

DUNSTAN HIGH SCHOOL



**RAPUHIA TE MĀTAURANGA
HEI TAONGA**

Course Information Year 13

You must select five NCEA subjects to study in 2027

ARTS

13 DRAMA

Students will study a range of plays with a greater focus on NZ Drama. This will involve crafting drama skills and developing a deeper understanding of the subject through both scripted and self devised performances that use a variety of techniques, elements and conventions. At this level, practical and theory components of the course will require students to think more critically and creatively at a higher level.

PRE-REQUISITES: Successful completion of Level 2 drama or discussion with Mr Meissel

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: Approx \$200 for field trips/theatre visits (essential but not obligatory)

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 26

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 MUSIC

Students will further develop their performance, composition, and general musicianship skills.

All Achievement Standards are optional with students tailoring their course to suit their individual strengths and interests. This will be done in consultation with the teacher. We recommend selecting a course consisting of approximately 18 to 22 credits.

PRE-REQUISITES: Must have successfully taken music in Year 12 i.e. gained at least 14 credits, or have experienced at least three years of private music tuition.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: None

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 42

*Endorsement is only available to students who opt to sit the External Exam

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 ART PAINTING

Year Thirteen Visual Art students will develop their perceptual awareness, their creative imagination, their technical skills and critical faculties through investigation of Artist models and their own identity and environment. Visual, written, graphic, and web-related design and communications skills are needed by all sectors which will be developed and explored in Year 13. You will strengthen your practical skills, painting, Printmaking and design skills and your cultural awareness and knowledge. Students will submit 3-4 Achievement Standards throughout the year. Two/three are in workbook format, (one could be digital) and Port-folio format. This course leads directly into Art Schools, Design Schools, Gaming and web development programs and Polytechnics. It also leads into any area of human endeavour where imagination and individuality are sought after qualities.

PRE-REQUISITES: Completion of Year 11 or 12 Art

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$115 + field trips \$22 TBC

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 26

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 ART PHOTOGRAPHY

Year Thirteen Art Photography students will develop their perceptual awareness, their creative imagination, their technical skills and critical faculties through investigation of Artist models and their own identity and environment. Visual, written, graphic and web-related design and communications skills are needed by all sectors which will be developed and explored in Year 13 Photography. You will strengthen your practical and technical skills in Photoshop and design skills and your cultural awareness and knowledge through the achievement standards studied. Students will submit 3-4 Achievement Standards throughout the year. Two/three are in workbook format, (could be digital) and Port-folio format. This course leads directly into Art Schools, Design Schools, Photography courses, Gaming and web development programs and Polytechnics. It also leads into any area of human endeavour where imagination and individuality are sought after qualities..

PRE-REQUISITES: Completion of Year 11 or 12 Art

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$235

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 26

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

ENGLISH

13 ENGLISH (13ENG)

Concepts and skills acquired so far are extended in a course that is aimed at presenting challenging material in a way that provides a transition to tertiary learning. Students are encouraged to show initiative by participating actively in class discussion and extending their study of English outside the classroom. There is a combination of internal and external assessment in this course. Students will select standards from the list below. They should aim to complete standards totalling between 18 and 24 credits. It is expected that all students will study an extended written text.

PRE-REQUISITES: 14 English credits at L2 including 4 from an external

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$15 - \$40

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 29

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 MEDIA STUDIES

Media Studies combines practical and theory-based topics and is for students who are interested in all aspects of media, especially film. We live in an era dominated by information and digital media and therefore media literacy is crucial. Media Studies helps students to recognise how information and ideas are shared through various media platforms. They will explore the role of media in society, write for media and learn how to design and develop a media product.

PRE-REQUISITES: 14 credits at L2

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$15 - \$40

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 17

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

MATHEMATICS:

13 MATHS WITH CALCULUS

This course is aimed at preparing students for university study. Students will study Trigonometry, Differentiation and Integration, and Complex Numbers. A strong focus of this course is on self-management and developing the independent work habits required for tertiary study.

PRE-REQUISITES: Must have taken 12MAA, and have passed the Algebra, Calculus and Graphing standards, preferably with a Merit or higher grade.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: You will be required to purchase an online textbook worth approximately \$30

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 16-24

Eligible for University Entrance

13 STATISTICS (13STS)

This course is an in-depth look into various aspects of Statistics and Probability. It is designed for students who don't want to study Calculus, but still want an academic Year 13 maths course that is eligible for Course Endorsement.

PRE-REQUISITES: Must have passed the Probability exam at Year 12.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$30 for workbooks

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 20

Eligible for University Entrance

13 MATHS WITH STATISTICS (13MAS)

This is a general course which looks at some aspects of mathematics and some aspects of statistics. It is an internals only course, with no exam at the end of the year. This course is a University Entrance approved subject.

PRE-REQUISITES:

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$10 for workbooks

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 18

*Course Endorsement is NOT available in this course

Eligible for University Entrance

LANGUAGES:

13 FRENCH	
Students will express, explore, justify and evaluate their own ideas and perspectives in French. They will also learn to explore and support - or challenge - the ideas and perspectives of others using explanations and evidence. Topics will encompass a variety of contemporary and/or historical issues and students will be expected to participate fully in listening, speaking, reading and writing activities. Timetabling restraints mean that senior classes are combined. The same topics may be taught to both groups but with separate tasks and activities as appropriate to each year level. Students will need to be self-motivated and self-regulated but can also expect to benefit from the interaction and revision opportunities this arrangement will provide.	
PRE-REQUISITES: At least 14 credits from L2 French	
COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: Approx \$60	
Achievement Standards	Maximum credits available: 24
Eligible for University Entrance	

13 MAORI

At the end of the course students will be able to plan and design a bracket and perform it, sharing knowledge with Jnr school and wider community.. Developing leadership as Māori and be confident with Tikanga, understanding the importance of mānakitanga.

PRE-REQUISITES:

- Preferred: Prior study in Māori Performing Arts / Te Ao Māori,.
- Alternative: If you do not have prior experience but possess a strong passion, dedication, and eagerness to learn, please speak with the HOD, Whaea Karen —we are happy to consider students who are keen to give it a go!

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES:

Part contribution towards travel and Kapa Haka costs(practice poi/rakau) to rehearsal at home, unless you already have these resources from previous study..

Achievement Standards and Unit standards available

Maximum credits available: AS 20 and US 20

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance if taking all 3 Te Ao Haka standards

If you are interested in studying a language that is not on this list, please email Ms Tipene mtipene@dunstan.school.nz

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

13 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course is an extension of the Year 12 Level 2 NCEA Physical Education programme. It is an academic course offering up to 5 Level 3 NCEA Achievement Standards. Scholarship Physical Education may also be an option (must have endorsed with Excellence at Level 2)

The course comprises approx 70% theory: 30% practical weighting. The level of literacy and analysis of one's own performance is high. Due to these aspects, strong levels of independent learning are required.

PRE-REQUISITES: A minimum of 8 credits at Y12 Level 2 Physical Education

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: Approx \$150 to cover any offsite activities, coaching-related costs. (this may vary depending on class size)

Achievement Standards: Yes

Maximum credits available: 16-19

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 OUTDOOR EDUCATION

This course is designed to develop independent outdoor pursuit skills, leadership in the outdoors, responsibility and high-level interpersonal skills. Many of the personal skills students develop are transferable beyond school (eg resilience, problem solving, rising to challenges).

Students study: Sea Kayaking skills, Winter and Snow Skills, Trip Planning, Risk Management, Mountain Bike Skills, Climbing skills and Leadership. There is a major focus on the students' managing themselves, planning trips and leading activities.

PRE-REQUISITES: No

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: Approx \$650

Unit Standards

Maximum credits available: 22

13 SPORT AND RECREATION

This course has an emphasis on Unit Standards. Students will learn about a variety of topics across a 2 year course. The topics may include aspects of sport, recreational activities, wellbeing, leadership, coaching, anatomy and physiology, and communication.

This course will be a 2 year cycle where students have the ability to opt in at year 12 or 13, or both.

Students do not need to have done 12 Sport & Rec to enrol in 13 Sport & Rec.

Standards offered in this course will rotate each year to allow for a bigger scope of practice, best suited to meet learner needs.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: Approx \$50

Unit Standards

Maximum credits available: 16

SCIENCE:

13 BIOLOGY

The course seeks to lay a sound foundation for those advancing to tertiary studies in Biology, Health Sciences or Physical Education. Emphasis is placed on the development of intellectual and research skills which are fundamental to an understanding of Biological Science.

Where Does It Lead?

The Year 13 Biology Course leads to further study at University in courses such as; Zoology, Botany, Microbiology, Biochemistry and Applied Science - to name only a few

Out of Class Expectations and Commitments: 4-5 hours of homework each week.

PRE-REQUISITES: 14 Credits in Level 2 Biology. At least two Level 2 External have been achieved.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: workbooks approx. \$30

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 19

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 CHEMISTRY

Students already have a sound base of knowledge and skills in Chemistry from Year 12. This course builds on these skills and increases students' understanding of the material world.

Where Does It Lead?

The course leads to all Tertiary Chemistry courses. There are many careers which directly or indirectly concern Chemistry. Many courses with a Science bias demand Chemistry as a prerequisite, such as Engineering and Health Science.

Out of Class Expectations and Commitments 4-5 hours of homework a week.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$37 (Textbook)

PRE-REQUISITES: 14 Credits in Level 2 Chemistry. All Level 2 External must have been attempted and at least 2 achieved, ideally at Merit/Excellence Level.

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 21

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 PHYSICS

This course further develops a student's understanding of physical concepts related to our existence here on Earth. The study of Physics is particularly good for developing logical and conceptual thinking skills.

Where Does It Lead?

It is a requirement for tertiary qualifications in physics, engineering, medicine and surveying, and may be recommended in fields as diverse as Geology and Agriculture.

Out of Class Expectations and Commitments 4-5 hours of homework each week.

PRE-REQUISITES: 14 Credits in Level 2 Physics. All Level 2 External must have been attempted and at least achieved 2, ideally at Merit/Excellence level. Students need to have studied and been successful on the Y12 Maths Algebra course, ideally at Merit/Excellence Level. Students should be studying Y13 Calculus.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$30 SciPad Write-on Notes

14 Credits in Level 2 Physics. All Level 2 External must have been attempted and at least 2 achieved, ideally at Merit/Excellence level.

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 23

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 SCIENCE FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

This is a course for students who have a desire to work in Primary Industries (Agriculture, Equine, Sports Turf, Horticulture and Wool). As part of the Primary ITO Trades Academy, students are asked to choose an industry that they would like to focus on. Their learning and assessment will be based on this and credits will vary. These units may be both practical and theoretical. Ideally, students will complete a work placement in their chosen field. This may be completed on one day of the week or during holidays or weekends.

Where does it lead?

The aim of this course is to prepare students for employment in the Primary Sector.

PRE-REQUISITES: Successful completion of the Primary Industries course at Level 2 is preferred, although students who have a genuine interest in the primary sector may pick it up at Year 13. A good work ethic is essential.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: Most students in this course should have a work placement, either one day in a week or during their holidays to enable them to complete practical standards. Travel assistance may be available.

This course is not eligible for endorsement
Unit Standards

Maximum credits available: 20

SOCIAL SCIENCES:

13 BUSINESS STUDIES

This course gives students the opportunity to explore how real businesses operate in New Zealand and globally. With a focus on innovation, marketing, and strategy, students will gain the knowledge and practical skills needed to succeed in business or pursue further study in commerce or entrepreneurship.

PRE-REQUISITES: Students should have gained 10 credits in Year 12 Economics, Business or Year 11 Commerce

OR Students should have gained 10 credits in Year 12 English and Year 12 Maths.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$50 for transport and course costs for the YES day

Achievement Standards: YES

Maximum credits available:19

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 HISTORY

Level 3 History is a course for those wanting to develop essential skills required in Tertiary education. In 2027, the course theme will be Contested Spaces. This may include study of topics such as - Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the NZ Wars, the Palestine/Israel Conflict, the Vietnam War. Students select their own topic for the research standard.

History is a University pre-entry course. A high level of commitment is required to complete the internal assessments both in and outside the classroom.

PRE-REQUISITES:Students should have gained 12 credits in Year 12 History OR 10 credits in Year 12 English.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES:

Achievement Standards: YES

Maximum credits available: 19

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 GEOGRAPHY

Geography at Level Three is an academic subject. Geography is a literacy-focused subject. Geography is a university pre-entry course. Academic rigour is required to be able to complete the internal assessments.

Many of the big issues facing the world today have a geographic component. Students will examine a geographic issue, a global pattern, research a geographic topic and analyse a cultural process along with demonstrating the application of geographic skills.

PRE-REQUISITES: Recommended to have taken L1 and/or L2 Geography

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$130 overnight field trip to Queenstown

Achievement Standards: YES

Maximum credits available: 19

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 TOURISM AND TRAVEL

Students develop knowledge of the Tourism Industry through the workbooks they complete, the expert visitors we have in class and the field trips we go on. We focus very much on the "high-interest" aspects of Tourism - planning trips, identifying tourism destinations and learning more about NZ and the Pacific. Tourism is a great course for those wanting to find out more about the Industry and who love Geography, History and general knowledge. Tourism has traditionally been a good subject for those doing other subjects that require them to be away from school, as the source is mostly independent learning and managing your own assessment work. Overall, students develop the skills and knowledge they need to be part of the Tourism Industry here in Aotearoa.

The units provided are delivered by the New Zealand School of Tourism and have costs associated with materials, including the course booklets, assessments and moderation by the Tourism ITO.

PRE-REQUISITES: Nil

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: Nil

Unit Standards

Maximum credits available: 23

13 FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES

Students today have greater access to credit than any other generation. From an early age, they get sucked into cycles of bad debt that can hold them back.

This course will provide students with the knowledge and skills to help them make good decisions at each stage of life and to arrive at retirement in good financial shape.

Students will leave this course confident about what money is and how to make it work for them.

PRE-REQUISITES: L1 Eco

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$50

Unit Standards

Maximum credits available: 21

TECHNOLOGY:

13 FOOD AND NUTRITION

Level 3 Food and Nutrition is a University Entrance (UE) approved, research-based course that prepares students for tertiary study and careers in health, nutrition, and public health. Students investigate significant nutrition issues affecting New Zealand society, critically analyse the influence of multinational food corporations and food advertising on well-being, and evaluate evidence from a range of reliable sources. Through independent research, report writing, and critical analysis, students develop the academic skills required for university. This course provides valuable university entrance reading and writing credits while preparing students for further study at university and beyond.

PRE-REQUISITES: Recommended that students have taken L2 FNT and passed the external

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$170.00

Achievement Standards and Unit Standards

Maximum credits available: 19

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

13DTG isn't just a high school class; it is an incubation space for the next generation of Kiwi tech leaders, problem solvers, and digital creators.

Year 13 Digital Technology (DTG) challenges students to further develop their technical expertise, critical thinking, and advanced development skills through complex software engineering and digital design. The course focuses on creating purposeful and innovative digital solutions that enhance how people interact with data, applications, and digital environments. Product development explores the creation of functional, secure, and user-centred systems that respond to the needs, wants, and experiences of real-world users and clients.

Throughout this course, students will engage in complex computing challenges within areas such as advanced programming, database architecture, responsive web engineering, or interactive media development. Students are expected to work with increasing independence, applying sophisticated computational thinking, rigorous diagnostic testing, and agile problem-solving strategies to generate robust, industry-ready outcomes. A wide range of digital development methods, including conceptual wireframing, object-oriented coding, relational data modelling, and iterative prototyping, will be used to communicate and refine technical ideas. The course also encourages students to critically evaluate the social, cultural, environmental, and ethical influences on technology—including data privacy and Te Ao Māori perspectives—preparing them for tertiary study or direct pathways into the technology sector.

PRE-REQUISITES: L2 DTG

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$10

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 16-20

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 DESIGN AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Year 13 Design and Visual Communication (DVC) challenges students to further develop their creativity, critical thinking, and advanced design skills through spatial and product design. Spatial design focuses on creating purposeful and innovative spaces that enhance how people move, interact, and experience their environment. Product design explores the development of functional and creative solutions that respond to the needs, wants, and experiences of users.

Throughout this course, students will engage in complex design challenges within areas such as architecture, product design, interior design, exhibition/display, industrial design, and technological design. Students are expected to work with increasing independence, applying sophisticated design thinking, research, and problem-solving strategies to generate innovative outcomes. A wide range of visual communication methods, including conceptual sketching, rendering, technical drawing, digital modelling, and presentation techniques, will be used to communicate and refine design ideas. The course also encourages students to critically evaluate the social, cultural, environmental, and technological influences on design, preparing them for tertiary study and future pathways in design-related fields.

PRE-REQUISITES: Students who have not previously studied DVC at Year 11, or Year 12 will not be accepted into Year 13 DVC.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$30

Achievement Standards

Maximum credits available: 15

University Entrance Literacy credits available

Eligible for University Entrance

13 TECHNOLOGY WOOD

Students plan, design and construct a wood-based project to meet the requirements of select Skill Standards. These standards have A, M, and E grades.

This course aims to develop and consolidate the practical and theoretical knowledge gained in their previous year's experience while taking this subject. Wood will be the primary material used. Students must come to the course with a main project idea of their choosing; otherwise, a set project will be given. Students will need to contribute towards material costs if their project requires materials over and above what is allocated.

Where Does It Lead?

Careers in the construction and fabrication industries, e.g. Carpentry, Joinery, Automotive and Engineering, and/or further tertiary or university study in the Engineering, Surveying or design fields.

**Standards may change to suit the needs of the learner.*

PRE-REQUISITES: Recommended that students have taken year 12 TEW so they have the skills to be successful.

COSTS & OUT-OF-CLASS ACTIVITIES: \$190.00

Skill Standards

Maximum credits available: 23

Vocational Pathway Options:

ACADEMY: (Unit Standards Only)

Trades Academy also known as “Polytech” and “OSTC (Otago Secondary Tertiary College)” is where students attend Level 2 and 3 vocational training courses. These courses are completed by attending the Cromwell Polytechnic Campus each week. Please note - Hospitality is held at Dunstan High School but is still a full day a week course.

Courses that were offered in 2026 were:

- Level 2 Hospitality
- Level 2 BCATS (Building)
- Level 2 Automotive Engineering
- Level 2 Beauty Therapy
- Level 3 Automotive Engineering
- Level 3 Beauty Therapy
- Level 3 Sports Turf Management

Level 2 courses - students are off site for one full school day

Level 3 courses - students are off site for one or two full school days per week.

Students must take ownership for catching up on missed school work on other days of the week. They have timetabled class time to do this.

Selection into OSTC courses is made by OSTC staff (not Dunstan High School), however, the school will provide both learning and behaviour evidence to demonstrate an ability to cope with Level 2 and 3 standards.

GATEWAY: (Unit Standards Only)

This course is designed to transition students into employment, it is to be studied in a students' final year at school. Gateway provides structured workplace learning through spending one day a week in the workplace. Gateway class time is spent completing NCEA Unit Standards and growing knowledge around the world of work. Class time may also be used to catch up on work missed, in other classes, whilst on work placement. Acceptance into Gateway is based on an interview which assesses employability potential, achievement, attendance, attitude/behaviour and commitment. Solid progress on Unit Standards and attendance at First Aid and Health and Safety courses is a requirement before a Work Placement may start.

WORK READINESS CHECKLIST:

Is the student applying effort to their learning?

Can they engage in formal conversation?

Are they able to follow instructions?

Are they able to accept constructive feedback?

Do they use respectful language and demonstrate acceptable behaviour?

Is their attendance greater than 85%?

Are LCG's greater than an average of 2.5?

Is social media/mobile phone use appropriate?

Do they have a learners or restricted licence?

BREENS TRADEBASE: (Unit Standards Only)

Breen TradeBase is a training initiative where students build a real house, develop real trade skills on a real Breen controlled worksite. This course is for Year 12 and 13 students who wish to develop their knowledge, skills and experience in the Building Industry. It is a practical course, 2 days a week and a timetabled line, when students are at school, so that they can complete their BCITO theory work to support their developing building skills.

The aim of this course is to gain between 30-40 Level 3 BCITO credits and to build employability skills for the workplace. This course is limited entry and is designed to be studied in the students' final year at school.

Year 13 Selection Sheet for 2027 courses:

Name: _____

Next year you will take 5 subjects. Select 8 from the list below, numbering them in order of preference:

ARTS	Drama		Science	Biology	
	Music			Chemistry	
	Art Painting			Physics	
	Art Photography			Science Primary Industries	
English	English Literature		Social Sciences	Business Studies	
	Media Studies			History	
Languages	French			Geography	
	Maori			Financial Capabilities	
Mathematics	Maths with Calculus			Tourism and Travel	
	Maths with Statistics		Technology	Food and Nutrition	
	Maths with Numeracy			Design and Visual Communication	
PE	Physical Education			Digital Technology	
	Outdoor Education			Technology Wood	
	Sport and Rec		Vocational	Trades Academy (OSTC)	
				Gateway	
				Breens TradeBase	

