



Otago Girls'
High School
Year 9
Subject Guide



Contents

	Page
Introduction	2
Year 9 Subjects	3
Subject Pathway Year 9 - 11	4
English	5
Mathematics	6
Science	7
Social Studies.....	8
Health & Physical Education	9
Languages	
French.....	10
Japanese	11
Spanish	12
Te Reo Māori	13
The Arts	
Art	14
Dance	15
Drama.....	16
Music.....	17
Te Ao Haka	18
Technology	
Design & Visual Communication	19
Digital Technology	20
Food Technology	21
Hard Materials Technology.....	22
Textiles Technology	23
Sport at Otago Girls' High School	24
Special Programmes	25

Nau mai, haere mai



Welcome to learning at Otago Girls' High School. Year 9 marks the beginning of an exciting time in your educational journey. It is a time when you can begin to make choices about what you will study.

This booklet contains a general outline of each of the subjects available in Year 9 at Otago Girls' High School. It is designed to help you and your parents decide which courses you would like to take during your first year at high school. We look forward to working with you on this journey.

At Otago Girls' High School all students in Years 9 and 10 study English, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science and Health and Physical Education. Year 9 students also study one language and it is recommended that you study at least one Arts and one Technology subject.

If you want more information or would like to discuss possible choices or combinations of subjects in more detail please contact Otago Girls' High School - we will be happy to assist you.

The choices you have made will be discussed and confirmed when you come for your interview later in the year.

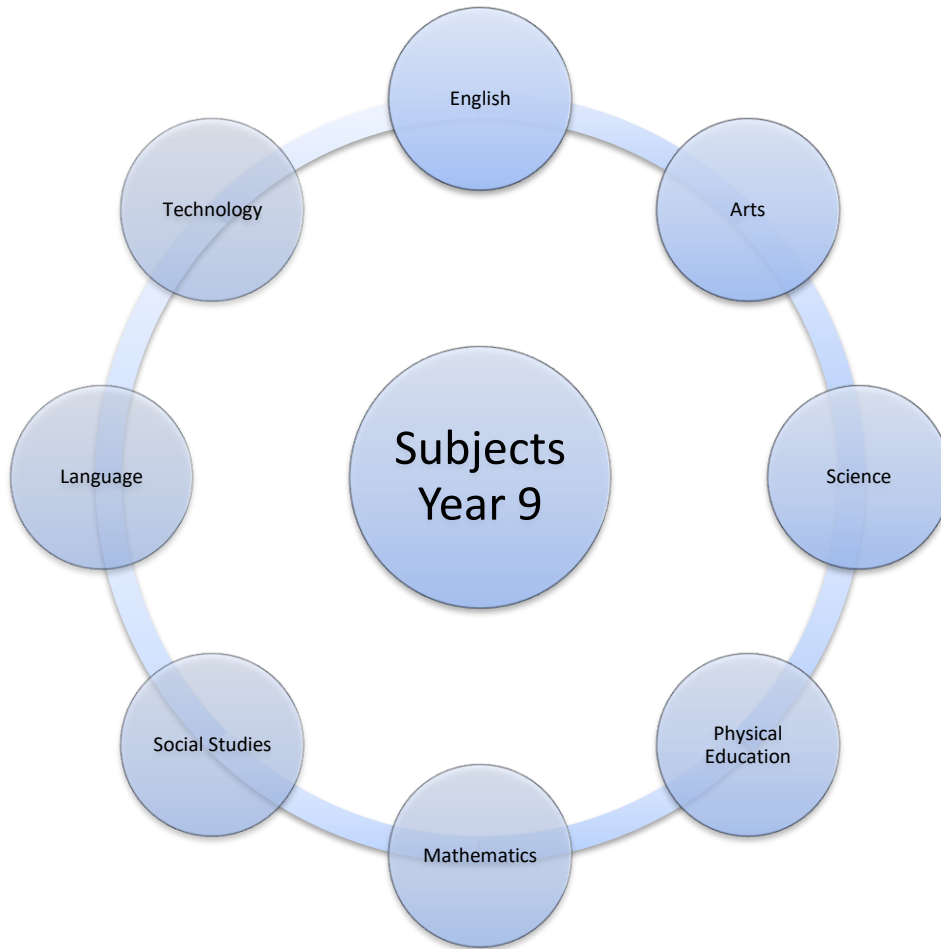
I hope that you find this course information booklet helpful and enjoy selecting an interesting and challenging personal programme of study.

Bridget Davidson

Tuamaki - Principal

YEAR 9 SUBJECTS

The following Subjects will be taken by all students at Year 9 Level



Languages

All Year 9 students will study one of the following languages. You need to rank your top three choices in order. We will do our best to give you your first or second choice.

- French
- Japanese
- Te Reo Māori
- German (*subject to numbers*)
- Spanish

Each student is asked to choose four half year options (preferably two art and two technology)

The Arts

- Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Te Ao Haka

Technology

- Design & Visual Communication
- Digital Technology
- Food Technology
- Hard Materials Technology
- Textiles Technology

SUBJECT PATHWAY

Year 9-11

	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English	English	English	English
Languages	French German (<i>subject to numbers</i>) Japanese Spanish Te Reo Māori	French German (<i>subject to numbers</i>) Japanese Spanish Te Reo Māori	French German (<i>subject to numbers</i>) Japanese Korean (Distance Ed) Samoan(Distance Ed) Spanish Te Reo Māori Tongan (Distance Ed)
Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics
Physical Education and Health	Health and PE	Health and PE	Health and PE Outdoor Education
Sciences	Science	Science	Science
Social Sciences	Social Studies	Social Studies Enterprise	Geography History Economics/Business
Technology	Digital Technology DVC* Food Technology Hard Materials Textiles Technology	Digital Technology DVC* Food and Nutrition Hard Materials Textiles Technology	Digital Technology DVC* Food and Nutrition Hard Materials Textiles Technology
Visual and Performing Arts	Art Dance Drama Music Te Ao Haka (<i>Māori Performing Arts</i>)	Art Dance Drama Music Te Ao Haka (<i>tbc for 2025</i>)	Art Dance Drama Music Te Ao Haka (<i>Māori Performing Arts</i>)
*DVC - Design and Visual Communication			

ENGLISH

*Ko te reo te tuakiri
Ko te reo tōku ahurei
Ko te reo te ora*

*Language is my identity
Language is my uniqueness
Language is life*

In English you will become increasingly skilled and sophisticated speakers and listeners, writers and readers, presenters and viewers, through experiencing many of the areas below.

Making Meaning and Creating Meaning

VIEW

Posters
Advertisements
Films
Graphic novels

WRITE

Stories
Letters
Poems
Plays
Reports
Blogs

LISTEN

Poetry
Prose
Plays
Podcasts

PRESENT

Poetry
Films
Posters
Plays
Shakespeare
Radio programmes
Power points
Research
Web Pages

READ

Novels
Plays
Short Stories
Poems
Non Fiction
Hyper Text
Blogs

SPEAK

Debates
Speeches
Seminars
Communication Skills
Group Work
Radio programmes



MATHEMATICS

*Kei hopu tōu ringa ki te aka tāepa
Engari kia mau ki te aka matua*

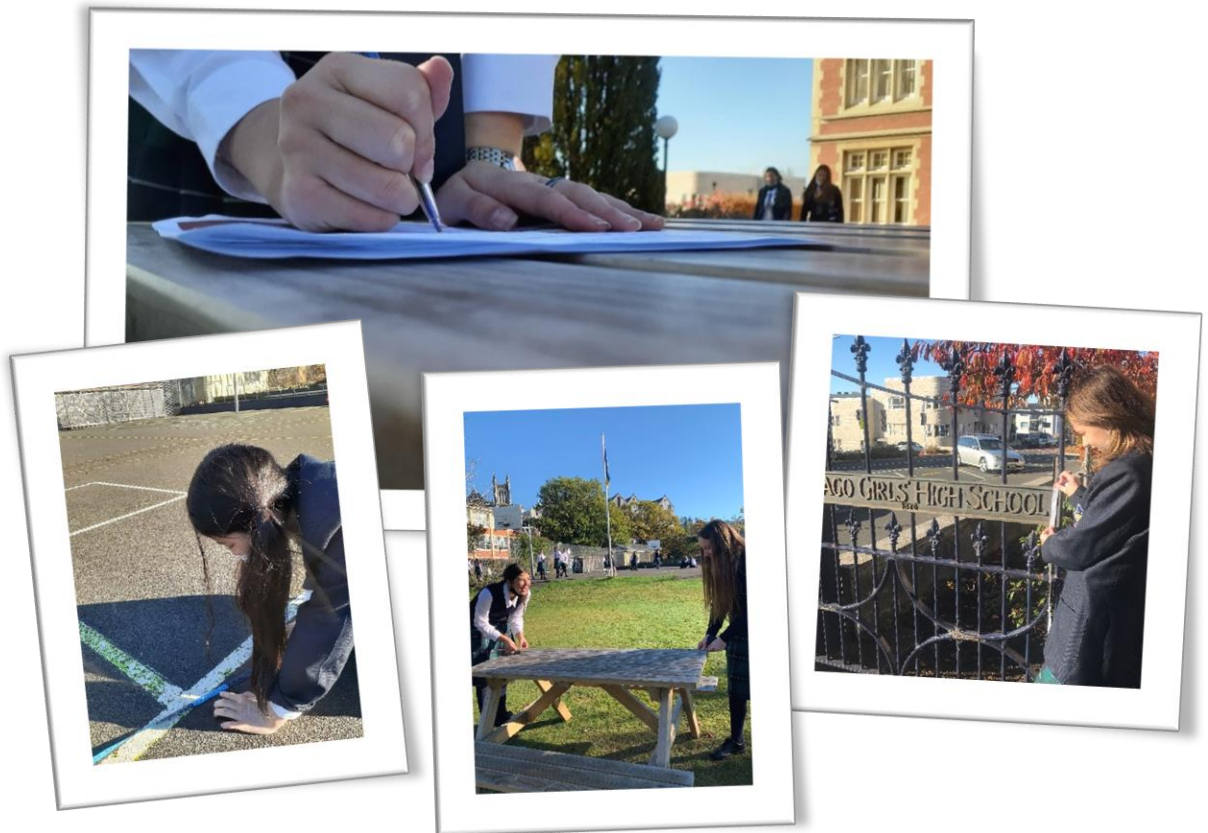
*Cling to the main vine,
not the loose one*

Mathematics is important in many aspects of life. You use mathematics every day and it is also essential for almost all careers. Mathematics will also help you to develop the ability to solve problems and to think logically. Mathematics is compulsory in Year 9.

There are three strands in Mathematics:

Number and Algebra; Geometry and Measurement; Probability and Statistics.

During the year you will investigate many areas of mathematics using computers, books, games and other activities. You will design posters, write your own questions, reports and mathematical stories to help you develop your communication skills. You will apply your knowledge in practical situations and extend your ideas into abstract concepts.



SCIENCE

*Mā te whakaaro nui e hanga te whare
Mā te mātauranga e whakaū .*

*Big ideas create the house,
knowledge maintains it.*

In Junior Science at Otago Girls' High School you will enjoy finding ways to understand the natural and physical world around us as well as the wider universe. Science is packed with hands on practicals, group activities, and digital learning experiences.

Through performing experiments, making observations, solving problems and drawing conclusions you can investigate the Science and Technology aspects of our daily lives.

What will you learn about in Year 9?

- Matter and Atoms
- Life Processes of Animals and Plants
- Cells and Reproduction
- Astronomy
- Forces
- Energy – light, sound and heat

There are also extension opportunities on offer for all students including:

- Otago Science Fair
- CREST papers
- Extension programmes at NZ Marine Studies Centre
- National & International quizzes
- Environmental monitoring projects such as Health Harbour Watch

What will you learn about in Year 9?

- Matter and Atoms
- Life Processes of Animals and Plants
- Cells and Reproduction
- Astronomy
- Forces
- Energy – light, sound and heat
-



SOCIAL STUDIES

*He aha te mea nui o te ao?
He tangata, he tangata, he tangata*

*What is the most important thing in the world?
It is the people, it is the people, it is the people*

Social Studies is about how societies work and helps you to understand your world and gives you the skills and knowledge to play a part in society as an active and responsible citizen. Social Studies also focuses on Aotearoa New Zealand Histories and will help you to develop a greater awareness and understanding of the Big Ideas of Social Studies in the New Zealand Curriculum.

In Social Studies you will look at issues that relate to such things as culture and collective identity; sovereignty, organisation and government, place and environment as well as economic activity at a local, national and international level. You will have the opportunity to ask questions, find and communicate information, investigate different viewpoints and values, identify solutions and make decisions about social action.

Year 9 Topics

- Who are we? Culture and collective identity
- Belong, Politics and Citizenship
- Environment and Sustainability
- Global Development

Extension opportunities include:

- Social Sciences Current Events Quiz
- Participation in international essay competitions
- Global leadership award
- Social Action that positively impacts the wider community



HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

He oranga ngākau, he pikinga waiora

*Positive feelings in your heart
will enhance your self-worth.*

In Physical Education and Health, the major focus is on participation and enjoyment in a variety of practical contexts to develop physical and interpersonal skills, alongside problem solving and decision making to enhance lifelong well-being. You will have three Physical Education lessons a week and six Health lessons each term. It is important to have your PE gear with you every day you have a PE lesson.

Physical Education Topics

We explore a range of movement related topics including fitness and body systems, multicultural games, skill acquisition in traditional sports, and overcoming challenges through aquatics and gymnastics. Our aim is to motivate students to become guardians of their wellbeing and to use the challenges and opportunities they have experienced to positively interact with others and society.

Health Topics

Our health topics are adapted to reflect student needs with the goal to provide you with the skills and knowledge to make informed and healthy choices. Topics include communication, resilience, identity, relationships and sexuality and making positive choices in relation to drugs, alcohol and vaping.



LANGUAGES

*Ko tōu reo, ko tōku reo,
te tuakiri tangata.
Thei uriuri, tihei nakonako.*

*Your voice and my voice
Are expressions of identity
May our descendants live on and our
hopes be fulfilled.*

French

(Full Year course)

Why learn French?

The world is becoming a smaller place and being able to communicate in another language is becoming more and more important. French is spoken in more than 50 countries around the world! Learning a second language improves your knowledge of English.

What will we learn?

- How to introduce ourselves
- How to count to 100
- How to talk about our family and pets
- About countries and nationalities
- Some French songs
- All about France and the French culture!

What opportunities are there?

- Try French Food
- Exchanges to France at the end of Year 12
- A lot of Year 13 French students go on to take some papers at university – or even go to university in France!
- Speaking French is a useful skill to have for any job as it makes it a point of difference on your CV and French is one of the official languages of the European Union and the United Nations.



LANGUAGES

Japanese

(Full year course)

Why learn Japanese?

Japanese is a unique and exciting language and culture. Learning a language is special. It opens your eyes to different cultures, allows you to appreciate your own language and expands your world. Japan is the world's second largest economy and has strong trading links with New Zealand. A degree in Japanese can lead to careers in government, diplomacy, teaching, banking, multinational companies, translating and more.

What do we do?

We have fun learning how to communicate in Japanese through games, songs, gestures, acting, drawing and more. You will learn to write the script of hiragana, talk about yourself and explore the amazing Japanese culture.

Topics:

- Me, myself and I
- In the classroom
- Let's Count
- My Family and Pets
- Japanese Food
- My hobbies

Where can Japanese take you?

Otago Girls' has strong links with Japan. There are so many ways you can travel to Japan!

- Year exchange to Osaka
- Six month exchange to Bunkyo Women's High School in Tokyo
- 10 week summer exchange to Yasuda Girls' High School in Hiroshima
- Three week Educational school Japan Trip.
- Hosting Students from Japan



LANGUAGES

Spanish

(Full year course)

Why study Spanish?

Being able to communicate in another language is becoming more and more important as New Zealand creates more international links. Over 400 million people in the world speak Spanish as their first language. It is the official language in 21 countries; throughout Europe, the Americas and Africa, and is spoken widely in many more.

In Year 9 you will:

- Learn how to greet and farewell each other
- Learn how to introduce yourself and your family
- Learn to count to 100
- Learn how to talk about school
- Sing lots of Spanish songs
- Taste Spanish food
- Tell the time in Spanish
- Learn some Spanish dances

Where can Spanish take you?

- Spanish exchanges to South/Central America and Spain in the senior school
- Senior school trip to Argentina
- You can study Spanish at university, as a major, minor or part of another degree
- Work overseas in a Spanish speaking country



LANGUAGES

Te Reo Māori

(Full year course)

Why learn te reo Māori?

- It is our own living language and belongs to everyone
- It is beautiful, fun and exciting
- It makes you feel proud of who you are
- It can take you places and give you amazing experiences.
- It is of great advantage to your career, both here and overseas
- Learning te reo increases your brainpower!

What will you do?

- speak in Māori from the very first lesson, recite karakia, pepeha and mihi
- learn to communicate about family connections, marae, school and home, describe friends, hobbies and pets, learn about Kāi Tahu
- celebrate and compete in special events – Matariki, Polyfest, Manu Kōrero, Mana Pounamu, Hautoka, Te Wiki o te reo Māori
- cook kai, sing waiata, play games, weave flax, make artworks, film stories

Where will you go?

- join our combined OGHS/OBHS kapa haka, compete and gain NCEA credits
- go on visits and trips, attend hui, noho marae, see plays and performances
- attend Science Wānanga and Hui Reo
- take leadership roles such as Kāhui Kōrero Māori Student Council
- study te reo Māori or Māori Performing Arts at university
- have the advantage in any career
- stand strong in your own identity at home and overseas



THE ARTS

*Te toi whakairo
ka ihiihi ka wehiwehi
ka aweawe te ao katoa*

*Artistic excellence makes
the world sit up in wonder*

Art

Content for half year option

Student learning in this half year option includes advanced drawing skills, proportion of the portrait, colour theory, specific painting techniques and one form of printmaking.

Why choose it?

Art is all about exploring personal interests and ideas and expressing ourselves which makes it an engaging and fun subject to study. Taking Art will prepare you for further study in a wide range of interesting, creative and rewarding careers. The Otago Girls' High School Art rooms are creative sanctuaries where you can immerse yourself in the visual arts, inspired by the work around you.

Why is it important?

Today's employers are looking for innovative thinkers. Art encourages us to solve problems creatively and gives us an edge in the modern job market. Art also enhances our perception and trains us to be more observant and aware of our increasingly visual culture and the impact it has on our lives.



THE ARTS

Dance

Creative thinking skills are developed through dance, as well as learning the value of discipline, commitment, and work ethic.

All in all, dance is a great way to build invaluable social skills. Much more importantly however, it is an opportunity to teach students the importance of being part of something larger than themselves. Dancers learn to take turns, to share attention, and to cooperate with others as they work within a group.

Dance is an important part of our human history. It allows us to creatively express ourselves, express our cultures, tell a story, socially interact, and to entertain.

Participation, collaboration (working with others) and bringing gear to every class are important for this subject.

Dance in Year 9 is a mainly practical, half year course

In Year 9, you get the opportunity to work collaboratively with other members of the class to choreograph two dances:

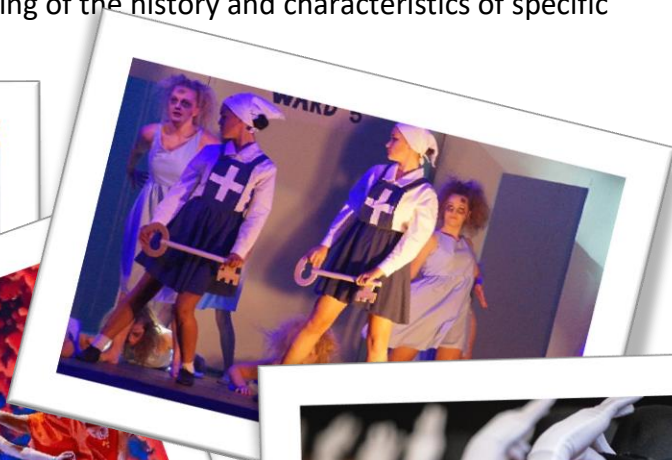
- Group dance
- Duet dance

You will learn genres of dance for your performance assessments:

- Jazz
- Contemporary

You will complete a research assignment on the history of Jazz or Contemporary dance. There is a written exam at the end of the course which involves:

- Using the elements of dance to describe dance pictures and performances.
- Demonstrating an understanding of the history and characteristics of specific dance styles.



THE ARTS

Drama

Drama is an opportunity to work collaboratively and creatively while developing your confidence.

You will get the chance to develop your skills at improvisation, perform scripted acting roles on the stage, learn about theatre throughout history, and create your own plays in small groups.

Drama is a great way to express your ideas and get to know more about yourself and others. It enables you to experience life from other perspectives and gives you opportunities to work with a range of people.

Drama is about life and leads on to many opportunities to perform, including productions and drama competitions.



THE ARTS

Music

Students are introduced to using instruments and singing, composing, music literacy, listening, music appreciation and technology by working individually and collaboratively. Advanced music students are also mentored for higher level skills. Year 9 leads on to Year 10 Music and NCEA Music and beyond, including tertiary.

Students are expected to take part in the extracurricular music opportunities as part of the course, including singing in one of the school choirs, performing in the orchestra or Jazz ensemble, or performing in a contemporary rock or pop ensemble.

Students will use Soundtrap, Garageband, Sibelius and Musescore to compose and arrange original compositions.

To proceed to Year 10 Music students must pass this course or otherwise be able to prove an acceptable standard of musicianship to music staff.



THE ARTS

Te Ao Haka

Discover Te Ao Haka: Unleash Your Potential!

Step into a world of dance, coordination, music, and drama with Te Ao Haka! Designed for high school students, it's an incredible journey that offers countless benefits.

Te Ao Haka helps you develop coordination and body awareness. You'll learn dynamic movements and rhythms, improving your motor skills and balance. This foundation sets you up for success in other areas of your life.

Experience the power of music in Te Ao Haka. Traditional chants, drum beats, and melodies come together, creating a captivating symphony. You'll develop an ear for music and learn to express your emotions through its universal language.

With Te Ao Haka, drama takes the spotlight. Bring stories to life, express yourself theatrically, and explore different perspectives. It's an opportunity to develop empathy and understand your own identity better.

Te Ao Haka is more than just art—it creates a sense of belonging. You'll join a close-knit community, collaborating, synchronising movements, and supporting each other. Lifelong friendships are formed, extending beyond the classroom.

Te Ao Haka is your gateway to self-discovery, cultural appreciation, and personal growth. Embrace the beauty of movement, the harmony of music, and the thrill of performance. Unleash your potential with Te Ao Haka and make lasting memories. Join us today!



TECHNOLOGY

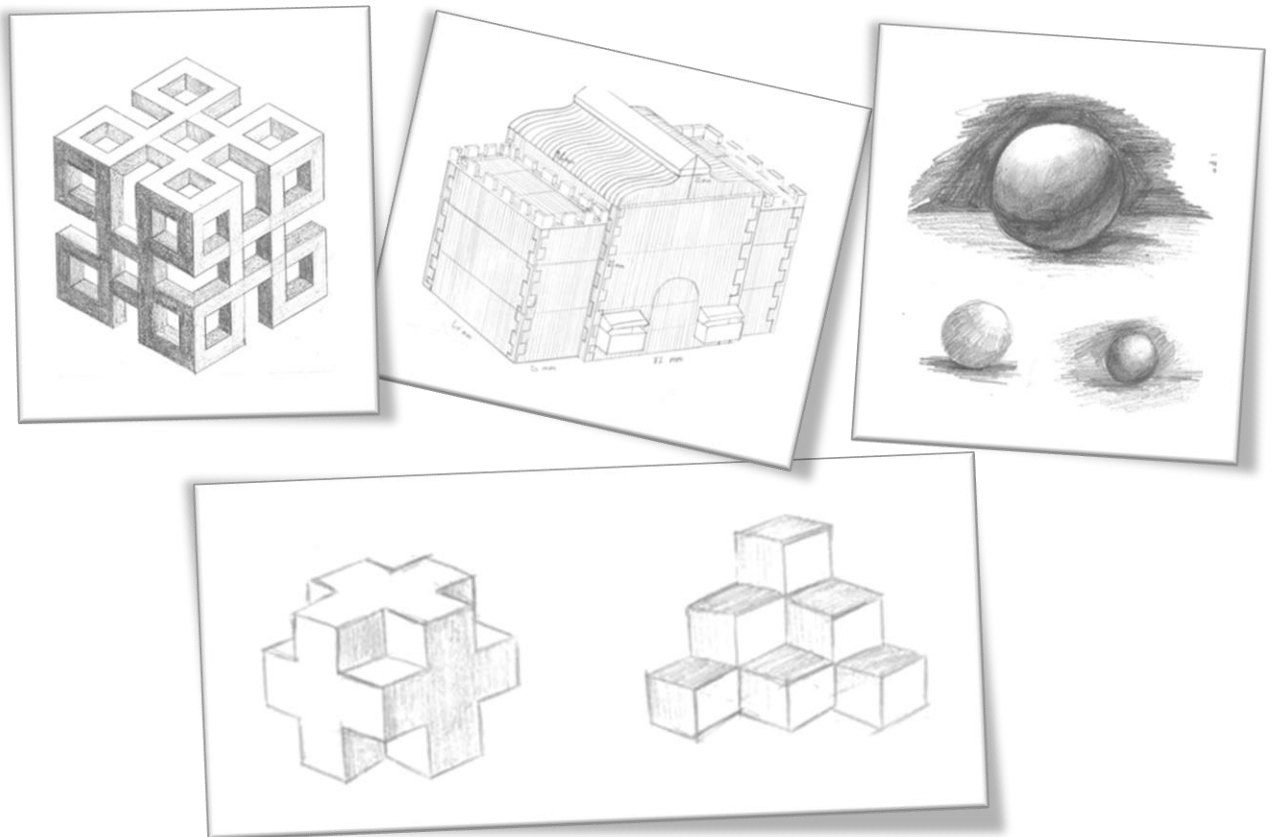
Design & Visual Communication

If you are interested in drawing, architecture, graphic design, product design and computer modelling then this is the subject for you!

In Design and Visual Communication you will learn the basic skills and techniques required for Architecture, Graphic Design and Product Design

In Year 9 Design and Visual Communication you will learn about;

- Freehand and Instrumental drawing techniques that will enable you to show your design ideas
- How to develop design ideas that are suitable for specific purposes.
- Prominent Dunedin architects and architecture
- How to recognise and use the key features of interesting Dunedin architecture
- How to create scale drawings
- Model making both physical and digital



TECHNOLOGY

I orea te tuatara ka puta ki waho

*A problem is solved by continuing to
find solutions*

Digital Technology

Digital Technology in society is evolving at a rapid rate, and having the confidence and skill to be able to adapt to this ever changing world is crucial. The demand for young people who are digitally literate is ever increasing. Digital literacy is *much* more than knowing how to access Facebook and Twitter. In Digital Technology we follow the technology process to develop a solid base of knowledge along with marketable and useful skills. This is a fun and creative course of work.

In Digital Technology we will do the following:

- **Computational Thinking**
 - Writing algorithms to solve real world problems
 - Programming and robotics
- **Designing and Developing Digital Outcomes**
 - Selecting and using software to create digital outcomes
 - Exploring how computers work and can be used to increase human capability



TECHNOLOGY

Food Technology

Why Choose Food Technology?

Discover the delights of food by exploring recipes, preparing food, tasting and evaluating food through the use of the technology cycle.

Content

By the end of the module you will have:

- Developed a love and understanding of food
- Learn the techniques involved in food preparation and cookery
- Developed cookery skills
- Investigated basic nutrition
- Explored food presentation
- Expanded on your food knowledge
- Gained confidence in designing and/or modifying recipes, using the technology process



TECHNOLOGY

Hard Materials Technology

By choosing this course you will develop a wide range of skills in designing and making. We have high expectations for quality and creativity, and if you enjoy designing and making things, this would be a good option for you.

What do we do?

- Design, develop and plan projects, taking them from concept to reality.
- Make your own projects from a variety of material such as wood, metal, plastic, bone, stone, and shell.
- Learn to use tools accurately and safely, produce high quality products and make things of which you can be proud.



TECHNOLOGY

Textiles Technology

Why should you choose Textiles?

Textiles Technology encourages students to use the Technology process to think critically and creatively. Students will gain a range of practical skills, including Applied Design methods and construction methods which are a great foundation for this subject. Students are given the opportunity to design and produce unique and innovative sleepwear for the teenage target market.

What skills will you learn in Textiles Technology?

Knowledge about:

- Fabric properties
- What makes good design
- Pattern and instruction reading
- Safety
- Applied design techniques such as Applique, Screen Printing, Tie dyeing, Embroidery Machine and Scan n Cut
- Construction processing
- How the sewing machine works

Opportunities:

- Textile Technology continues throughout the senior school with students receiving major prizes in national and local competitions such as Hokonui Fashion Awards, HETTANZ Fashion awards, Shakespeare Globe Costume New Zealand competition and the Otago Polytechnic Celebrate Design awards. Students design and complete a wide variety of individually chosen outcomes for their chosen context.
- Senior Students have the opportunity to attend the Wellington Wearable Arts Enrichment trip where we attend the Wellington Wearable Arts Show, complete a Weta Workshop Experience, tour the Te Papa Textiles Collection and visit Fashion and Costume Educational facilities.
- Design thinking and technical knowledge provide students with transferable skills which can be applied to many Tertiary Courses and careers.



Sport at Otago Girls' High School

There are lots of really GREAT reasons to play sport at Otago Girls' High School.

Some Facts:

- Over 30 different sports to choose from. There is something for everyone.
- Research shows that participation in sport increases achievement levels (MOE Report, 2013)

Student Voice:

"Sport at Otago Girls High School has been the best and most memorable in all my five years here. The unforgettable and beautiful memories that I have made with my teams, teachers, coaches, and friends are the moments that I will remember. I have been able to travel the country and make the best memories. Sports at OGHS provide many opportunities for athletes to live out their dreams." - Praise Hola

"Sport has always been a significant part of my life, especially through my time at OGHS, I have experienced so many special moments whilst making lifelong friendships and incredible memories. Being involved in sport here at OGHS means you will meet new people from all year levels and be provided with many exciting opportunities such as travelling all over the country for tournaments and competitions" – Andie McGrouther



Special Programmes

A range of additional programmes support the learning needs of individual students.

Literacy Support

Tutors come into the school on a voluntary basis to assist students enhancing literacy skills across all curriculum areas.

This involves students in one or more of the following:

- Peer tutoring – working 1:1 with specifically trained Year 13 students
- Individual tuition with a literacy specialist
- Participation in the Curriculum Reading Programme

Numeracy Support

This involves students in one or more of the following:

- Individual Tuition with a numeracy specialist
- Peer Tutoring – working 1:1 with specifically trained Year 13 students
- Lunchtime Maths Tutorials

If you have special learning requirements please encourage your parents/guardians to make an appointment to meet our Assistant Dean Wellbeing, Mrs Porter, or the teacher in charge of Learning Support, Mrs Millar.

Gifted and Talented

Many opportunities exist where students can extend their talents and learning abilities. The school has close links with Otago University and other providers.

We also run a range of our own extension programmes such as Writers Week, Tomahawk Citizen Science Lagoon Study, Global Leadership Programme and Thinking Skills programmes. Students also enter ICAS examinations, Spelling and Social Studies Quizzes and various English, Science and Mathematics competitions.



My Notes Page

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....