</b>	<b>YEAR 10</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Maths</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Maths</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>Social Studies</b>
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>Physical Education</b>
<b>OPTION SUBJECTS</b>			
Art	Art	Art	Art
Drama	Drama	Drama	Drama
Maori	Maori	Maori	Maori
Music	Music	Music	Music
Information & Communication Technology	Information & Communication Technology	Information & Communication Technology	Information & Communication Technology
Hard Materials Technology	Hard Materials Technology	Hard Materials Technology	Hard Materials Technology
Food Technology	Food Technology	Food Technology	Food Technology
		Graphics	Graphics
		Literacy	Literacy
		German	German
		Business Studies	

# **CORE SUBJECTS**

## **ENGLISH**

Students will engage with and enjoy language in all its variety and understand, respond to and use oral, written and visual language effectively in a range of contexts. Students are encouraged to think critically, work co-operatively, respond personally and respect differences. They should also develop an understanding of the technical aspects of language.

While much of the programme is based around literature, it can be divided into six major areas:

Written Language (Reading & Writing)

Oral Language (Listening & Speaking) and

Visual Language (Viewing & Presenting).

Activities such as video and play production, speeches and magazine production are part of the programme. Reading is a very important part of any student's learning and parents are asked to encourage regular reading at home. All students will be encouraged to enter the Australasian English Competition.

In Year 10 highly motivated students will be given the opportunity of working towards NCEA Level 1 achievement in English.

## **MATHEMATICS**

Students develop mathematical tools, skills, understandings and attitudes they will require in the world of work and in everyday life, by developing a variety of approaches to problem-solving and by fostering a sense of personal achievement in learning

Mathematics. The Maths curriculum is based on six strands – Number, Measurement, Geometry, Algebra, Statistics and Mathematical Processes. Students study each strand at a different level each year. All students may participate in a range of mathematical competitions.

## **SCIENCE**

Students begin study in all areas of Science in Year 7. Students are introduced to working in a Science laboratory with a specialist Science teacher. This is extended in Years 8 & 9. Year 10 students then have the option of taking the Level 1 Science NCEA exam.

The Science Curriculum is based on three main strands – The Study of Living Things, The Material World and The Physical World.

Students in Years 7 & 8 are expected to take part in the Auckland Region Science Fair. This is an opportunity for students to develop their practical Science skills. Year 9 & 10 students are encouraged to participate in the Australasian Chemistry and Science Competitions.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Social Studies education aims to enable students to participate in a changing society as informed, confident and responsible citizens.

The curriculum is divided into five strands: Social Organisation, Culture & Heritage, Place & Environment, Time, Continuity & Change and Resources & Economic Activities. These strands overlap and are often combined in

Social Studies lessons. Students will also be developing skills in the important processes of Enquiry, Values Exploration and Social Decision Making.

All Social Studies classes from Year 7-10 will complete a comprehensive skills programme. They will graduate from one year level to the next. This programme will ensure that all students are significantly skilled for Level 1 NCEA in Year 11 Geography or History.

Highly motivated students in Year 10 will experience an introduction to Level 1 NCEA Geography, History and Economics. A number of credits will be available in this course.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH**

Physical Education and Health in the New Zealand Curriculum encourages students to develop the understanding, knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to live healthy lifestyles and to contribute positively and responsibly to the well-being (hauora) of other people and to their communities.

The seven key areas of learning are Mental Health, Sexuality Education, Food & Nutrition, Body Care & Physical Safety, Physical Activity, Sports Studies and Outdoor Education. Year 9 Health concentrates on relationships, sexual health & safety and mental health. A particular focus at Year 10 is our Drug and Alcohol Awareness course.

Students learn to take responsibility for their own health and physical fitness and to acknowledge their part in ensuring the well-being and safety of others.

It is expected that all students will participate in all aspects of the physical education programme. A student will only be excused from a class if s/he has a signed note from a parent. All students must change for physical education and wear the school PE uniform.

## **SPORTS**

All students have the opportunity to participate in a number of interval, lunchtime and after-school clubs such as badminton, basketball, athletics, gymnastics, softball, league football, soccer, golf and cricket.

Students are further selected to represent their class and school in both inter-class and inter-school events. Gifted and talented students are given the honour of joining the Sports Academy which is an athlete training programme aimed at providing students with the skills required to perform at national level.



## **OPTION SUBJECTS**

Students will experience Art, Drama, Music & a range of Technology options in Year 7 & 8, integrated into the curriculum and in option groups with a specialist teacher for one term during the two-year cycle.

In Year 9 students choose up to four options with a specialist teacher for a two term or full-year course in the case of language options. In Year 10 students choose two option subjects for a year long programme.

### **ART**

Students will experience a range of activities, including painting, printmaking, 3D construction and drawing. We will be inspired by research, our unique NZ culture and Waiheke's environment to investigate media and make art works.

Students in Year 10 develop skills for Level 1 NCEA such as blending colour and developing 3D modelling. The understanding of Art Elements and Principles is extended and methods of Art Research introduced.

### **DRAMA**

Imagination, ideas and feelings can be represented through movement, sound, visual image and realisation of role. Students develop skills in movement, mime, clown, improvisation and voice, participate in a piece of classic Shakespearean theatre and study the history of theatre.

Students often have the opportunity to attend a major theatre performance in Auckland. We will inform you of the cost involved with special events.

Students in Year 10 extend their skills, knowledge and understanding of how imagination, ideas and feelings can be represented through movement, sound, visual image and realisation of role. Throughout the year, students will continue to develop skills in movement, voice, improvisation, script writing, role development and performance. Students will participate in extracts of physical and scripted theatre performance.

### **MUSIC**

In Year 7 & 8 students will develop skills on an instrument of their choice. Students will follow a course of study based on one of three possible options: Rock School, Essential Elements Band Programme or Essential Strings. Part of the course will focus on music appreciation and musical knowledge and theory.

Students in Year 9 will continue to develop skills on their chosen instrument and will also begin to develop skills in ensemble/group performance and composition. Students will also study, music appreciation, musical knowledge and theory.

The Year 10 course is a bridging course to prepare students for NCEA Music. Students will present performances as a featured soloist and as a member of a group. All students at this level must be taking an additional weekly instrument lesson either privately or from one of the schools Itinerant Music Tutors. We offer tuition from itinerant teachers in guitar, bass, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano and drums. The tuition is free but students must pay for their sheet music.

# TECHNOLOGY

## HARD MATERIALS



Using the Technological Process, students will design and create solutions to answer design briefs. The focus is on the use of hard materials and the use of specific machinery and techniques involved in the manipulation of these materials.

## FOOD & BIO TECHNOLOGY

Students will explore the technologies involved in developing and producing food products. Topics include Current Developments & Regulations in Food Manufacturing, Design & Labelling as well as Eating for Health & Fitness. Design briefs will be answered using the Technological Process.

Good nutrition is the foundation of health and well being. In Year 10 this course contains modules covering aspects of Technology and the PE & Health curriculum. The focus is on students attaining practical skills as well as theoretical knowledge in the preparation, handling, storage and serving of foods. Some NCEA Level 1 aspects will be covered in this course.

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

We live in the information age. With the steadily increasing use of computers as educational and personal communication tools, students need

transferable, generic computer and information handling skills with which to cope with the rapid changes in technology.

Students develop their keyboarding skills to use a range of information retrieval and information processing technologies confidently and competently. Students have the opportunity to use these skills to investigate and design solutions to solve technological problems. Students will also develop the generic skills of word processing, desktop publishing, language and communication skills. Students will be introduced to applications such as Word, Excel, Frontpage and 3D CAD Modelmaking software. It is possible to achieve a number of Unit Standards and generate evidence towards NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards in this course.

## GRAPHICS

This course provides a variety of design and drawing experiences which are challenging, creative, useful and enjoyable and which draw upon students' interest and cultural backgrounds. Throughout Year 9 & 10 students will develop drafting techniques by solving practical problems designed to reinforce the skills required as groundwork for further study in the area of Graphics and Design.



Techniques include architectural drawing, freehand sketching, shading and rendering, all forms of pictorial drawing and presentation techniques.

## **GERMAN**

The purpose of learning an international language is first and foremost to improve communication and understanding with people from another country and culture. In learning languages other than English, students also acquire some skill in 'learning to learn' as applied to languages and deepen their understanding of their own language in the process.

The focus of the language curriculum is on communication and the skills of listening, speaking, writing and reading. More emphasis is placed on oral communication in the initial stages of language learning, with the written and grammatical aspects being introduced later. Students learn greetings and the most common words needed for communication, about people and everyday life.

The Year 10 course extends the skills from the introductory Year 9 course. Once again, the focus is on the four main areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking. Broader aspects of the German cultural and geographical environment are explored. This course is a pre-requisite for NCEA qualifications, which are available to Year 11 students.

## **MAORI**

After an introduction in Year 7 & 8 the Year 9 course offers a more in-depth study of grammar, art and tikanga. This course is designed specifically for those students who have the desire to continue on with this subject. The aim is to extend students' skills in speaking, writing, listening and reading in Te Reo Maori. The pre-requisite of a successful Year 9 course

is essential to enable students to handle course content confidently, because it will lead into NCEA qualification in Year 11.

The Year 10 course is designed specifically for those students who have successfully completed a Year 9 course in Maori and have the desire to continue on with this course. The aim is to extend students' skills in speaking, writing, listening and reading in Te Reo Maori.

## **BUSINESS STUDIES**

This is a one-year taster course, which lays the foundation for the study of Economics and Accounting in the senior school and focuses on the following areas:

Economics (includes Demand)  
Business People (Entrepreneurs & Employees)  
Business Structure (Ownership)  
Business Management (includes Accounting) and  
Business Process (includes Law and Marketing).

Where appropriate students will use computers to enhance their learning and all students are encouraged to develop and apply enterprise skills during this course. It is possible to gain six NCEA Level 1 credits in this course.