

Mahurangi College Senior Subject Choices List

The following are subjects offered at the College. In order to best place you in the right class and year level, look carefully over the subjects offered and their explanation, and then complete and send as part of your Application. This can either be faxed or emailed:

Fax: 64 9 425 7275

Email: p.johnston@mahurangi.school.nz

Senior school is divided into three Year levels and all Mahurangi College seniors choose **FIVE** subjects.

Year 11 ages are usually 15-16 years; Year 12 ages are usually 16-17 years; and Year 13 ages 17 years and above.

You should choose your FIVE subjects in order of importance (one being the most important) and also another two or three as 'spare' subjects in case your first choices are not available. For example, two subjects may be offered on the same option line in which case your preferred subject will be entered.

Once you are placed in that class and attend the class, it is expected that you will remain there unless there is an urgent reason why you need to be moved. (Not liking the teacher or your friends being in other classes are **not** reasons to change subject.) It is possible to move within the year levels in a subject if you find the subject too easy or too difficult.

If you do not complete and send your choices then you may not be able to do the subjects you wish to do when you arrive, so it is very important you let the college know of your choices before you arrive. (If you are unsure as to what the subject is, then email Mr Johnston.)

Subjects Offered

New Zealand Studies: This is a compulsory two term course for European students and other students whose English proficiency is competent. It is designed to introduce international students to a basic understanding of New Zealand history, geography, Maori culture, local trips, tourism, New Zealand film and sports, New Zealand 'English' and any aspect of New Zealand that will extend a student's knowledge and understanding of our unique way of life. Students who come for one term or two terms will be placed in this course. If longer than two terms then a student can opt for another subject after completing the two term NZ Studies programme

Mathematics: This subject is split into Higher Mathematics (for those especially good in this area); Mainstream Mathematics (for the 'general' maths student); and Mathematics in the Workplace (for those who are looking more for a general knowledge of maths, and do not intend to use it in tertiary or university level.)

At Year 13 mathematics splits into **Statistics** and **Calculus**. Calculus is intended for those students wishing to specialize in areas where Maths is a key component of tertiary / university study such as engineering, architecture etc. **Statistics** is for the more general Maths student.

If you are placed in Year 13 and wish to do L3 Mathematics, then you need to choose which of the two types you want to do. (You can choose both if you wish.)

Science: This is taught as a general subject in Year 11 and then splits into Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in Years 12 and 13. If you are in Year 12 or 13, you need to choose one of these three, or both, or all if you wish. Do not put just 'science' on your choices if you are in Year 12 or 13. Remember that these subjects have special vocabulary, especially Biology, and that can make it harder to learn.

English: English in senior school concentrates on literature – eg poetry, plays such as Shakespeare, short novels, creative writing, film. It is not just sentence, grammar, paragraphing skills.

ESOL: This is English for Speakers of Other Languages, and concentrates on formal writing, (grammar etc) and oral or verbal English skills (such as short talks, interviews etc.) It is reading, writing, listening, and speaking and is mostly taken by students who are new to English and are ‘beginners.’

Languages: The languages taught at the college are Maori, Japanese, and Spanish. Students need to have done some study in these languages before they can choose a language. The NZ students begin these languages at Year 9 so it is very difficult for an international student to simply ‘pick up’ one of these languages. This especially applies to Spanish and Japanese.

Social Sciences: These are History, Geography, Tourism, Economics, and Accounting. History can be used as an alternative to English as it involves reading comprehension and writing skills.

Physical Education: This is not solely sports and recreational games. Students also do classroom work such as training programmes, human physiology, health education, the science of movement, motor skills etc. Students will do some PE activities, games etc.

Physical Education Alternate: This branch of PE has more activities but also will have classroom work. It is important for students wishing to do PE to have the willingness to get involved and mix with the kiwi students as well.

Visual and Performing Arts: These subjects include drama, art design, music, practical art, painting, and photography.

A good knowledge of English is important in drama as you will be expected to perform a dramatic act at some stage.

Music is theory based and just because you can play a musical instrument does not mean you will do well in music. (The college does have private music tutors for those who wish to continue their instrument practice and development.) You will be expected to compose and perform a musical composition.

Art Design and Photography involves computer based techniques such as Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. Photography is only available at Years 12 and 13. Work is done on a digital camera, and is not just ‘taking pictures.’

Technologies: These subjects include:

Home economics and hospitality (food preparation and cooking.) Home economics is at Year 11 and Hospitality at Years 12 and 13.

Fabric: This is clothing and sewing, designing clothes, stitching, use of the sewing machine etc

Furniture and Carpentry: This is working in wood

Engineering: This is working in metals

Electronics: This is work on circuits, electronic materials etc

Graphics: This is freehand and formal drawing

Digital Information Technology: Use of the computer such as spreadsheets, desktop, word processing, database, slide show presentation, power point, graphic images etc

Web Design: Offered at Year 13 or Level Three only – website design and development

Main Choices

Alternatives

1.

6.

2.

7.

3.

8.

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My email address: (if needed to be contacted by the college)