



Otamatea High School

Te Kura Tuarua O Otamatea

Year 7, 8 and 9

**Course Booklet
2010**

MISSION STATEMENT

Otamatea High School aims to provide a learning culture that will develop the whole child within a safe and secure learning environment.

VISION

Developing the well educated, balanced all-rounder who is able to contribute positively to our community.

VIRTUES

Collective Responsibility

Environmental Awareness

Respect and Honesty

Individual Uniqueness

Excellence

Course Structure - Year 7, 8 and 9 2010

All students study the following core subjects.

English
Mathematics
Physical Education & Wellbeing
Science
Social Science

Subject Sampling (Rotations/Semesters)

In Years 7 and 8 many subjects are taught in a rotation programme. Year 9 can narrow their option subject choices to two options in the Arts, Technology and Language curriculum areas. These are taught over two semesters. Studying an International language is recommended.

This subject sampling helps students make informed decisions about their subject options in later years.

The subjects studied in rotations/semesters are:

Dance, Drama, Food Technology, French, Graphics, Information Management, Maori, Music, Spanish, Textile Technology, Visual Art, Workshop Technology (Metal), Workshop Technology (Wood).

Students are taught each subject for 3 periods per week for one term.



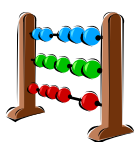
Where a student requires help with literacy and numeracy skills they will be directed to the Learning Centre for extra tuition.

All of these rotation subjects can continue into the senior school

For subject information and Pathways parents should consult the Year 9 and 10 Student Information and Course Guide and the Senior Information Course Guide.

Year 7, 8 and 9 Subjects

1. **English:** This vitally important subject aims to develop the language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. It includes drama and work in non-verbal media. It is a compulsory subject up to and including Year 12.
2. **Mathematics:** The aim of this subject is to develop the computational, estimation, measurement and problem solving skills of students. We aim to present students a wide range of activities relevant to their everyday lives and designed to develop their interest and their own individual abilities in this very important subject.
3. **Physical Education and Wellbeing:** This is a non-examinable subject designed to develop practical skills, give an understanding of how the body works, emphasize the importance of healthy living and deal with specific topics, including aspects of hygiene, caring for our bodies, alcohol, drugs, relationships, sexuality and contraception – some aspects of this course require parental permission prior to instruction at school. It may also be taken as a full optional subject from Years 11 to 13.
4. **Science:** This is about people exploring and investigating biological, physical and technological worlds and making sense of them in logical and creative ways. This subject is taught up to and including Year 11. At the Year 12 and Year 13 level it is replaced by three separate but related subjects: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Horticulture is available from Year 11 to Year 13.
5. **Social Science:** The aim of this subject is to develop an understanding of people as members of society and their role in it. Since each society is shaped so much by its economy this aspect is also considered in the study of all major social themes. This subject is replaced at Year 11 level by two related subjects: Geography and History.
6. **Dance:** This is an introductory course where students will explore 'The Elements of Dance'. Students will also develop practical knowledge and develop ideas in dance with the emphasis being on performance and composition skills.
7. **Drama:** This course begins with drama, games and activities and builds to a short workshop performance at the end of each term to an invited audience. Year 7 Drama builds on students' own narratives. Year 8 builds on Year 7 work and focuses more on Dance and Drama.
8. **Extension Numeracy:** Where there is a need, in any given year, this course will be offered.
9. **Food Technology:** A subject that covers nutrition, health & wellbeing, design, problem solving skills and practical skills. The theme to provide the focus on the course will be Snacks & Family meals. This subject leads to Level 1 Home Economics at Year 11 and Hospitality Studies at Years 12 and 13.
10. **Keyboarding:** This is offered as a useful general skill and can lead Management in future years.



11. **Languages:** The Year 7-9 courses offer a wide-ranging introduction to languages and culture. The initial emphasis is on oral and aural skills and on encouraging interest in another way of life. Language offered are French, Spanish, Japanese and Maori.
12. **Music:** This course aims to develop an appreciation of a wide variety of music by introducing the elements of music and placing an emphasis on practical instrumental experience. Music may also be selected as an option from Year 10.
13. **Textile Technology:** At Year 7 the focus of the course is on basic skill development in the use of small equipment, an introduction to the sewing machine and development of design and problem solving skills. Year 8 reinforces the basic skills and introduces students to the use of a commercial pattern and the possibilities of adaptation. This course leads to Textile Technology for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13.
14. **Visual Art:** It is an introductory course, so that students can learn about Art and the procedures used in making art works. An exploration will be made of the "Elements of Art" – drawing, design, painting, printmaking and three dimensional activities. Art can be taken as an option from Year 9 to Year 13.
15. **Workshop Technology:** This course provides a basic introduction to wood work and metal work shop. It can be taken as an option in Years 9 and Years 10, leading to Workshop Technology courses in ITO Unit Standards.

