



Year 9 Course Guide 2021

Year 9 Course Guide 2021

Contents

	Page
Introduction to the Year 9 Curriculum	1
The Organisation of Year 9 Classes	2
Compulsory Courses	3
Option Courses - Languages/Literacy	4-6
Option Courses - The Arts	6
Junior Performing Arts Academy	6
Option Courses - Technology	7

Introduction to the Year 9 Curriculum

The curriculum for Year 9 students attending Selwyn College is based on the requirements set out in the *New Zealand Curriculum*. It is designed to promote a broad and balanced education, with an emphasis on the knowledge, skills, values and key competencies necessary for success in the senior school and beyond. The vision is to develop young people who will be confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners.

Year 9 students study courses in the **Learning Areas** identified in the *New Zealand Curriculum*:

English

Mathematics and Statistics

Health & Physical Education

Languages / Literacy

Science

Social Sciences

Technology

The Arts

These Learning Areas are the vehicles through which students will develop the **Key Competencies** necessary for a lifetime of learning and success:

Thinking

Managing self

Relating to others

Participating and contributing

Using language, symbols and texts

The Organisation of Year 9 Classes

Students in Year 9 are grouped into classes that address particular learning needs.

Advanced Classes

We have **Advanced Classes** for students already working at a higher than expected curriculum level for their age group in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science.

Learning Enhancement Class

We also have a **Learning Enhancement Class** for students who require additional assistance with their learning, especially with the development of their literacy and numeracy skills.

Students are invited to be part of both the advanced and learning enhancement classes.

Entrance tests and information from previous teachers are used to identify the students for these classes.

All Classes

The learning programmes for all students in every class are designed to develop each individual's knowledge and skills so that they make excellent progress through the curriculum levels.

Personalising learning underpins our teaching practices at Selwyn. The key to this is *SELWISE* – our pedagogical toolkit and language for learning which is deeply embedded in every classroom.

Compulsory Courses

All Year 9 students study each of the following courses:

ENGLISH

This course focuses on the development of students' oral, written and visual language and helps build a strong foundation for success in NCEA at Year 11. Students study a range of texts such as novels, poetry and film. They take part in oral and visual presentations, such as debates and producing posters and they write in a range of styles. Students are provided with extension opportunities through their participation in competitions in English and writing.

MATHEMATICS

This course aims to develop in students the skills, concepts, understanding and attitudes which will enable them to cope confidently with the Mathematics across the strands of the national curriculum: Number and Algebra, Geometry and Measurement, and Statistics. It is important that students can see and make sense of the many connections within and across these strands. There are extension opportunities for students through various Mathematics competitions, such as ICAS, Otago University Mathematics competition and Mathex.

SCIENCE

This course aims to develop scientific knowledge and attitudes. Students will use investigation and problem-solving skills to understand scientific ideas and establish their relationship with wider society. Content includes: The Material World (Properties of Matter & Separating Mixtures), The Living World (Ecology, Plant Biology & Human Body Systems), The Physical World (Energy, Sound & Light) and Planet Earth and Beyond (Astronomical Systems). The skills developed include: Investigating in Science (Separating Mixtures), Communicating Understanding in Science (Sound Energy) and Participating and Contributing in Science (Human Impact on Plant Ecosystems).

SOCIAL SCIENCE

This course aims to develop students' understanding of how people relate with each other and their environments through the study of people in different times, cultures and places. It prepares students to take their place in society as confident, informed and responsible participants. The themes are: Culture, Identity and Cultural interaction, Leadership and systems of government, Human rights and social interaction, War and Genocide, Sustainability and Human Impact on the Environment and Resources and Economic Activity.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

The Year 9 Physical Education curriculum provides students with the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports and activities to generate interest and expertise. Whilst participating, students will be assessed across a variety of areas such as Movement Skills, Positive Attitudes, Interpersonal Skills and making informed choices about future physical activity. Sports include ultimate frisbee, volleyball, badminton, lacrosse, tennis and many more, allowing the students opportunities to experiment with a variety of different skills and strategies. The health units are centred around 'Hauora' covering areas such as sexuality, drugs and alcohol, bullying and nutrition.

Option Courses

LANGUAGES / LITERACY

- All Year 9 students may choose to study a Language or Literacy. This is not compulsory. If you want to study another Language or Literacy you may choose ONE from the following list:
TE REO MAORI
CHINESE
ESOL – English as a Second Language
LITERACY
SPANISH
- Please note that any students who require further development of their Literacy skills for academic success at secondary school will be directed into that course by our staff.

TE REO MAORI

This course aims to give all students the opportunity to learn Te Reo Maori. It also gives students an understanding of the culture of the Maori people and how to live in a Maori context.

CHINESE

This course offers students an opportunity to study one of the world's oldest living languages. As a major world language it is becoming more and more popular and important as New Zealand is developing economic and cultural ties with Chinese speaking countries and areas (China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore). Students learning the Chinese characters develop a sound basis for acquiring other Asian languages that use the same writing system.

The following topics will be covered:

- Introduction & greetings
- Family and pets
- Numbers
- Time and date
- Describing people
- Classroom
- Food, shopping and money

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

This course aims to encourage and develop confidence and competence in the use of the English language. It encourages an understanding of New Zealand life and society as well as providing pastoral support.

LITERACY

This course aims to encourage a greater confidence and enjoyment of reading. Students will improve their use of reading strategies to gain meaning from text and develop their writing skills. The students are taught in small groups or individually by teachers, with the support of teacher aides and volunteers from the community. A wide range of topics and resources are used to meet the learning needs of the students, who are selected through diagnostic testing or referred by Heads of House, subject teachers, parents or at their own request.

SPANISH

This course offers students an opportunity to learn to communicate with 350 million native Spanish speakers worldwide, to enhance their travel experiences and develop cultural understanding. Students learn to interact in familiar exchanges about themselves, to read and write straightforward texts about themselves and to become more aware of typical cultural conventions.

Option Courses

THE ARTS

- All of the following ARTS courses are one semester - half a year - in length.
- If you have chosen to study a LANGUAGE/LITERACY course, you must select ONE of the following ARTS courses
OR
If you have not chosen to study a LANGUAGE/LITERACY course, you must select TWO of the following ARTS courses from:
ART
DANCE
DRAMA
MUSIC
- Students in the Junior Performing Arts Academy must choose Drama for one semester

ART

In this course students learn to understand the visual world around them, enjoy the creative freedom to express their ideas and broaden their knowledge of Art Styles and Artists. The Year 9 program develops observational and technical skills in a range of media i.e. drawing, painting and printmaking, digital processes.

DANCE

In this course students will experience a range of Dance activities that cover the four strands of the NZ Arts Curriculum: Understanding Dance in Context, Developing Practical Knowledge of Dance, Developing Ideas in Dance, and Communicating and Interpreting Dance works. Students will explore a range of dance styles, histories and choreographic processes to express and communicate ideas in a creative way.

DRAMA

This course aims to establish students' understanding of Drama as a creative discipline as well as an understanding of Drama elements, techniques and conventions. The topics include mime, improvisation, devising theatre, style and genre studies, acting, rehearsal and production processes.

MUSIC

This course aims to provide students with an introduction to Music and to develop their general skills and musical knowledge. This will include basic instruction in practical knowledge in Music, developing ideas in Music, Communicating and interpreting Music, developing musical knowledge of different cultures, styles and eras of Music.

JUNIOR PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

This Academy is designed to foster students' talents and creative expression in Drama, Dance and Music. Students audition to be accepted into the Academy and are then required to attend workshops for up to four hours per week after school with specialist teachers. The workshops cover a variety of aspects of performing arts such as learning a musical instrument, dance tuition, voice training, performance development and production technologies. Students need to be aware that a fee of \$495 **must** be paid to assist with extra costs.

Option Courses

TECHNOLOGY

- All of the following TECHNOLOGY courses are one semester - half a year - in length.
- If you have chosen to study a LANGUAGE/LITERACY course, you must select ONE of the following TECHNOLOGY courses
OR
If you have not chosen to study a LANGUAGE/LITERACY course, you must select TWO of the following TECHNOLOGY courses from:
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY
FOOD TECHNOLOGY
MULTI MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Students will learn about how digital tools and computational thinking are used to design solutions. They will work together in small collaborative groups to create a digital solution to an authentic problem. Examples projects include animation, computer game design, and basic website design. Alongside the digital aspects of the course, students will begin to develop competencies with design software and drawing skills. This course is designed to ensure our students become confident creators in the digital world.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Students follow the design process to develop a range of food outcomes, which could include a pizza, picnic lunches, baked goods. The focus is on embedding food preparation skills, teamwork and good food hygiene practice. Students also gain an understanding of food nutrition in relation to their chosen outcomes. Students will be given the opportunity to learn about the design of digital outcomes for the food industry, such as the creation of a food blog, digitally designed packaging / labelling, or 3D printed cookie cutters.

MULTI MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

Students follow the design process to design and develop products using a range of hard and/or soft materials. For example, students may design and create jewellery using pewter casting, an electronic button or badge with an LED, jewellery boxes, vacuum forming, a fabric travel game with 3D printed playing pieces and mechanical toys. Students are encouraged to work independently and creatively. Students will be given the opportunity to learn about the design of digital outcomes within Multi-Materials, through electronics, programming, 3D printing, laser-cutting, or the creation of digital portfolios of work.