



Napier Boys' High School

Te Kura Tamatāne ki Ahuriri



Year 9

2027 Course Selection Guide

**The Intention of the
Year 9 Curriculum
is to offer a broad
range of subjects to
open potential
pathways.**



Welcome from our Headmaster

Welcome to Napier Boys' High School. For more than 150 years, Napier Boys' High School has built a proud tradition of high expectations and excellence. We are committed to providing a holistic education that prepares young men for success in a rapidly changing world.

Our curriculum offers a wide range of opportunities that promote both personal excellence and whakawhanaungatanga (building meaningful relationships). We challenge mediocrity and strive to develop young men who leave school with confidence, character, resilience, and a strong sense of identity.

At the heart of our approach is the belief that positive relationships and purposeful learning lead to success. With students at the centre of our decision-making, we provide diverse academic pathways that enable every young man to pursue studies aligned with their interests, strengths, and aspirations.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark blue ink that reads "Simon Coe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Simon" and "Coe" being large and prominent.

HEADMASTER

Introduction

Academic Curriculum Napier Boys' High School

The intention of the Year 9 Curriculum is to offer a broad range of subjects. In this way, our Year 9 students experience a variety of courses and open up potential pathways.

Compulsory Courses	Compulsory Modules
<i>Year 9 students study the following compulsory full-year courses.</i>	<i>Year 9 students study the following compulsory 6-week modules.</i>
9ENG English 9MAT Mathematics 9PHE Physical and Health Education 9SCI Science 9SOS Social Science	9DLIT Digital Literacy 9TIK Tikanga



Curriculum Overview

Year 9-11

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Arts, Languages and Music	• Art • Japanese • Music • Māori Studies • Spanish • Tikanga	• Art • Japanese • Music • Spanish • Māori Studies • Tikanga Toi	• Art • Japanese • Music • Māori Studies • Spanish • Tikanga Tol
English	• English • Drama • English as a Second Language • Media • Structured Foundations	• English • Drama • English as a Second Language • Media	• English • Literacy • Drama • English as a Second Language
Mathematics	• Mathematics	• Mathematics	• Mathematics • Numeracy
Physical and Health Education	• Physical and Health Education • Athlete Development Programme	• Physical and Health Education • Athlete Development Programme	• Physical and Health Education
Science	• Science • Agriculture/Horticulture	• Science • Agriculture/Horticulture	• Science • Agriculture/Horticulture
Social Sciences	• Social Studies • Commerce	• Social Studies • Commerce	• Accounting • Business Studies • Economics • Geography • History
Technology	• Combined Materials • Design and Visual Technology • Digital Technology • Engineering • Food Technology • Robotics • Woodwork • Digital Literacy	• Combined Materials • Design and Visual Technology • Digital Technology • Engineering • Food Technology • Robotics • Woodwork	• Combined Materials • Design and Visual Technology • Digital Technology • Engineering • Hospitality • Woodwork

Enriched Learning Programme

At Napier Boys' High School, our enrichment programme is designed to foster cognitive, social, and personal growth by providing students with engaging learning opportunities beyond the standard curriculum. Our programmes focus on building critical thinking and problem-solving through hands-on challenges and enrichment activities.

The enrichment programme is designed for students who are working above the curriculum level for their age. Students are selected for the enrichment programme using a broad range of information provided by the Year 8 entrance testing and data from previous schools.



Supported Learning Programme

Napier Boys' High School is committed to fostering an inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. Our dedicated Learning Support team works closely with students, staff, and whānau to ensure our young men feel confident, supported, and empowered throughout their schooling journey.

We build our learning profiles through proactive transitions, parental collaboration, teacher intervention, and student voice. Utilising robust assessment tools, we establish effective learning interventions to meet the students' needs.

Our Comprehensive Support Includes:

Targeted Interventions

Small-group learning interventions integrating Structured Literacy and Numeracy approaches.

Learning Coaches

Utilisation of dedicated Learning Coaches within target classes to provide real-time, side-by-side academic support.

Specialist & Funded Support

Access to In-Class Support (ICS) funded programmes, RTLB (Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour) support, and specialised dyslexia screening.

Special Assessment Conditions (SAC)

Provision of exam accommodations such as Reader/Writer assistance, extra time and digital tools to assist in success.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Programme

Dedicated lessons designed to support language acquisition, assisting international and bilingual students to integrate fully into school life, and confidently access the core curriculum.

Wraparound Advocacy

An extensive Pastoral team and SENCO to guide families and staff, alongside ongoing professional development to ensure our teachers are adept facilitators for diverse learners.

9STF Structured Foundations

The Structured Foundations option is designed to provide additional support in developing key literacy (reading/writing) and numeracy skills for Year 9 students.

This class serves as a structured and supportive environment aimed at helping students strengthen their foundational academic skills. It also assists in preparing them for upcoming exams and building on skills to help them succeed in high school.

This class will focus on a range of skills like:

- The morphology of words with a focus on Year 9 science vocabulary.
- Foundational math knowledge & skills, e.g. how to use a calculator, algebra basics.
- How to use Microsoft tech tools like voice to text for creating notes, touch typing.
- We look at study methods like mind-mapping and using colours and key words when studying.

Our goal is to ensure that every student has the basic skills to feel confident and well-equipped for future academic success.

NB: Students are selected for this course using a broad range of information provided by the Year 8 entrance testing, Year 8 interviews and previous schools.



Option Courses

Year 9 students choose a total of FIVE option courses. The goal is to allow the students to broaden their experiences and opportunities. Each option course runs for a trimester (approx. 13 weeks).

Students must choose one option from each of Set A, B, or C, and then two further options from any set. Students can only choose a maximum of two Technology subjects from Set B.

Set A	Art Drama Japanese Māori Studies Music Spanish
Set B	Digital Technology Food Technology Technology - Combined materials Technology - Engineering Technology - Woodwork
Set C	Agriculture Athlete Development Programme Commerce Design and Visual Communication Media Studies Robotics



9ADP

Year 9 Athlete Development Programme

This is a high-performance programme aimed at developing athletes to reach the top of their respective sports. A strong work ethic is critical to both academic and sporting success. There are sport specific groupings relating to current term-based and seasonal codes.

This programme covers areas focusing on:

- Fitness testing.
- Speed, endurance, strength, conditioning.
- Training methods.
- Skill development.
- Resilience, mental toughness, mindset approach.
- Food and nutrition.
- Recovery techniques, stretching and mobility, agility skills.
- Tactics, strategies and game film analysis.
- High level trainers / coaches, professional team visits.
- Competitive gameplay environments.
- Goal setting.

9AGR

Year 9 Agriculture/Horticulture

Students are introduced to the subject and study the following units:

- Apple orcharding.
- Sheep breeds and uses.
- Cattle breeds and uses.
- Deer.
- A coverage of agriculture and horticulture practices.
- Practical skills.

9ART

Year 9 Art

The course is an introduction to the visual arts in which students develop their practical knowledge and ideas, learn to interpret and gain an understanding of artwork and experiment with new materials.

Topics include:

- Character design: *Developing characters and creatures of a hybrid nature, experimenting with animation clay and recycled materials.*
- Drawing and Printing: *A focus on 'line' elements and pattern making.*
- Painting: *Colour mixing, painting techniques and developing composition.*



9COM

Year 9 Commerce

Year 9 Commerce introduces students to the dynamic world of Business, Economics, and Accounting. Rather than studying these subjects in isolation, this course provides a foundation across all three areas, helping students understand how individuals, businesses, and economies make decisions.

Students will explore how money, resources, and ideas flow through society, and how these concepts apply to their own lives now and in the future.

- Introduction to Economics: *Understanding needs and wants, scarcity, choices, and opportunity cost. Students will explore how individuals and societies make decisions about limited resources.*
- Production, Resources, and Accounting Basics: *Exploring how goods and services are produced, the role of resources, and an introduction to basic accounting concepts such as income, expenses, and simple budgeting.*
- Business and Entrepreneurship: *Investigating how businesses operate, what makes a successful entrepreneur, and how ideas can be developed into real-world opportunities.*



9DIT

Year 9 Digital Technology

The hands-on and creative content in this course is an exciting introduction to the world of digital technologies. The learning experience is enhanced through gamified learning, where students can earn 100 Experience Points (XP) by completing fun, challenge-based mini-projects. The XP system encourages engagement, rewards progress and adds an extra layer of motivation to the learning journey.

Students in this course will explore the following:

- Discover the basics of coding using block-based tools and beginner-friendly text coding.
- Create simple websites and explore how digital content is structured and displayed online.
- Experiment with digital design tools, including image editing, animation, and layout.
- Interact with hardware and learn how computers work behind the scenes.
- Develop your game logic and storytelling, blending creativity with technology to build interactive experiences.

With an emphasis on exploration, creativity, and play, this course is ideal for students who enjoy creating, experimenting, and discovering how digital tools shape the world around us.

9DRA

Year 9 Drama

If you are looking for something fun, creative, and a little bit different, Drama class is the place to be. We spend our time acting, working together as a group, and learning through practical activities (not much sitting and writing). In Drama you will build skills in voice and movement, try out role-play, and bring stories to life in your own unique way.

We focus on activities where students can build trust and confidence and get to display this through performances. We learn improvisation games that are both fun and a great way to 'think on your feet' and be creative. Drama class is a relaxed and supportive class where you can be yourself, have a laugh, and try something new.

9DVC

Year 9 Design and Visual Communications (Graphics)

The course focuses on establishing basic visual communication skills.

These skills include:

- Sketching and rendering in two and three dimensions.
 - Exploring our design heritage and decoding design features.
 - Evaluating design and using the knowledge to produce design ideas.
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9FTEC

Year 9 Food Technology

During this half year course, boys will learn kitchen basics and practical cooking skills to gain an understanding of basic nutrition designed to encourage sensible food buying and eating.

The course offers a range of technology skills, allowing students to learn basic cookery techniques and recipes as well as learning valuable lessons in teamwork, good hygiene practices and following recipe instructions. They will cook a variety of dishes, including granola bars, stir fries and pizza using seasonal and locally sourced ingredients.



9JAP

Year 9 Japanese

Japanese is a major Asian language spoken by over 120,000,000 people. Students will learn the writing system of Japan which includes Kanji (Chinese Characters) thus giving students an insight into the written Chinese language as well.

The programme for Year 9 includes learning of vocabulary relating to introductions, family life, weather and seasons, times, and dates. Students will also be introduced to some of the basic business principles of the Japanese as well as their art, customs, and culture.



9MAO

Year 9 Māori Studies

This is an introductory Te Reo Māori programme catered for all learners covering many cultural contexts, such as marae, kāenga, kura, hākinakina, whānau, numbers, colours, and local purākau. This also develops their reading and listening comprehension skills as well as writing and speaking skills.

In addition, students will get the opportunity to learn about Māori Performing Arts, Tikanga and Whakairo.

9MED

Year 9 Media Studies

Media Studies focuses on the idea of mass communication through various forms of media. The first few weeks will have a literacy focus, where the boys will analyse various trends through Spotify and explain the key components that contribute to successful media.

The second stage of the course entails the production of a podcast. Boys will construct a script, use editing software, and assume various roles within their group to create the podcast.



9MUS

Year 9 Music

Students taking this course will begin to develop music skills and no prior experience is assumed. Where there is space, students can begin free lessons on a range of instruments. The young men are also encouraged to participate in wide variety of extracurricular music groups, such as: School Band, Pipe Band, Choir, Barbershop, rock or chamber groups, and the Production.

The main components of the course are:

- Sound editing.
- Instrument skills.
- Music theory and history.
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Students will develop understanding through a range assessment activities including creating and editing sounds for short film clips, instrument skills on guitar, piano and singing, as well as improve their listening and music theory knowledge.



9ROX

Year 9 Robotics

Explore, create, and build in the exciting world of Robotics! In this hands-on course, students will learn the foundations of Robotic Engineering and Digital Technology through designing, building, and programming robots using VEX and LEGO systems.

Students will investigate how robots work, solve real-world challenges, and develop problem-solving, teamwork, and creative thinking skills. There will also be opportunities for students to design and construct their own custom robot projects. This course is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on technology, innovation, coding, and practical learning experiences.

9SPA

Year 9 Spanish

If New Zealand is to participate successfully in trade, technology, tourism, diplomacy, cultural exchanges, and humanitarian roles, we will need people who are fluent in certain languages. Spanish is particularly significant for New Zealand because of important economic and cultural ties we are developing with Spain, Latin America, and the rest of the Spanish speaking world.

Students will be introduced to the Spanish language and culture with a variety of activities involving listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

There will be a variety of topics including:

- Me and My Family.
- The classroom.
- Friends and Relationships.
- Spanish Food.
- Spanish Film.

9DCT

Year 9 Technology - Combined Materials

This course aims to develop students understanding of basic technological practices and technological knowledge. This includes hand tool, power tool, design, and plan reading skills. Students work with a range of material including but not limited to timber, metals, electronics, and plastics.

This course begins to equip students to participate in society as informed citizens and give them access to technology related careers. Theory topics include health and safety, hand tool, and power tool recognition.

Take home component course fees apply.

9DTE

Year 9 Technology - Engineering

This course is an introduction to practical metal working skills and reading and understanding working drawings. Skills include marking out, cutting, folding, riveting, lathe work, gas welding, and workshop safety.

Take home component course fees apply.



9DTW

Year 9 Technology - Woodwork

This course is an introduction to hand tools skills as related to the workshop. These include marking out, cutting, planning, chiselling, finishing of timber, use of electric drill press, bandsaw and portable power tools such as sanders and drills. Safety and basic design skills are included.

Take home component course fees apply.





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