



Years 11-13 New Zealand Curriculum Subject Descriptors

5 December 2025

These current descriptors for the Years 11-13 New Zealand Curriculum Subjects provide an example description for each of the subjects.

Learning area	Year 11 subjects	Year 12 subjects	Year 13 subjects
English	English	English	English
		Media, Journalism & Communications	Media, Journalism & Communications
Mathematics & Statistics	Mathematics	Mathematics [^]	Mathematics [^]
			Further Mathematics ^{*^}
		Applied Mathematics ^{*^}	Applied Mathematics ^{*^}
			Statistics and Data Science ^{*^}
Science	Science	Biology [^]	Biology [^]
		Agricultural and Horticultural Science [^]	Agricultural and Horticultural Science [^]
		Chemistry [^]	Chemistry [^]
		Earth & Space Science [^]	Earth & Space Science [^]
		Physics [^]	Physics [^]
		Primary Industry ^{**^}	Primary Industry ^{**^}
Health & Physical Education	Health Education	Health Education [^]	Health Education [^]
		Health & Wellbeing Services ^{**^}	Health & Wellbeing Services ^{**^}
	Physical Education	Physical Education [^]	Physical Education [^]
		Outdoor Education ^{**^}	Outdoor Education ^{**^}

Technology	Resistant Materials Technology*	Resistant Materials Technology*	Resistant Materials Technology*
	Textiles Technology*	Textiles Technology*	Textiles Technology*
	Food and Processing Technology*	Food and Processing Technology*	Food and Processing Technology*
		Electronics & Mechatronics*	Electronics & Mechatronics*
		Automotive Engineering**^	Automotive Engineering**^
		Building & Construction**^	Building & Construction**^
		Infrastructure Engineering**^	Infrastructure Engineering**^
		Mechanical Engineering**^	Mechanical Engineering**^
		Hospitality**^	Hospitality**^
	Digital Technologies^	Computer Science*^	Computer Science*^
		Digital Design^	Digital Design^
	Spatial & Product Design^	Spatial & Product Design^	Spatial & Product Design^

The Arts	Dance	Dance	Dance
	Drama	Drama	Drama
	Music	Music	Music
		Music Technology*	Music Technology*
	Te Ao Haka^	Te Ao Haka^	Te Ao Haka^
	Visual Arts	Visual Arts – Creative Arts	Visual Arts – Creative Arts
		Visual Arts – Design	Visual Arts – Design
		Visual Arts – Painting	Visual Arts – Painting
		Visual Arts – Photography & Moving Image	Visual Arts – Photography & Moving Image

Social Sciences	Accounting	Accounting	Accounting
	Business & Economics^	Business Studies^	Business Studies^
		Economics^	Economics^
		Tourism**^	Tourism**^
	Geography^	Geography^	Geography^
	History^	History^	History^
		Classical Studies	Classical Studies
	Te Mātai i te Ao Māori (Māori Studies) – <i>working title</i> *	Te Mātai i te Ao Māori (Māori Studies) – <i>working title</i> *	Te Mātai i te Ao Māori (Māori Studies) – <i>working title</i> *
	Religious Studies	Religious Studies	Religious Studies
	Sociology*	Sociology*	Sociology*
		Civics, Politics & Philosophy*	Civics, Politics & Philosophy*

	Pacific Studies*	Pacific Studies*
	Psychology	Psychology

Learning Languages	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori	Te Reo Māori
	New Zealand Sign Language^	New Zealand Sign Language^	New Zealand Sign Language^
	English as an Additional Language*	English as an Additional Language*	English as an Additional Language*
	Asian languages		
	Chinese (Mandarin)	Chinese (Mandarin)	Chinese (Mandarin)
	Japanese	Japanese	Japanese
	Korean	Korean	Korean
	European languages		
	French	French	French
	German	German	German
	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
	Pacific languages		
	Gagana Sāmoa (Samoan)	Gagana Sāmoa (Samoan)	Gagana Sāmoa (Samoan)
	Gagana Tokelau (Tokelauan)	Gagana Tokelau (Tokelauan)	Gagana Tokelau (Tokelauan)
	Lea Faka-Tonga (Tongan)	Lea Faka-Tonga (Tongan)	Lea Faka-Tonga (Tongan)
	Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani (Cook Island Māori)	Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani (Cook Island Māori)	Te Reo Māori Kūki 'Airani (Cook Island Māori)
	Vagahau Niue (Niuean)	Vagahau Niue (Niuean)	Vagahau Niue (Niuean)

* Represents a new subject

** These are subjects the Ministry will commission Industry Skills Boards (ISBs) to develop, working alongside industry, schools, and other stakeholders.

^ Indicates a subject offered in both the New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.

TMoA subjects with bracketed English titles indicate that the subject will have the same common purpose, core knowledge and be available in both te reo Māori and English for delivery in TMoA or NZC pathways.

English Learning Area

English (Y11)

Description: Through engagement with a wide range of New Zealand and international texts, both historic and contemporary, students are taught to analyse how written, visual, and oral texts are crafted to convey meaning, reflect or challenge ideas, and influence audiences. Students will also be taught how to craft their own writing and communication skills. English at Year 11 builds essential skills in critical thinking, interpretation, and expression, supporting progression into English, Media, Journalism & Communications and other subjects in Years 12 and 13.

English (Y12 & 13)

Description: Through deep engagement with a wide range of historic and contemporary New Zealand and international texts, students are taught how to critically examine the way in which texts are constructed, create meaning and challenge, subvert or express literary traditions and ideas. Students understand how texts position, persuade, re-imagine, resist, or transform ideas. They are taught how to develop their own writing and oral language with clarity, stylistic control, and awareness of audience and purpose. English provides skills and capabilities needed in pathways such as humanities, media, law, politics, public sector work, and business and communication roles.

Media, Journalism & Communications (Y12 & 13)

Description: Through a critical analysis of media texts, students are taught about the ways in which media, journalism and communications comment on and contribute to national and global society, and investigate and report matters of public interest. Students are taught about the growth and evolving landscape of media technologies and industries, including the evolving nature of AI generated texts, the changing modes and influence of journalism over time, and the role communications play in business, marketing, and advertising. Students are taught to discern accurate information, bias, and misinformation through source verification. They are taught how to create and write media products by applying core techniques, concepts and conventions from journalism, communication, film, and digital media across both analytical and production contexts. Media, Journalism & Communications leads to further pathways in these subjects and related areas such as screen production, public relations, policy writing, marketing and advertising, and digital content creation.

Mathematics & Statistics Learning Area

Mathematics (Y11)

Students are taught key mathematical knowledge and concepts in algebra, geometry, measurement, probability and statistics. They are taught how to apply mathematical reasoning and problem-solving strategies to real and theoretical contexts. Year 11 Mathematics develops essential skills in logical thinking, numerical

fluency, and data interpretation, and strengthens students' foundational mathematical knowledge. This provides a strong base for success in a range of other Year 12 and 13 including the sciences, technologies, business, psychology, health and physical education as well as ensuring that students are well prepared for work and life.

Mathematics (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught fundamental principles of mathematics including advanced concepts like calculus, trigonometry, and algebraic techniques. They are taught how to develop mathematical reasoning and problem solving through the contextualised study of mathematical concepts. Mathematical and statistical concepts form a strong foundation for life, work, or future study. Mathematics leads to pathways in mathematics and statistics, and related fields including computer science, biology, business, psychology, economics, and health sciences.

Applied Mathematics (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught mathematical and statistical concepts for investigating and solving problems to enable future innovation. They are taught practical applications such as mathematical modelling, data analysis, and interpretation of results. They are also taught how to apply reasoning, solve problems, and critically evaluate models and solutions. Applied Mathematics strengthens knowledge and capabilities for industry pathways and leads to careers in mathematics, finance, earth science, chemistry, physics, engineering, and technology.

Statistics and Data Science (Y13)

Description: Students are taught the aspects of mathematics and statistics related to data analysis. Students are taught how to use statistical reporting, probability theory, regression analysis, and evidence-based decision making across a range of contexts and statistical and computational methods for analysing and interpreting data. Statistics and Data Science leads to pathways in data science, statistics, probability, and related fields like computer science, accounting, geography, business, health sciences, psychology, other data-informed disciplines, and further academic research

Further Mathematics (Y13)

Description: Students are taught the mathematical ideas that underpin concepts such as game theory, graph theory, and chaos theory. Students are taught the processes behind mathematical thinking and abstract reasoning, enabling them to engage in authentic structured problem solving. Further Mathematics is designed to be studied in addition to another Year 13 Mathematics course, Mathematics, or Statistics and Data Science. Further Mathematics leads to pathways in mathematics and related areas, such as computer science, software engineering, advanced mathematics, physics, complex systems, algorithm design, and engineering.

Science Learning Area

Science (Y11)

Description: Students are taught broad, foundational science knowledge, including core scientific concepts and methods across the disciplines of Chemistry, Biology, Earth and Space Science, and Physics. Students are taught how to use the principles of scientific investigation and apply scientific knowledge in everyday and disciplinary contexts. Science in Year 11 supports progression into further study in the sciences and science-related subjects at Years 12 and 13, including Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural and Horticultural Science, Earth and Space Science, and related industry-led subjects.

Biology (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about living systems focusing on how organisms function, interact, and evolve within biological systems. Students are taught how to use practical investigations to test and apply knowledge in areas such as cellular biology, genetics, ecological systems, body systems, and biotechnology. Biology leads to pathways in biology and related disciplines including biomedical science, environmental science, biotechnology, and health sciences.

Chemistry (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about the properties, structure, and composition of matter, and the physical and chemical transformations it undergoes. Students are taught how to investigate chemical systems and processes through theoretical knowledge and practical applications. Chemistry leads to pathways in chemistry and related sciences such as biomedicine, food science, environmental science, health sciences, and engineering.

Earth & Space Science (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about Earth's systems and the universe, with a focus on concepts from astronomy, geology, climate science, and environmental change. They are taught how to apply theoretical knowledge and scientific modelling to investigate key processes and their implications. Earth & Space Science leads to pathways in environmental sciences, Earth and space science, geological and geotechnical sciences, aerospace sciences, and astronomy.

Physics (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about key areas of physics, including mechanics, waves, electromagnetism, and modern physics including quantum phenomena. Students are taught how to examine and use experimental techniques, mathematical modelling, and the fundamental concepts of physics to explain the natural world. Physics leads to pathways in physics and related fields such as engineering, technology, medicine, and other physical sciences.

Agricultural & Horticultural Science (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about biological, environmental, physical, and human systems, and how these interact and are managed to sustain agricultural and horticultural production. Students are taught how to examine topics such as plant, animal, and soil science, sustainability, business and management practices, and

production technologies, and develop skills to apply this knowledge in practice. Agricultural and Horticultural Science leads to pathways in agricultural and horticultural science and related fields, such as sustainability, agriscience, or land-based industries.

Health and Physical Education Learning Area

Health Education (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about the complex factors that influence personal and community health and wellbeing. Students are taught how to examine health-related issues, such as nutrition, mental health, global health challenges, online safety, and relationships, considering how these intersect across diverse communities and contexts. They are taught how to apply critical and ethical decision-making to explore health practices, policies, and systems, developing capabilities to respond to health needs at personal, community, and societal levels. Health Education leads to pathways in health and related areas such as, science, health promotion, education, sport or community development, and health.

Physical Education (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught the biophysical and anatomical science of sport and physical performance, technical and practical aspects of sport, outdoor safety, strategic coaching, and leadership frameworks. Students are taught how to apply the theoretical, scientific and practical knowledge across a range of physical, sporting and outdoor education contexts, and develop physical, interpersonal, leadership and personal capabilities. Physical Education leads to pathways in health and sport sciences, coaching, education, physical activity, outdoor leadership, or community health.

Technology Learning Area

Resistant Materials Technology (Y11, Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught the technical knowledge and skills to design and build tangible products using resistant materials. Students are taught about the performance properties of wood, metal or plastic, scientific principles, and ethical considerations to make informed decisions about tools, techniques, and sustainable practices. They are taught how to apply processes and techniques such as joinery, turning and welding and surface finishing, using creative problem-solving and technological thinking to produce fit-for-purpose outcomes. Resistant Materials Technology leads to pathways in product design, engineering, manufacturing, further industry pathways and trades.

Textiles Technology (Y11, Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught the technical knowledge and skills to design and build textile and fashion products. Students are taught about the performance

properties of fibres and fabrics, scientific principles, and ethical considerations to make informed decisions about materials and sustainable practices. They are taught how to apply processes and techniques such as pattern drafting, sewing techniques, decorative work and finishing, using creative problem-solving and technological thinking to produce fit-for-purpose outcomes. Textiles Technology leads to pathways in fashion, textiles and interior design and industry pathways.

Food and Processing Technology (Y11, Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught the scientific, nutritional and technical knowledge and skills to develop food products. Students are taught about the performance properties of ingredients, scientific principles, and ethical considerations to make informed decisions about nutritional and meal planning, kitchen equipment, processes, and sustainable practices. They are taught how to apply processing methods and techniques such as cooking methods, hygiene and safety, food science, preservation, and quality control, using creative problem-solving and technological thinking to produce fit-for-purpose outcomes. Food and Processing Technology leads to pathways in food science, biotechnology, and health.

Electronics & Mechatronics (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about electronic processes such as circuit design, managing signals and power, using both analogue and digital methods. They are also taught about mechatronic processes such as sensing, actuation, and system integration, and how these approaches enable the creation of intelligent, automated solutions. Students are taught how to investigate engineering concepts and apply systems thinking to contexts such as robotics, automation, smart devices, and sustainable technologies in New Zealand and globally. Electronics and Mechatronics leads to pathways in engineering, communication systems, robotics, electronics, industrial and product design, trades, or applied technologies.

Digital Technologies (Y11)

Description: Students are taught the knowledge and skills to apply programming, design, and problem-solving skills to complex contexts, such as data transformation and visualisation, human-computer interaction, inclusive design, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies. Students are taught how to examine social, cultural, and ethical implications of digital technologies and their influence on society and the environment, to become discerning users and designers of digital tools. Digital Technologies leads to pathways in technology and technology-related subjects in Years 12 and 13.

Computer Science (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about computational thinking and computer science principles. Students are taught how to apply this knowledge in theoretical and practical authentic contexts to solve problems and action computer science opportunities. Students will also be taught to consider the impact of human factors in areas such as programming, computer vision and graphics, networking, human-computer interaction, cryptography, security, and artificial intelligence and intelligent

systems. Computer Science leads to pathways in computer science, and related disciplines such as software engineering, and data science.

Digital Design (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about technological practice and design thinking to create fit for-purpose digital outcomes. Students are taught how to apply creative and critical design thinking in authentic contexts to develop digital solutions that integrate technical practices such as programming, data representation, interface design, and systems thinking, with an understanding of ethical and societal considerations. Digital Design leads to pathways in digital design, and related areas such as information systems, and app or game development.

Spatial & Product Design (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about digital and traditional visual communication, as well as technological practices for designing innovative, user-centred conceptual products and spatial environments. Students are taught how to apply design thinking and structured design processes to contexts, such as design heritage, visual communication, sustainability, and digital technologies. Spatial & Product Design leads to pathways in engineering, architecture, product and spatial design, trades, or creative technologies.

The Arts Learning Area

Dance (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about dance practice elements, vocabularies, processes, principles, and technologies related to dance genres in a variety of contexts to communicate and interpret artistic ideas. Through active participation in movement, choreography, and performance, students are taught how to create choreography, develop technical proficiency and collaboration skills, and how to respond to the works of others. Dance leads to pathways in dance and related disciplines, such as performing arts, choreography, movement therapy, cultural, social, or historical studies.

Drama (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught how to examine dramatic forms, conventions, and performance styles in relation to cultural and historical contexts, and how to apply this knowledge in the creation and presentation of dramatic work. They develop technical, collaborative, and interpretive skills, alongside critical reflection and informed appreciation of artistic works. Drama leads to pathways in drama and related disciplines, such as creative industries, law, communication, humanities, and education.

Music (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught analytical, compositional, and performance-based knowledge and practices, alongside the use of contemporary music technologies.

Through the teaching of a diverse range of musical traditions, styles and genres, students broaden their knowledge of music as both an art form and a means of cultural expression. Students are taught how to refine their musical expression and develop frameworks for interpreting and responding to the world through music, informed by both theory and practice. Music leads to pathways in music and related areas, such as performance, composition, music therapy, and musicology.

Music Technology (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about composition, performance, and production through digital and analogue technologies. Students are taught to examine how technologies have shaped contemporary composition and performance practices over time, and how it enhances and expand compositional techniques and live performance practice. They are taught how to integrate recording, sound design, and music technology tools, and how to use live sound systems and digital processing to record and produce their music across artistic, cultural, and technical contexts. Music Technology leads to pathways in music technology and related areas such as composition, performance, music production, live sound, and media.

Te Ao Haka (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about the whakapapa of different disciplines of te ao haka, the key features of performance techniques, iwi variations, creative development processes and the historical and contemporary contexts of items. Students are taught how to analyse and apply elements such as tempo, rhythm, dynamics, melody, phrasing, harmony, shape, characterisation, tone, and composition structure, and apply these insights to enhance their own performance. They make connections with other creative forms such as musical composition, theatre, choreography, and other indigenous performance traditions, fostering transferable skills that strengthen artistic expression across multiple disciplines. Te Ao Haka leads to pathways in toi Māori, the arts, teaching, tourism, cultural leadership, and global and national performance platforms such as Te Matatini, contributing to and strengthening Aotearoa's economic, cultural, and creative economy.

Visual Arts (Y11)

Description: Students are taught visual art concepts, practices, and artistic perspectives that are informed by art history, creative and cultural practices. Students are taught how to interpret and create artworks through conceptual knowledge of creative processes, visual literacy, and visual communication, and develop the capability to apply these to artistic, cultural, and social contexts. This subject leads to further study in visual arts subjects and related subjects in Years 12 and 13.

Visual Arts – Creative Arts (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about diverse art-making practices, such as sculpture, printmaking, drawing, and culturally centred forms such as whakairo (carving). They are introduced to concepts including cultural protocols, visual language, and creative investigation, alongside historical, contemporary, and

customary approaches relevant to the materials and methods they use. They are taught how to explore and communicate personal and social narratives through hands-on making and critical reflection, developing technical capabilities and conceptual understanding across a range of visual forms. Creative Arts leads to pathways in visual arts and related disciplines, such as design, cultural heritage, and creative industries.

Visual Arts – Design (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about visual design as a mode of communication and cultural expression, with a focus on design principles and processes, creative problem-solving, and design for artistic and functional purposes informed by design history. Students are taught how to apply conceptual and technical skills to produce design works that respond to artistic, commercial, and social contexts across a broad range of forms, such as print-based works, hand-drawn forms, and digital images. Design leads to pathways in design and related disciplines such as communication or creative industries.

Visual Arts – Painting (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught painting techniques and visual language, with a focus on creative expression and critical appreciation of artforms. Students are taught how to use painting methods and materials, develop composition, and study related movements and ideas from art history. Students are taught how to apply this knowledge to communicate meaning in artistic, cultural, and personal contexts. Painting leads to pathways in painting and related disciplines such as fine arts, illustration, or creative industries.

Visual Arts – Photography & Moving Image (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about photography and moving image, with a focus on visual communication, technical skills, and creative expression. Students are taught how to operate cameras, apply editing techniques, and use composition, genre conventions, and cinematography to convey meaning. Students are taught how visual media is shaped by artistic, cultural, and social contexts informed by knowledge of art and design history. Photography & Moving Image leads to pathways in photography and related disciplines such as design, media, or creative industries.

Social Sciences Learning Area

Accounting (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught how financial and non-financial information is used to support decision-making in personal, business, and organisational contexts. Students are taught how to interpret, apply, and communicate accounting information using relevant concepts and practices, such as analysing financial performance and position to inform planning and improvement. Accounting leads to pathways in accounting and related disciplines such as commerce, finance, and entrepreneurship.

Business and Economics (Y11)

Description: Students are taught how businesses, consumers, and governments interact in the economy. Students are taught how to apply financial and economic reasoning and use economic models to explain decision-making in context. Students are also taught how internal operations and external influences affect business operations, and how economic theory connects to practical business concepts such as marketing, people management, business planning, and operations management. Year 11 Business and Economics leads to further study in Business Studies, Economics, and other related subjects in Years 12 and 13.

Business Studies (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught how businesses operate, make decisions, and respond to change in a range of small business, corporate, national and global contexts. Students are taught about business functions such as marketing, finance, operations and resources, and how to apply business concepts, models, and values. Students are also taught how business, science, and sustainability intersect in sectors, such as the food and fibre industries, technology, and tourism. Business Studies leads to pathways in business, economics, commerce and agri-business and related fields such as entrepreneurship, management, commercial innovation, agri-innovation, rural enterprise, and environmental leadership.

Economics (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about how economic decisions and events shape societies. Students are taught key economic concepts such as the roles of consumers and businesses, and how scarcity and choice shape market forces and affect economic outcomes. Students are taught to apply economic concepts, models, and values to explain how consumers, businesses, governments, and communities interact and make informed decisions. Economics leads to pathways in Economics and in related areas such as business, finance, public policy, and global development.

Geography (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about natural processes such as fluvial erosion, climatic processes and tectonic activity, and cultural processes such as migration, land use, and economic development, and how these shape environments and influence how people interact with them. Students are taught how to investigate geographic concepts and apply spatial thinking to contexts such as sustainability planning, climate adaptation, natural hazard management, and planning challenges in New Zealand, the Pacific, and globally. Geography leads to pathways in geography and geographical information systems, and related disciplines such as environmental science, urban planning, and tourism.

History (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about significant historical events and figures that have shaped New Zealand, the Pacific, and the world. Students are taught how to use practices of history, such as interpreting primary and secondary sources, constructing and contesting narratives, and applying evidence to explain the past.

Students are taught how historical interpretations and perspectives are used to explain the past and establish historical significance. History leads to pathways in humanities and related disciplines such as political science, law, international relations, tourism, and cultural studies.

Classical Studies (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about Classical Greece and Rome, including social and political structures such as hierarchy and roles, cultural ideals such as excellence and duty, and cultural achievements such as architecture and philosophy. Students are taught how to examine literature, mythology, religion, art, archaeology, history, social life, politics, and philosophy. They are also taught to recognise how these shaped the foundations of Western civilisation, influencing art, literature, and current philosophical, legal and political thought. Classical Studies leads to pathways in Classical Studies and related disciplines, such as humanities, history, philosophy, archaeology, and law.

Te Mātai i Te Ao Māori (working title) (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about kaupapa tuku iho (philosophical foundations & understandings), tikanga Māori (cultural practices and protocols), te ao Māori structures, and historic and contemporary innovation in economy, business, sustainability, environment and engineering. Students will examine how these kaupapa contribute to cultural competence, social responsibility, and strengthen an innovative future. Te Mātai i Te Ao Māori leads to pathways across many sectors including business, entrepreneurship, education, law, art, media, creative industries, policy, and resource management.

Religious Studies (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about religious and spiritual beliefs and practices, and how these shape individuals and societies. Students are taught how religious and spiritual traditions influence diverse worldviews, ethical decision-making, identity, global perspectives, and the course of history. Religious Studies leads to pathways in humanities, law, education, international relations, and global citizenship.

Sociology (Y11,12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about the structure of societies and how they change, including key concepts such as culture, socialisation, and social stratification. Students are taught how to critically examine theories of human behaviour in social groups, including analysis of social structures and institutions, group dynamics, and systems of organisation that influence societal behaviour and development. Sociology leads to pathways in sociology and related disciplines, such as social policy, education, criminology, and cultural studies.

Civics, Politics & Philosophy (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught political systems, civic institutions, international organisations, and how public participation and decision-making shapes society in New Zealand and globally. Students are taught how to discuss philosophical ideas

about reason, argument, ethics, and knowledge, and investigate the foundations of political thought. They are taught how to critically examine concepts such as justice, authority, and ethics. Civics, Politics & Philosophy leads to pathways in these and related areas, such as public policy, governance, international relations, and law.

Pacific Studies (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about the diverse histories and cultures of the Pacific region and their people, engaging with concepts such as innovation, sustainable practices, leadership, and responses to change and development. Students are taught how to engage with Pacific perspectives, analyse cultural and historical contexts, and apply knowledge to contemporary issues affecting Pacific communities. Pacific Studies leads to further study about the Pacific and its future, cultural studies, education, health, research, and community development.

Psychology (Y12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught about human thought, emotion, and behaviour through a range of psychological approaches and theories surrounding concepts, such as human development, personality, and relationships. Students are taught how to research, analyse, and apply ethical practices in psychology, and how to apply psychological concepts to complex contexts and issues. Psychology leads to pathways in psychology and related disciplines such as health sciences, law, education, and commerce.

Learning Languages Learning Area

Te Reo Māori (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught linguistic, cultural, and sociocultural knowledge of te reo Māori to begin or deepen their capability in te reo Māori. They learn grammatical structures to communicate across spoken, written, and digital contexts, alongside oratory styles that reflect Māori traditions. Students practice the use of te reo Māori in everyday, community, cultural, and social contexts and strengthen their connections to te ao Māori. Te Reo Māori leads to pathways across many sectors, from education, tourism, health, law, media, and business to community development.

New Zealand Sign Language (Te Reo Rotarota o Aotearoa) (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) as an additional language. Students are taught how to develop knowledge and capabilities in NZSL and confidence in communication in receptive and productive forms across everyday, community, and social contexts. Students are also taught about connections to Deaf culture and communities, with a strong emphasis on identity-building, social participation, inclusion, and cultural understanding. NZSL leads to pathways within the Deaf community, public service, health and education.

English as an Additional Language (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught English as an additional language, using a clearly sequenced pathway to develop productive and receptive communication skills across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing, academic literacy, and intercultural understanding. Students are taught how to build knowledge and capabilities in the English language, to engage more confidently and fluently with the wider curriculum and prepares them for further academic study or vocational pathways.

Chinese (Mandarin) (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught Chinese (Mandarin) as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build intercultural capability. Chinese (Mandarin) leads to pathways in Chinese (Mandarin) language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

Japanese (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught Japanese as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build intercultural capability. Japanese leads to pathways in Japanese language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

Korean (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught Korean as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build intercultural capability. Korean leads to pathways in Korean language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

French (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught French as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build intercultural capability. French leads to pathways in French language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

German (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught German as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build intercultural capability. German leads to pathways in German language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

Spanish (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught Spanish as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build intercultural capability. Spanish leads to pathways in Spanish language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

Gagana Sāmoa (Samoan) (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught Gagana Sāmoa as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build connections to identity, culture, and community. Gagana Sāmoa leads to pathways in Gagana Sāmoa language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

Gagana Tokelau (Tokelauan) (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description:

Students are taught Gagana Tokelau as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build connections to identity, culture, and community. Gagana Tokelau leads to pathways in Gagana Tokelau language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

Lea Faka-Tonga (Tongan) (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught Lea Faka-Tonga as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build connections to

identity, culture, and community. Lea Faka-Tonga leads to pathways in Lea Faka-Tonga language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

Te Reo Māori Kūki ‘Āirani (Cook Islands Māori) (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught Te Reo Māori Kūki ‘Āirani as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build connections to identity, culture, and community. Te Reo Māori Kūki ‘Āirani leads to pathways in Te Reo Māori Kūki ‘Āirani language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.

Vagahau Niue (Niuean) (Y11, 12 & 13)

Description: Students are taught Vagahau Niue as an additional language, with a focus on developing linguistic knowledge, communication skills, and capabilities across listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing. Students are taught how to communicate confidently across everyday, community, and societal contexts, develop fluency in reading, translating, and creating texts, and build connections to identity, culture, and community. Vagahau Niue leads to pathways in Vagahau Niue language learning and related fields such as global economics and business, tourism, humanitarian work, interpreting, and translation.