



Otago Boys' High School

Year 9 Curriculum Guide

Year 9 Subjects

At Otago Boys' High School all Year 9 students study the following compulsory subjects:

- English
- Health
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education and Health

Alongside compulsory subjects, all Year 9 students choose from a wide range of option subjects. A key feature of our Year 9 and 10 curriculum is the opportunity for students to lead their own learning and explore areas of personal interest. When selecting options, students and parents should consider current learning needs and the chance to try something new. A course that supports literacy development is always recommended.

Arts

- Art
- Drama
- Business Studies
- French
- German
- Advancing Literacy
- Te Reo Māori
- Music

Technology

- Food and Nutrition
- Robotics
- Digital Technologies
- Design & Visual Communication
- Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- Wood
- Metal
- Agriculture



English

Year 9 English focuses on nurturing a love of literature and literacy among our learners. The boys engage with a variety of texts that help them to develop their written and spoken communication skills. English encourages them to critically evaluate the messages they encounter in novels, advertisements, podcasts, and films, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the world around them.

Topics covered in English:

- Novel Study
- Visual Texts Study
- Short Texts (poetry and short stories)
- Creative and Formal Writing
- Oral Language, including speeches and debates

Mathematics

In Mathematics we try to use context and links to other areas of the curriculum as much as we can, to create engaging and relevant lessons.

Extension and numeracy support are also offered, ensuring that all students' needs are catered for.

Topics we cover in Mathematics:

- Number
- Statistics
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Algebra
- Probability
- Graphing



Science

Science lessons are taught in specialised laboratories. Science is explored by experimentation and discussion of the key ideas that make up the world we live in.

Topics we cover in Science:

- Introduction to Science
- Mixing and Separating
- Matter
- Energy
- Waves
- Astronomy
- Ecology
- Botany
- Cells
- Forces



Social Studies

Te ao tangata/Social Sciences encourage ākonga to observe, to wonder and be curious about people, places, and society, and to take an interest and engage in social issues and ideas.

There are three elements in the curriculum content: Understand, Know, and Do. Kaiako design learning experiences that weave these elements together so that ākonga learning is deep and meaningful.

Topics we cover in Social Studies include:

- Whakapapa - who we are and what has shaped us
- Hekenga / People on the move
- WW1 - OBs, NZ and the war
- People & Disease
- A Challenged Environment - introduced species
- A Challenging Environment - Antarctica
- Government

Physical Education

Students participate in Physical Education The course involves a lot of different activities with the chance to work as an individual or as part of a team.

Teamwork, communication and self-management are major focuses in lessons.

The PE curriculum is delivered in five areas:

- **Invasion Games:** Touch, Football, Rugby, Hockey, Basketball, AFL, Ultimate Frisbee, Futsal and Ki O Rahi
- **Aquatics:** Swimming, Water Polo, Kayaking
- **Athletics and Fitness:** Athletics, Cross Country, Circuits
- **Net games:** Badminton, Tennis, Volleyball, Table Tennis
- **Striking and fielding games:** Cricket, Softball



Language/Arts Subject Information

You must choose at least 3 from this list.

ART

The aim of the Year 9 Art course is to demonstrate to students the effects of the various elements of art such as line, colour, texture and tone, and have them imaginatively use these while exploring elementary print, paint and drawing media.

DRAMA

Drama is a subject centred around observation and empathy. Exploration in Drama enables students to communicate effectively and understand the importance of relationships. The Drama Techniques, Elements and Conventions feature heavily in the course and underpin the boys' work. Priorities include opportunities to devise, critique and perform, which teaches the boys the importance of working collectively towards success.

BUSINESS STUDIES

The emphasis is on understanding how individual businesses operate and examining the differences between them. Students will explore marketing, consumerism, competition and advertising, gaining practical skills and insights into the workings of various businesses.

FRENCH/GERMAN

This is an introductory course to the language and culture of French or German-speaking countries, with a focus on the four key skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students learn to communicate with others and talk about themselves, their families, where they live, and their likes and dislikes. The course uses the Extensive Processing Instruction method, introducing a variety of language chunks that allow students to begin speaking immediately while recycling and embedding the modelled language.

The course includes engaging activities such as pair and group work, games, cultural celebrations like French Food Day, video content, and online learning platforms with gaming elements. By the end of the 10-week block, students create and narrate a Google Slideshow about themselves in French or German. In Term 4, they can opt to continue with an extension class in French and/or German

ADVANCING LITERACY

This option gives students the opportunity to improve and widen their reading and comprehension skills. There is also the opportunity to further develop a student's writing skills. This option is an extension programme designed for able readers. It is NOT a reading recovery programme.

TE REO MĀORI

An introductory course in Te Reo Māori (language) and Tikanga Māori (customs). Students will learn basic sentence structure, mihi (introduction), pepeha (personal acknowledgment of who you are and where you come from), pronunciation and basic conversation. The students will also be introduced to Māori history, Māori mythology, Marae protocol, Māori art, Waiata, Taonga pūoro and Kapa Haka. Students will also develop their skills in Ki-o-Rahi (traditional game). By the end of this course, students should feel comfortable in a Māori environment and have a knowledge of Tikanga Māori. In Term 4, they can opt to continue with an extension class in Te Reo Māori.

MUSIC

The option includes an introduction to basic elements and theory of Music through film music, world music, and Composition. Students study the use of MIDI keyboard/computer composition software, the language and appreciation of music, singing, and individual performance. There are also opportunities for participating in Music performance groups and learning to play a musical instrument through the Itinerant Music Teacher Programme. Most instruments are available for hire through the school.



Technology Subject Information

You must choose at least 2 from this list.

AGRICULTURE

In this course, students will learn a wide range of skills and the science behind Agricultural production. The course includes;

- Basic farm animal biology
- Basic crop biology
- Primary product regions in New Zealand
- Soil chemistry
- Practical plant production: sowing, propagation, and pruning
- Future technologies in farming

FOOD AND NUTRITION

The focus in Year 9 is on developing skills and food knowledge to support healthy food choices. Key areas of learning include food safety practices and understanding the nutrition required for growth and development at all ages, with a particular emphasis on the needs of teenagers. Students will have practical opportunities to learn, apply, and refine their critical thinking and food preparation skills.

ROBOTICS

Students will work together in teams to learn how to program a Lego Spike Prime robot and complete a series of challenges. The Green City Challenge will be the key focus of this course, enriching students' understanding of basic computational thinking principles. Students will compete against one another to complete as many of the challenges as possible, enhancing their teamwork and critical thinking skills.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Students use technology every day - now learn how to be a creator of digital outcomes rather than just a user of it. The course is designed to equip students with a wide range of basic skills: photo editing, spreadsheets, design, and programming. Students will learn how to code their own multi-level games and become confident programmers.

DESIGN & VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Students learn technical drawing skills such as instrumental drawing, sketching in 2D and 3D, and shading. They are introduced to Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software to create 3D objects and develop basic model-making skills, including 3D printing.

With these foundations, students follow the design process to create products and structures. In Term 4, they can opt into a CAD extension class to further develop skills in product and architectural design using industry-standard software.

COMPUTER AIDED DESIGN (CAD) - Term 4 Option

Students learn to use computer modelling software to design products and structures. They are introduced to:

- SketchUp, a user-friendly 3D modelling programme
- Fusion, an industry-standard engineering design tool
- Revit, one of the most widely used programmes in architectural design

Once confident with the software, students apply the design process to create their own products and architectural concepts. The skills taught in this course align with Design and Visual Communication in Year 10 and beyond. Although closely related to Design and Visual Communication, this course can also be taken independently.

WOOD

Students gain knowledge of the qualities and suitability of wood and other materials, as well as design and problem-solving. Health and Safety work practices are also emphasised.

METAL

Students investigate the use of metal and other materials as well as design and problem-solving. Health and Safety work practices are also emphasised.

Language Extension Option

Students will have the opportunity to study an extension course in a language. These are in term four and students will be surveyed towards the end of term three to ascertain interest in this option. They should take this second level if they are considering doing a language in Year 10.

High Performance Sport Options

Year 9 and 10 students can choose to be part of the High Performance Sports programmes. This involves elite mentoring/coaching for selected students in the following codes:

- Basketball
- Cricket
- Football
- Rugby
- Tennis
- Hockey



Rugby, Basketball, and Football are available as High Performance Sport options for two terms in Year 10.

Cultural Activities

Kapa Haka

Wairua Pūhou - Otago Boys' High School and Otago Girls' High School Kapa Group

Mau Rākau

Ngā Manu Kōrero speech competition

Pasifika Voices speech competition

Tama Tula'i (Pasifika student wellbeing programme)

Pasifika Polyfest Group

Orchestra – combined with Otago Girls' High School

Jazz Band

- All Blues - Otago Boys' High School and Otago Girls' High School combined Jazz Band
- Minor Blues - Otago Boys' High School and Otago Girls' High School combined ensemble

Choirs

- Fortress - Otago Boys' High School and Otago Girls' High School combined choir
- Mandate - Otago Boys' High School choir

School Bands

Chamber Groups

Itinerant Music Lessons

- Woodwind
- Brass
- Strings
- Piano
- Guitar
- Drums
- Vocal tuition

Drama

Theatre Sports

Debating

Chess

School Production

- Performance
- Lighting
- Sound
- Set design
- Backstage and front of house



Sporting Opportunities

Otago Boys' High School offers plenty of sporting opportunity.....

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Clay Target
- Cricket
- Cross Country
- Curling
- Cycling
- Darts
- Football
- Futsal
- Golf
- Handball
- Hockey
- Ice Hockey
- Indoor Climbing
- Ki-o-Rahi
- Mountain Biking
- Orienteering
- Rowing
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Smallbore
- Softball
- Squash
- Surfing / Surf Lifesaving
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Touch Rugby
- Triathlon/Duathlon
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Volleyball
- Waterpolo



Curriculum Map

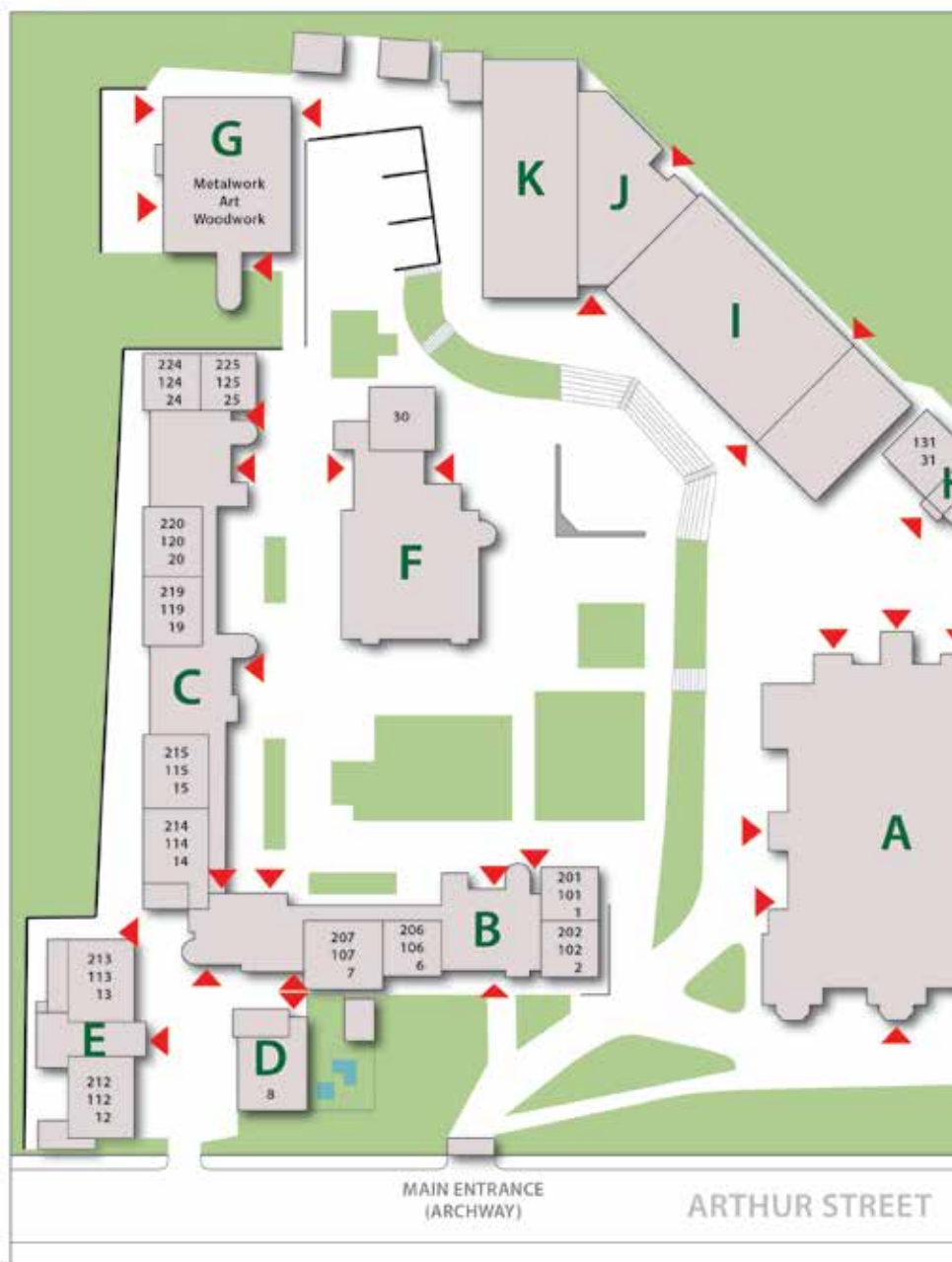
	Year 9 Courses	Year 10 Courses	
Language and Languages **	English French* German* Te Reo Māori* ESOL Advanced Literacy*	English French* German* Te Reo Māori* ESOL	
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	
Science	Science Agriculture*	Science Agriculture*	
Social Sciences	Social Studies Business Studies*	Social Studies Economics/Business* Classical Studies* Media Studies	
Health and Physical Education	Health Physical Education High-Performance Sports* Food and Nutrition*	Health Physical Education High-Performance Sports* Mental Fitness* Food & Nutrition*	
The Arts	Art* Music* Drama*	Art* Music* Drama*	
Technology	Robotics* Design & Visual Communication* Computer Aided Design* Digital Technology* Wood Technology* Metal Technology*	Design & Visual Communication* Digital Technology* Wood Technology* Metal Technology*	

* These are the Option Subjects in Year 9 and 10.

** OBHS combines language resources with OGHS or Correspondence School as required. Other languages available.

*** Subject to space in OGHS classes.

	Year 11 Courses	Year 12 Courses	Year 13 Courses
	English French German Te Reo Māori ESOL	English French German Te Reo Māori ESOL	English French German Te Reo Māori ESOL
	Mathematics	Mathematics	Calculus Statistics Mathematics
	Science Agriculture/Horticulture	Biology Chemistry Physics Agriculture/Horticulture Earth and Space Science	Biology Chemistry Physics Agriculture/Horticulture Earth and Space Science
	Geography History Economics Accounting Media Studies	Geography History Economics Accounting Media Studies	Geography History Economics Accounting Media Studies Classical Studies Business Studies
	Physical Education Food & Nutrition	Physical Education Outdoor Education Sport Education Food & Nutrition	Physical Education Outdoor Education Sport Education Food & Nutrition
	Art Music Drama (with OGHS)*** Māori Performing Arts	Art Music Drama (with OGHS)*** Māori Performing Arts	Art Music Drama (with OGHS)*** Māori Performing Arts
	Design & Visual Communication Digital Technology Metal Technology Wood Technology	Design & Visual Communication Digital Technology Metal Technology Wood Technology	Design & Visual Communication Digital Technology Metal Technology Wood Technology



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LEGEND

-  Entrances and Exits
- A** Admin Building (Tower Block)
- B** MacLachlan Building (East Wing)
- C** MacLachlan Building (South Wing)
- D** Room 8
- E** McIndoe Building
- F** Library
- G** Technology Block
- H** Morrell Building
- I** Gym
- J** Changing Rooms
- K** Pool
- L** Shand Building
- M** Grandstand / Canteen
- N** Storage
- O** Maintenance Workshop
- P** Garage
- Q** Rectory



Visit us on our Facebook page
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2 Arthur Street, Dunedin
(03) 477 5527 www.obhs.school.nz