

RONGOTAI COLLEGE



YEAR 10 CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

2026

YEAR 10 CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

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YEAR 10: YOUR SUBJECT CHOICES

In Year 9, you had the chance to try some new subjects in preparation for your future studies. You will find that the range of choices increases as you pass through Years 11, 12 and 13.

This book is designed to help you plan your Year 10 course of study. You **MUST** study:

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

This is because the NZ Curriculum requires all students to gain important basic knowledge, skills and understandings in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Health & Physical Education. In addition, to meet other requirements of this NZ Curriculum, you get to make a choice of **TWO** option subjects from the following list:

Course	Course Code
Art	10ART
Commerce	10COM
Design & Visual Communication	10DVC
Digital Technology	10DIG
English for Speakers of other Languages	10ESL
Junior Literacy	10LIT
Materials Technology	10MTE
Maori	10REO
Music	10MUS
Robotics	10ROB
Samoan	10SAM
Spanish	10SPA

Please take particular note of the following points about making your two option choices:

1. Read this book carefully.
2. You will tend to do best if you study what you are good at and what you enjoy doing.
3. You may have some ideas about what subjects you may study from Year 11 for the National Certificate in Educational Achievement (NCEA) **but this is not essential**. To help you understand where subjects may lead in NCEA, we have included our Curriculum Overview, which shows the progression of subjects from Year 9 to Year 13.
4. Seek advice from your form teacher, your current subject teachers, HODs, your year level Dean, and from your family.
5. Log in to the web portal via the Rongotai College webpage. Your form teacher has your username and password. You will be given time in form period to do this.
6. You must have selected your subjects for 2025 **by 8 August 2024**.



1. CORE CURRICULUM

In Year 10, you must study the following five subjects:

YEAR 10 ENGLISH (10ENG)

The course will cover units of work that develop a range of skills in the core strands of English: writing, reading, speaking, listening, viewing and presenting.

- Creative writing;
- Formal writing;
- At least two literary text studies;
- Response to text literary essay;
- Visual and oral presentations;
- Personal reading for enjoyment.

Each student will have four classes per week.

On-going assessment will take place during the year. Reading and writing diagnostic tests will be given to measure learning and set targets for student achievement. Students may be able to attempt the NCEA Literacy Reading and Writing co-requisites (Common Assessment Activities).

YEAR 10 HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (10HPE)

Course Aims

The aims for the Health and Physical Education curriculum are for students to:

- Develop the knowledge, understandings, skills and attitudes needed to maintain and enhance personal health and physical development;
- Develop motor skills through movement, acquire knowledge and understandings about movement, and develop positive attitudes towards physical activity;
- Develop understandings, skills and attitudes that enhance interactions and relationships with other people;
- Participate in creating healthy communities and environments by taking responsible and critical action.

Course Content

The above aims will be achieved through work in the following units:

- Demonstrate the ability to make safe, informed choices in a range of health-related subjects (sexuality, drug education, wellbeing, digital citizenship).
- Demonstrate knowledge of body structure, function and fitness.
- Demonstrate consistency and control of movement in a range of situations to meet the Physical Education Performance Standards for Year 10.
- Demonstrate interpersonal skills and describe their effects on other people.
- Identify safety issues and demonstrate safe practices in physical activity.

These units of work will be assessed through a variety of different contexts including Football, Touch, Rugby, Basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, Handball, Gymnastics, Badminton, ABL and many other activities.

Assessment

A variety of assessment methods will be used, including practical tests, self-assessment, task sheets, assignments and peer assessment.



YEAR 10 MATHEMATICS (10MAT)

You will study the topics covered by levels 4, 5 and 6 of the N.Z. Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum.

Year 10 Mathematics aims to:

- Develop skills gained in Years 7, 8 and 9;
- Teach further skills at levels 4 and 5 of the N.Z. Mathematics Curriculum;
- Prepare you for NCEA Level 1.

The Year 10 Mathematics goals are to:

- Help you see the value and usefulness of mathematics in everyday life;
- Help you develop problem-solving skills;
- Develop your ability to think and reason logically;
- Provide you with the mathematical skills needed for work.

The text book is Beta Mathematics, 2nd edition, by David Barton. You are expected to have the following equipment: a pencil case, exercise book, pens, pencils, ruler and a scientific calculator.

Students who have gained Numeracy in Term 3 of Year 9 can be accelerated into Level 1.

Assessment

The purpose is to check on your progress. Skills assessed will include your ability to:

- Communicate ideas and findings;
- Present an argument;
- Problem solve.

There will be a combination of class tests, common tests and assignments. Students may be able to attempt the new NCEA Numeracy standard.

Course Content

1. Number and Algebra

- To understand numbers, the way they are represented and what they mean, and the quantities for which they stand;
- To be accurate, efficient and confident in calculating – mentally, on paper and with a calculator, to be able to estimate and make approximations and to be alert to the reasonableness of results and measurements.
- To recognise patterns, relationships and rules;
- To be able to think abstractly and to use symbols, notation, graphs and diagrams to represent mathematical relationships;
- To use algebra to solve practical problems.

2. Measurement and Geometry

- To know about systems of measurement and their use and interpretation;
- To be confident and competent in using instruments and measuring devices;
- To make sensible predictions and calculations in various situations.
- To know about geometry in two and three dimensions;
- To recognise and use geometrical properties and the symmetries of everyday objects;
- To use geometric models for solving practical problems in time and space.

3. Statistics and Probability

- To recognise statistical data;
- To develop the skills of collecting, analysing, organising and presenting reports and summaries;
- To interpret data presented in charts, tables and graphs;
- To estimate probabilities and to use probabilities for prediction.



YEAR 10 SCIENCE (10SCI)

All students in Year 10 study Science. The course is at levels 4 and 5 of the National Science Curriculum.

Course Content

1. Planet Earth and Beyond: Geology and Interacting Cycles
2. The Living World: Life Processes and Ecology, Genetics
3. The Material World: Acids and Bases, Chemical Change and Metals
4. The Physical World: Forces and Motion, Electricity and Magnetism.

Students complete standards-based assessments during and at the end of each section of work. The emphasis is to develop skills and attitudes in Science learned in Year 9, rather than learning facts.

YEAR 10 SOCIAL STUDIES (10SOS)

Social Studies encourages students to observe, to wonder, and be curious about people, places, and society, and to take an interest and engage in social issues and ideas.

Aotearoa New Zealand's histories is a critical part of Social Studies. Through it, students build understandings about how our past has been shaped by Māori and those for whom New Zealand has been or is their home. Social Studies also take students beyond New Zealand, connecting them to places that can be familiar or unfamiliar and to how people live in these places.

Students learn how to research, evaluate the integrity of sources, communicate, reason, argue, and make decisions about social action. They come to understand that people have different experiences and perspective.

As they engage in critical thinking and in the analysis and interpretation of data, students draw on and develop literacy and numeracy skills that support understandings about society and of local, national, and global issues. Understanding these issues help students to take informed, positive action.

Course content:

1. Human Rights
2. Sovereignty v Tino Rangatiratanga
3. Climate Change
4. Development



2. OPTION SUBJECTS

In Year 10, you must study TWO subjects from the following:

YEAR 10 ART (10ART)

Year 10 Art is seen mainly as a year of preparation for students who wish to study NCEA Art in Year 11. The main thrust of the course is designed to develop students' skills in the following areas:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Printmaking
- Sculpture
- Design

It is during Year 10 that students should start to experiment with materials and develop their own style of work.

The course is open to anyone who wishes to develop their artistic skills and expand their visual creativity.

YEAR 10 COMMERCE (10COM)

The Year 10 Commerce course covers the following:

- The Basics of Economics
- The Law – in particular Consumer Law, which involves:
 - Consumer Guarantees Act 1993
 - Fair Trading Act 1986
 - Door-to-Door Sales Act 1967
 - Your Rights and Obligations as a Consumer
- International Trade
- Accounting – you will learn how businesses manage their assets, income and liabilities
- Enterprise Studies, which involves setting up a business and running it for two weeks (culminating in Market Day).
- Environmental Studies and Environmental Economics
- Interdependence



YEAR 10 DESIGN & VISUAL COMMUNICATION (10DVC)

Through the advent of the NCEA, Design and Visual Communication has a broad educational base and places an emphasis on graphic communication and design problem-solving activities, which are carried out through the context of a design brief.

This leads to an increasing range of future career choices, e.g. architecture, drafting, design graphics, building and engineering trades, publishing, town planning, teaching and topography.

The aims of the course are:

- To promote, in all students, the development of enquiry and research skills.
- To encourage initiative through activities in design communication.
- To stimulate self-confidence and pride in achieving personal success.
- To encourage the desire to move on to a future NCEA course at a senior level.

Students will be involved in:

- Problem solving from a given design brief.
- Investigation and selecting information.
- Acquiring a number of technical drawing skills, e.g. perspective, isometric, oblique and orthographic drawings.

Required Background

Any student who has the desire to learn and has a good all-round level of achievement in his other subjects would be capable of studying Design and Visual Communication in Year 10.

Any further information can be obtained from Mr Greig, Mr Hoskin or Ms Naran.

YEAR 10 DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY (10DIG)

Students who elect year 10 Digital Technology as an option will develop a range of digital skills and deepen their understanding of the digital world.

The course is at levels 4 and 5 of the National Science Curriculum.

Course Content

1. Programming – Introduction to core concepts and game development.
2. Graphic Design – Photoshop techniques and print design
3. Web Design – Learn to make websites with HTML and CSS.

Students will complete a project at the end of each learning area. This is a standards-based assessment and is a mix of written and practical work.

The emphasis of this course is to develop core skills in several disciplines. These skills will be used in conjunction with the design cycle to aid the development of a range of outcomes to ensure they are “fit for purpose”.



ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (10ESL)

Year 10 ESL students are withdrawn from some mainstream classes depending on their English language requirements. Extra help with learning English is provided for students who need this support and is done on a case by case basis.

YEAR 10 JUNIOR LITERACY (10LIT)

Do you need to improve your English language skills?

Do you need to:

- Read more skilfully?
- Write more fluently?
- Speak more confidently?
- Listen more effectively?

Junior Literacy is a supplementary course to help you and encourage you with your Literacy development. Students from non-English-speaking backgrounds will find the course helpful, too.

You will be introduced to a range of reading and visual literacy material.

We improve your writing and research skills.

- Build your vocabulary
- Learn to write and read with meaning
- Become an effective speaker
- Develop research skills
- Develop the confidence to become responsible for your own learning.

Assessment varies from topic to topic.

SKILLS GAINED IN JUNIOR LITERACY WILL HELP YOU IN ALL AREAS OF YOUR LIFE.

N.B.: Students may be directed to this course.

YEAR 10 MĀORI (10REO)

Entry Requirements

It is recommended that a student enrolling for Year 10 Māori should have some knowledge and skills in Māori.

Course Content

The course covers a wide range of topics, from basic grammar and vocabulary to kapa haka and tikanga Māori. The year concludes with practical units on Māori games and mau rākau.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to prepare students for NCEA Level 1 and beyond. Students will learn to understand spoken and written information, write and speak Māori to an appropriate standard, and gain knowledge of some aspects of Maoritanga. Students from *Kura Kaupapa* education who sat Level 1 NCEA in Year 9 may be able to progress to Level 2 in Year 10.

Assessment

There will be a series of small assessments throughout the year based on each topic taught, to assess students' performance in the skills of listening, reading, speaking, writing, presenting and observing.



YEAR 10 MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY (10MTE)

This course is designed for those who want to have the opportunity to express their own ideas in a practical way and through planning, design and manipulating a range of materials produce usable products. It will provide an introduction for the Technology courses that we offer at NCEA Level One and Two.

During the course of the year you will:

- Develop a sense of achievement through good craftsmanship;
- Gain experience in practical problem-solving;
- Develop design skills;
- Develop self-discipline and confidence in a range of practical skills that permit the safe and satisfying use of tools and materials;
- Develop skills of reading plans, measuring and calculating.

There are three main areas of study:

Design: During the year you will be taught the basics of good design. This involves working from a design brief and creating a project that meets your needs.

Related Study: As you design and make your projects, you will have to complete a project log which details how you constructed them.

Practical Work: You will learn the appropriate methods of using both hand and machine tools, and the correct use of materials. One project in the year involves the use of the lathe.

Mr Hoskin can answer any questions you may have.

YEAR 10 MUSIC (10MUS)

The Year 10 course is a preparatory year for students planning to sit NCEA Level 1 Music. The curriculum is 40% performance-based, so students are encouraged to give full performances of pieces learned.

Students should have completed Year 9 Option Music, or be at an intermediate / advanced level. They will be able to work to improve their own level within the structure of the course.

Ownership of an instrument at home is expected, and practice on it is essential for participants in this course.

The course will include the following:

- Study on a specialist instrument (tuition is available through the school). **Tuition is essential and compulsory and must involve reading music notation.**
- Skill development in basic voice, guitar and keyboard;
- Creative composition (individual and in groups);
- Development of aural skills;
- Development of music reading and writing skills;
- Study of music of different cultures, styles and eras;
- Opportunities to join or form groups for performances in the school and the community;
- Self-discipline to perform tasks responsibly, care for equipment and represent the school well.

A variety of types of assessment, both formal and informal, will be used throughout the year. The teaching staff and instrumental tutors are involved in assessing. Students use a specially designed workbook to complete tasks. This is available at the College Shop for a cost of \$30.



YEAR 10 ROBOTICS (10ROB)

Students will learn how to design in both 2D and 3D on their own devices. You will begin the course with a six-week project that will involve some research and then lead on to designing an individualised item to be 3D printed. The skills gained from this first project will put students in a good position to be able to design and build their robotic vehicle using web-based software (for any platform) in 2D and 3D design.

The course is at levels 4 and 5 of the National Science Curriculum.

Course Content

1. VEX robots - designing robots, sensors, tasks using algorithms, coding and testing.
2. Arduino - introduction to electronics and coding. Using the Arduino UNO board to design outcomes for applications.

This Robotics course utilises the Arduino UNO programmable microcontroller supplied together with various input modules and everything else required to produce an individualised robotic vehicle following a technological design and prototype build process. The course is project based. Theory is taught in the context of solving problems. The nature of the problem-solving activity will require a lot of experimentation and the ability to overcome issues will be a key feature of the course.

YEAR 10 SAMOAN (10SAM)

There is no entry requirement for this course, but it is recommended that a student have equivalent knowledge and skills in Samoan as those who are progressing from the previous year's Year 9 course.

Course Content

The course covers a wide range of topics: vocabulary, written language, oral language, daily life and some basic teaching about *fa'a Samoa* (Samoan culture).

Course Objectives

The course is designed to prepare the student for NCEA Level One and beyond.

Assessment

There will be tests at the end of each topic, with emphasis on the skills of reading, writing and speaking in the *gagana Samoa*.

YEAR 10 SPANISH (10SPA)

Any student enrolling in Year 10 Spanish must have completed the Year 9 course, or an equivalent course at another school. Students without prior knowledge may be accepted at the discretion of the teacher.

Course Content

The course is a continuation of Year 9 Spanish. The textbook used is Viva 2 and other teacher collated resources. It extends students' knowledge of a wide range of language and cultural topics. Learning activities build students' skills in speaking and writing as well as comprehension of written and spoken.

Course Objectives

This is the second year of a five-year course leading to NCEA Level 3 Spanish. Students will learn to understand spoken and written information, write and speak Spanish to an appropriate standard and gain knowledge of some aspects of Spanish culture.

Assessment

There will be regular assessments held during the year, to gauge students' achievement in the skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. There will also be a research assignment covering a selected aspect of Hispanic culture.



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2025

	Year 9	Year 10	NCEA Level 1 Year 11	NCEA Level 2 Year 12	NCEA Level 3 Year 13
Art & Design	Art DVC* →	Art DVC →	Visual Art → DVC →	Visual Art → Design → Photography → DVC →	Painting Printmaking Design Photography DVC
Commerce	Commerce	Commerce	Commerce →	Economics → Accounting →	Economics Accounting
English	English*	English*	English* → Drama →	English* → Drama → Media Studies →	English Drama Media Studies
Health & PE	Health & PE*	Health & PE*	PE →	PE → Outdoor Education → Personal Training →	PE Outdoor Education Personal Training
Languages	Samoan → Spanish → Te Reo Māori →	Samoan → Spanish → Te Reo Māori →	Samoan → Spanish → Te Reo Māori →	Samoan → Spanish → Te Reo Māori → Te Ao Haka →	Samoan Spanish Te Reo Māori Te Ao Haka
Learning Support	ESOL Junior Literacy	ESOL Junior Literacy	ESOL Literacy	ESOL	ESOL
Mathematics	Mathematics*	Mathematics*	Mathematics* →	Mathematics → Numeracy →	Calculus Statistics & Modelling
Music	Music	Music →	Music →	Music Theory → Music Performance →	Music Theory Music Performance
Science	Science*	Science*	Science* →	Biology → Chemistry → Physics → Science →	Biology Chemistry Physics
Social Sciences	Social Studies*	Social Studies*	Geography → History →	Geography → History → Classical Studies →	Geography History Classical Studies
Technology	Materials Technology* → Robotics* →	Materials Technology → Robotics Web Technologies →	Materials Technology → Web Technologies →	Automotive Engineering (Year 1) Trade Training → Mechanical Engineering Web Technologies Programming →	Trade Training Web Development Programming
Vocational Studies			Hospitality →	Hospitality (National Certificate in Hospitality Year 1) Vocational Studies →	Hospitality (National Certificate in Hospitality Year 2) Vocational Studies

Subjects marked * are compulsory