

DUNSTAN HIGH SCHOOL



**RAPUHIA TE MĀTAURANGA
HEI TAONGA**

Course Information Year 9

You will learn the following:

Year 9 Mathematics

Year 9 Mathematics is a compulsory, full-year course that marks the beginning of your high school mathematical journey, establishing the core skills needed for upper secondary school. You will explore fundamental concepts across number, algebra, measurement, geometry, statistics, and probability. A key priority throughout the year is the continuous development of your numeracy skills, creating a strong foundation for future mathematical success and early preparation for the Numeracy Corequisite exam.

The course focuses on moving beyond basic calculations to help you understand how to apply mathematics to real-world scenarios and analyze data. By developing your logical thinking and problem-solving abilities, this course builds the essential analytical tools and confidence required for Year 10 and future pathways.

Year 9 English - Semester 1 (all students)

This module will help students to understand exactly what English is about. The focus this semester is all about growing literacy skills that are relevant for success at high school and in everyday life. The course will allow students to:

- Explore who they are
- Discover and study a range of short texts
- Complete a novel study
- Create a range of different text styles.

Choose from one of the following:

Year 9 English - Semester 2 - Short and Sweet

Are you a reader and/or a writer? Do you like creative writing and poetry? This course will look at how to dissect and examine short texts, poetry, short visual texts and potentially song lyrics. Students will also create their own. It will develop students' ability to create texts that inform and entertain, as well as exploring different language techniques that help to paint a picture in the reader's mind.

OR

Year 9 English - Semester 2 - Hear to See

Do you enjoy studying films? Are you interested in listening to or making your own podcast? If so, this might be the course for you! This course allows students to study visual and oral texts. They will write reviews and responses, create oral texts and begin to become a critical listener and viewer. It will allow students to explore how different language techniques can not only inform the audience, but can also manipulate them into feeling/believing different things.

My choice is:

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COMPULSORY COURSES YEAR 9:

Year 9 Social Studies

The Year 9 programme focuses on the key strands in the Social Sciences curriculum. These strands are NZ History, Global History, Geography, Economic Activity, and Civics and Society. Students move beyond primary school topics to build a foundational understanding of identity, movement, and governance systems. They examine the historical, economic, and geographical forces that shaped early Aotearoa New Zealand from 1840 to 1920. In Geography, they study human movement and migration, while Civics introduces the mechanics of local and central government. Students develop core social science literacies across all of these areas - interpreting maps, navigate data, analyse historical testimonies and communicate content in a variety of ways. Students develop critical thinking skills across these strands and learn to evaluate conflicting historical interpretations. Ākonga learn to construct reasoned, evidence-backed arguments in extended written responses.

AND

Year 9 Science

This course explores key concepts in Physics, Chemistry, Earth Science, and Biology. Students investigate forces, motion, and pressure, while also learning about atomic structure, elements, compounds, and the Periodic Table. Additionally, the course explores chemical reactions, Earth's interconnected systems, genetics, DNA, and transport systems in plants and humans. Finally, students will examine the relationships between organisms and their environment within ecosystems

AND

Year 9 Physical Education (9PED)

Year 9 Health and Physical Education is a compulsory year-long course that combines Physical Education and Outdoor Education. Students will develop knowledge and skills to support their physical, emotional, and social well-being while building confidence to participate in a range of movement experiences.

In Physical Education, students will develop movement skills, fitness, and tactical understanding through a variety of sports and activities. They will learn about physiological changes during exercise, and how training methods and principles can improve personal

performance, as well as encourage lifelong participation in physical activity. In Outdoor Education, students will engage in a range of group activities that encourage building teamwork, safety awareness and environmental understanding. Students will have opportunities to engage in local outdoor activities, aiming to develop kotahitanga, personal growth and challenge.

AND

Year 9 Health Education (9HEA)

Year 9 Health is a compulsory semester course. Students will develop knowledge and skills to support decision-making in a range of environments, as well as developing strategies to encourage positive hauora. In Health Education, students explore topics related to bodies and minds, relationships, and sexual health. They learn about adolescent change, nutrition, resilience, communication, consent, online safety, and making informed decisions that promote personal well-being and healthy relationships.

You must choose TWO technologies from the following:

Year 9 Food and Materials and Processing (FMP)

In Year 9 Food Technology, students will learn how to create food products by selecting suitable ingredients, using different processing methods, and managing resources effectively. They will explore foods from a range of cultures while considering sustainability, authenticity, and the needs of users. Students will develop skills in evaluating their food choices and understanding where ingredients come from and their impact on the environment. They will also learn about biotechnology by safely using processes such as fermentation, recording observations, and suggesting ways to reduce waste and improve sustainability.

Year 9 DTG (DTG/Computer Science)

Students will dive into the exciting world of digital innovation and computer science. Through hands-on projects, they will learn to problem-solve and think critically by designing, developing, and testing their own digital solutions. Students will explore core programming concepts, computational thinking, and user-experience design while learning how to build interactive programs, games, or digital applications. The course emphasises creativity and encourages students to understand the implications of how technology impacts both society and the environment. Through testing and user feedback, students will build confidence in managing digital projects and learn to develop fit-for-purpose, innovative outcomes for the modern world.

TEW Technology Wood

In a wood-based hard materials context, students will learn how to design and construct functional, durable, and safe products by selecting appropriate timbers, tools, and joinery techniques, such as using wood joints or mechanical fixings. They will explore how different wood characteristics—like grain pattern, density, and finish—directly impact a product's aesthetics and the overall user experience. Furthermore, by comparing traditional solid timbers with modern engineered or "smart" wood composites, students will learn to make informed material choices that drive sustainable and innovative design.

Year 9 Spatial and Product Design (SPD)

This course develops students' ability to think and work like designers by combining spatial and product design, design thinking, technical communication, and digital technologies. Students will explore how historical and contemporary design practices influence the world around them while responding to real-world problems through a human-centred design process. They will research user and stakeholder needs, develop design briefs and specifications, and generate, test, and refine innovative ideas through sketching, technical drawing, 2D and 3D CAD modelling, and practical design methods. The course emphasises creativity alongside technical accuracy, encouraging students to consider materials, manufacturing processes, sustainability, usability, and the wider social, environmental, and ethical impacts of their decisions. Through ongoing feedback, evaluation, and iteration, students will develop fit-for-purpose design outcomes and learn to clearly communicate and justify their design intentions in ways that reflect contemporary professional design practice.

Year 9 Mechatronics & Systems: Build the Future 9TMS

Ever wonder how Rocket Lab launches satellites from New Zealand, or how smart gadgets actually work? In this 20-week hands-on course, you won't just learn about technology—you'll build it!

You will master practical engineering skills like soldering and circuit building, then bring your creations to life using microcontrollers, sensors, and motors. Inspired by innovators from Nikola Tesla to Peter Beck, you'll design, code, and test your own automated mechatronic gadgets to solve real-world problems.

If you love taking things apart, figuring out how they tick, and building tech that actually moves and reacts, this is the option for you!

My choices are:

Choice 1		Choice 2	
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You may choose this course instead of a third technology or arts subject:

Year 9 PE Option: Sport and Recreation

This course is based around enhancing well being/hauora through being physically active and working collaboratively with others. Students will gain knowledge and understanding to improve their leadership skills through a variety of areas, including coaching and officiating and working in a group. Students will have a range of opportunities to access community facilities to explore the local area. Practical contexts may include any of the following: Bowls. Petanque, swimming pool, kayaking, Squash, Boulder inn, games around the world, team sports and individual activities on site.

This course will suit students who enjoy being physically active and learning about new sports/ activities.

I would like to do this

You must choose 2 Arts subject:

Drama
Year 9 Drama is an interactive introductory course that builds foundational performing arts skills. Students learn to express complex ideas using voice and movement through core modules like improvisation, devising original scenes, and exploring different historical theatre genres.

Music
The Year 9 Music semester course is an introductory, foundational course, designed to build practical, theoretical and creative music skills. Students will focus on playing an instrument, learning basic music theory, discovering music history and exploring music creation.

Visual Arts
Students will experiment with a diverse range of media—including drawing, painting, printmaking, and digital design. This foundational course builds creative confidence, empowers students to develop original ideas from initial sketches to finished pieces, and teaches them to critically respond to their own work and the art of others.

My choices are:

Choice 1		Choice 2	
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You must choose 1 language:

French - Bonjour

Step into the vibrant world of the French-speaking global community. In Year 9, students begin their language journey by developing foundational communication skills through the "Novice" curriculum. Focus is placed on real-world interaction, building everyday vocabulary, listening skills, and cultural awareness. This course is designed to be highly interactive, building the linguistic confidence required for future international opportunities. Note: This course serves as a vital foundation and is a prerequisite for Year 10 French.

OR

Year 9 Te Reo Māori: Haere Mai!

Welcome to the world of Te Reo Māori! In Year 9, students begin a holistic journey into the indigenous language and culture of Aotearoa. This highly interactive course focuses on building foundational communication skills—learning to introduce yourself (*pepeha*), hold everyday conversations, and understand the core traditions of *te ao Māori* (the Māori worldview). Students will develop pronunciation confidence, basic listening skills, and cultural awareness that enriches their identity as young New Zealanders.

*Note: This course serves as a vital foundation and is strongly recommended for entry into Year 10 Te Reo Māori. Participation in Kapa Haka is an integrated component of this course.

My choice is:

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Year 9 selections for 2027:

Name: _____

Select one English option and one Language option

English Semester 2		Languages	
Hear to See		French	
Short and Sweet		Te Reo Māori	

Technology - Select 2 Technology options and rank these 1 and 2			
Spatial and Product Design		FMP (Food Materials and Processing)	
DTG/Computer Science		Year 9 Mechatronics & Systems	
TEW - Technology Wood			
Arts - Select 2 Arts options and rank these 1 and 2			
Drama		Visual Arts	
Music			

On the list below cross out the options you have already chosen above.

Select 3 further courses, ranking them 1 - 3 (1 being the one you want to do the most) from the following:

Technology		Arts	
Spatial and Product Design		Drama	
DTG/Computer Science		Music	
TEW - Technology Wood		Visual Arts	
FNP (Materials and Processing)		Year 9 PE Option:	

Year 9 Mechatronics & Systems		Sport and Recreation	
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