

Year 7/8 Curriculum Information



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The girls are in their 'AKO' groups (learning groups) for the following subjects

English - Reading and Writing
Social Studies (Inquiry)
Mathematics

Other core subjects with a smaller time allocation:

Science
Physical Education
Religious Education
Health
Taha Maori

Option Subjects

These subjects are split into groups and the girls spend approximately 12 weeks in each:

Digital Technology
Music
Art
Japanese
Food and Nutrition
Soft Materials Technology
Photography
French
Drama

The girls attend Makoura College for Hard Materials Technology during Terms 2 & 3.

Subject Information

English (Reading and Writing)

Teacher in Charge: Mr Doug Davidson

Reading

The girls receive specific comprehension instruction through our CSI programme (Comprehension Strategy Instruction). The girls explore texts through novel studies (literature circles), sophisticated picture books and directed texts for inquiry learning. The daily reading habit is fostered during their time in Year 7/8 as a tool for the future.

Writing

The girls explore many text types over a two-year cycle and is specific to the tools they need for other subject areas. Formal language is taught according to needs.

Mathematics

Teacher in Charge: Mr Doug Davidson

We teach the Numeracy Project which teaches strategies for solving problems. Number Knowledge such as place value and basic facts are crucial at this time in their learning as they move towards secondary school. All Strands are covered over a two year programme.

Social Studies

Teacher in Charge: Mr Doug Davidson

We use the St Matthew's Collegiate inquiry cycle to deliver the Level 4 Social Studies Curriculum. We look to integrate the topics we teach across other curriculum areas. We select the topics on global, national and local issues. The inquiry cycle aims to give the girls a base of knowledge, encouraging them to ask further questions for independent study.

Science

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Sarah Chapman

Science this year will be taught over 4 lessons in the fortnight cycle. Teachers will be using a variety of strategies to present this interactive subject. The main areas to be covered this year will be Ecology, Geology, Household Chemicals, Energy and Time.

Physical Education

Teacher in Charge: Ms Jane Tiley

Physical Education run a two year programme to all Year 7/8 students in 4 lessons per 10 day cycle.

The odd year (i.e.2015) course covers:

Aquatics – stroke technique and basic personal survival

Small Ball Skills – physical skills

Games – Fair play/teamwork

Ki O Rahi – participation in a competition

Dance - body awareness

Athletics – safety, rules & regulations

Health

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Victoria Harper

Students have one Health lesson each week with their form class. Units will operate on a two-year cycle to cover the major themes, and outside expertise will be used where appropriate such as Life Education visits.

Key topics covered at Year 7&8

1. Relationships with other people (Identity, Sensitivity, Respect, Resilience)
2. Puberty (Characteristics of pubertal change and positive adjustment strategies)
3. Interpersonal skills (Conflict resolution, Teasing, Bullying)
4. Leadership (What makes an effective leader)
5. Healthy eating (Nutritional needs, Influences on food choices etc)
6. Healthy communities (Investigate and access a range of community resources)
7. Life Education visits (A range of topics may be covered such as Peer pressure, Social skills, Drug Awareness)

Students are encouraged to participate in class activities and develop the confidence to be able to contribute to class discussions.

Taha Maori

Teacher in Charge: Mr Doug Davidson

This course covers basic Te Reo for greetings (Mihi) and other basic language. There is also a component which covers traditions and history. This will be continued in Year 9 with a full year course.

Mandarin

Co-Ordinator: Mr Doug Davidson

Students have one Mandarin lesson per week taught by a visiting teacher from China. This is a full year course which is an introductory course to Mandarin language and culture. Learning is supported by audio-visual and on-line resources. The students will also participate in fun games to enhance learning.

Option Subjects

Japanese

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Junko Bracefield

This course is an introductory course to Japanese language and culture. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand and use familiar expressions and everyday vocabulary, interact in familiar situations. Topics covered are, greetings, self-introduction, family and pets, eating and drinking, likes and dislikes and sports. Learning is supported by audio-visual and on-line resources. The students will also participate in fun games to enhance learning.

French

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Sheila Morris

This subject is a course that lasts approximately 9 weeks each year. It is delivered in a full immersion style (nearly all the time) as the research has proven that it is the most effective way of learning a language.

Students are required to fully engage with the language and have as much fun as possible in the process through a variety of meaningful tasks.

Art

Teacher in charge: Mrs Monika Theng

Year 7

Students are introduced to drawing terms and techniques and have the opportunity to practice these in both wet and dry media. Over the course they study various artists' works, design and produce their own tapa cloth, and visit the local Art Gallery.

Year 8

In this course, students build on their art experience from Year 7. Drawing skills are practiced in both wet and dry media, and students are introduced to colour theory and practice. Students then design and print a rotational woodcut based on Polynesian motifs.

Music

Teacher in charge: Mrs Rosemary Taylor

In Year 7 they learn to play some basic chords on the guitar and ukulele as well as simple pieces on the keyboard. They create music to accompany film clips using 'Garageband'.

In Year 8 they continue these skills and they work in groups on a piece of music to perform to the class.

Drama

Teacher in charge: Mrs Rosemary Taylor

For this course conventions of drama such as freeze frame, mime, physical theatre and improvisation are taught using a range of strategies and stimuli. In Term 3 the girls direct and act in a small scripted play, which they present to the class

Food and Nutrition

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Shelley Gilman

This subject is a compulsory 12-week course for all Year 7 and 8 girls. Year 8 builds on the course from Year 7.

Basic nutritional concepts are introduced and applied to making simple dishes. The girls develop confidence and food handling and cookery skills associated with Food and Nutrition.

Soft Materials Technology

Teacher in Charge: Mrs Ruth Bucknell

This subject is a compulsory 12-week course for all Year 7 and 8 girls.

This course introduces the design process and develops confidence in managing the materials and equipment associated with Soft Materials Technology.

Students are required to think critically and creatively to produce a unique pincushion in year 7 and a soft structure for their chosen space in year 8.

Digital Literacy

Teacher in Charge: Mr Kristian Sherman-Ball

- New Student induction - User names, passwords, email addresses, printing procedures, understanding network folders versus "cloud" (Google - MS365), Cyber Safety User Agreements and BYOD.
- Introduction of basic software - Understanding of types of software, examples,

- functions, use of word processing software
- Internet Searching - Students ability to check reliability and bias when researching using the Internet and cross reference sources
 - Discovering digital literacy - Students ability to use desktop publishing software to demonstrate knowledge of hardware devices

Digital Technology

Teacher in Charge: Mr Kristian Sherman-Ball

- Students will learn the basic of spreadsheets. Using Formulae, function and graphing.
- Students will learn the basic of programming, learning to use flowcharts, sequence and selection and iterations. Also, how to use inputs, variables and output Testing Basic Programs created.
- Digital Citizenship Project, which allow the students to understand the dangers of using the Internet, how to use the Internet responsibly to prevent these risks

Homework Procedures

1. Students are to spend no longer than 45 minutes per night on a variety of tasks which could include spelling, research for inquiry units or a quiz.
2. 15 minutes of reading to take place each night (reading log kept).
3. Mathematics tasks will be set by the teacher for no more than 15 minutes. This may not occur every night. This is to co-inside with their classroom learning.

We acknowledge that our girls have busy lives beyond school. If the girls are struggling with their homework commitment they need to discuss this with their teacher.

National Standards and Reporting

As you will be aware, the Government have abolished National Standards and are working on an alternative.

The Years 7/8 girls will be part of our new reporting system.

Until we know more from the Government we will be reporting against New Zealand Curriculum levels

Curriculum Levels

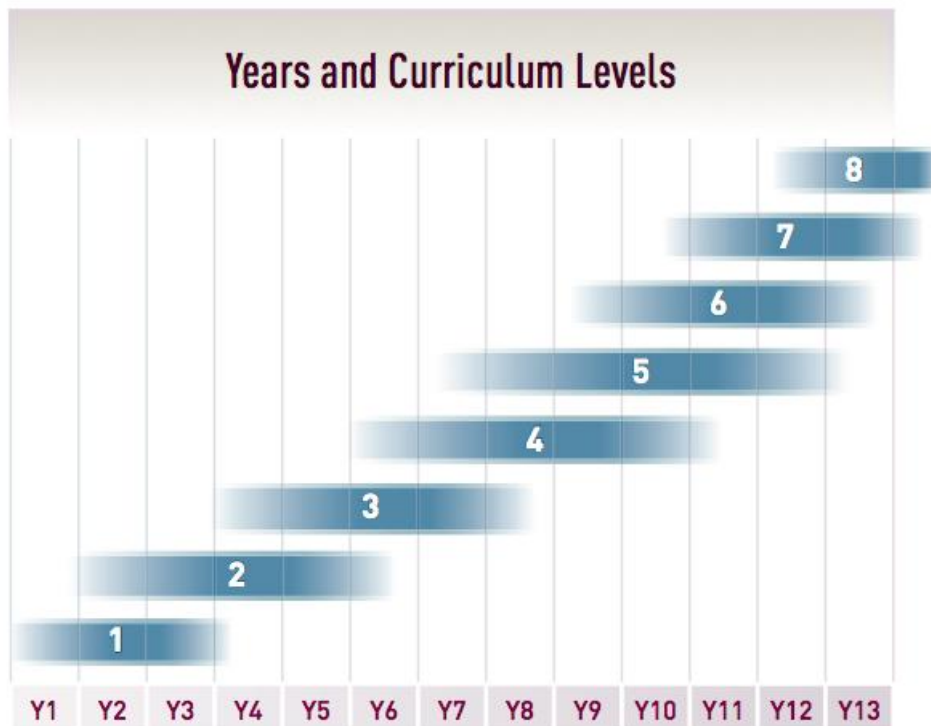
According to the NZ Curriculum Y7/8 girls should be working at Level 4.

Expected Level for Year 7 Students:

To be working at the beginning of Level 4 **by the end of the year.**

Expected Level for Year 8 Students:

To be working within/the end of Level 4 **by the end of the year.**



Beyond Year 7/8.....

Year 9 Curriculum Information

Core Subjects

These subjects are compulsory and the girls are taught in their form classes:

English
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies
Physical Education
Health
Religious Education
Taha Maori

Languages

Girls have the choice of either French or Japanese (full year course)

Arts and Technology

The girls are divided into 4 groups for these options. They take two at a time and rotate around them throughout the year.

Food and Nutrition
Soft Materials
Digital Technology
Art
Drama
Music