



YEAR 9

2026 Course Outline

In Year 9 you will study a combination of compulsory and optional subjects.

Please note that a small number of identified students will be directed to select supplementary English or ESOL instead of choosing a language (Te Reo Māori or Japanese) if subject teachers indicate that they need to focus on strengthening their English in preparation for NCEA. You will be contacted directly if this applies to you.

Use this information booklet and discuss your selections carefully with your parents / caregivers. Along with this booklet, the option process letter explains how to make your choices on the Student Portal. If you are unsure and want further advice, see Head of Departments (HOD's) or your subject teachers.

Compulsory Subjects

Religious Education

English

Mathematics and Statistics

Science

Junior Social Science

Physical Education and Health

Digital Technology

Optional Subjects

Language (Choose a full year course of either)	At Least one Art subject
Te Reo Māori MAO	Drama DRA
Japanese JPN	Art ART
	Music MUS
At least 1 Technology (Two Terms i.e. One Semester of either)	
Hard Technology THM	
Textiles (Soft Materials) TSM	
Food Technology TFM	
DVC (Design and Visual Communication) DVC	

Important information:

2026 Year 9 subject costs

All Year 9 course charges and the cost of any enhancement resources are provided in each subject outline as estimates only. Confirmation of these will occur at the start of 2026. All course costs as outlined must be paid in full by 1 April 2026.

On-line learning enhancement platforms

Education Perfect Year 9 and 10 students

Your child will be able to access Education Perfect online learning as a trial until the end of March. This digital platform supports their learning and has many benefits:

- Students can access the resource from home
- Teachers can set regular homework which can be accessed from home or school and be monitored by caregivers
- Facilitates teachers being able to individualise learning programmes
- Consolidate and reinforce concepts covered in class
- Will develop student agency about managing schoolwork

They will have a full license to access all curriculum subjects including Maths, Science, English, Languages, Social Sciences, Health, Digital Technologies, ESOL.

This is highly recommended as a valuable educational enhancement platform. Teachers can use this to set personalised tasks for students that can accelerate and extend their learning at the appropriate level. This \$80 (cost to be confirmed) license will be loaded onto your child's account unless we are notified otherwise.

Turnitin Year 9-13 students

Over 85% of our students will go on to university or tertiary study from Sancta Maria College. To ensure the best preparation for their academic writing the college will be using an academic tool for Years 9-13 students called Turnitin.

Sancta Maria College Year 9-13 students will have full access to the Turnitin Assignment tool for every assessment submission. Turnitin is a 'text-matching' software which is designed to educate students regarding appropriate citation and referencing techniques. Turnitin is also used to provide our College with confidence in the academic integrity of student work. Turnitin does this by comparing a student's submission against an archive of Internet documents, Internet data, a repository of previously submitted papers, and subscription repository of periodicals, journals, and publications. Turnitin then creates an 'Originality Report' which can be viewed by both teachers and students, which identifies where the text within a student submission has matched another source.

It is important to note that Turnitin does not detect plagiarism. Turnitin will only match the text within a student's assignment to text located elsewhere (e.g. found on the Internet, within journals or on databases of student papers). Correct interpretation of these results by both teachers and students is essential for the successful use of Turnitin.

It also protects our students' original work from being used without citation by another person and serves as a learning tool to help instructors and students better identify and correct unintentional plagiarism. These skills are necessary at university, and Turnitin is used at both Auckland University and AUT for all their student assessment submissions. This \$16 license will be loaded onto your child's account unless we are notified otherwise.

The following subjects are your Compulsory Subjects:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (9RED)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10 Religious Education

Religious Education is central to all that we do at Sancta Maria College. It is through Religious Education that we learn more about our faith. The basis of study this year will be from a mixture of the “Understanding Faith” and “Tō Tātou Whakapono Our Faith” programmes mandated by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference.

The theme for this year’s study is ‘Tūhono - Connected’. God’s grace connects us with God, each other and the world. The course will begin with introductory topics on the Special Character and Values of Sancta Maria College. Students will experience a variety of prayer forms over the course of the year.

Topics covered:

- The Gift of Belonging
- Creation & Covenant
- The Trinity
- The Growing Church

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 – The Gift of Belonging Song Writing
- Term 2 – Creation & Covenant Sway Presentation
- Term 3 – The Trinity Video Presentation
- Term 4 – The Growing Church Written Exam

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

\$11 Curriculum Resource Contribution (college)

\$20 Retreat (college)

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Religious Education

Teacher in charge of subject: Mr Tamayo

HoD in charge of subject: Mrs Wearmouth

ENGLISH (9ENG)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10 English

The Year 9 English programme covers a range of studies - plot, character, setting and style from a variety of literature and film studies, language, reading, oral and visual skills. Year 9 students experience a variety of project-based learning programmes from documentary making, to engaging writing projects that will challenge students of all levels and abilities. This course is designed to prepare students for Year 10 English.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 – Essay Writing Skills
- Term 2 – Speeches and Film
- Term 3 – Creative Writing
- Term 4 – Language Skills and Essay Writing Revision

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Online Learning (see page 2).

\$15 Literacy Essentials Workbook (OfficeMax)

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 English

Teacher in charge of subject: Ms Du-Blom

HoD in charge of subject: Ms Du-Blom

LITERACY ACCELERATION (9LIT)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Students who are identified as needing a literacy boost to prepare them for the CAA Reading and Writing assessments, usually completed in Year 10.

Literacy Acceleration (9LIT)

This class caters to students who lack confidence and/or skill in reading comprehension and writing, especially students who have literacy delays due to dyslexia / dyspraxia etc. Teachers will identify candidates for this English class, and placement will be by invitation. It is run during an option line and occurs as well as mainstream English. Use of Assistive Technology to support literacy will be integrated into learning tasks. Elements of structured literacy approaches will also be used. This class is vital, and as such, compulsory for identified students. It will give them a strong foundation for success, not only in NCEA English, but in all subjects as NCEA is very literacy rich.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 to 4:
*Ongoing language development tracking using a range of suitable tools.
 There are no formal assessments for this course, due to the nature and purpose of the class.*

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Online Learning (see page 2).
 Writer's Toolbox license- \$35 (college)

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year, usually instead of a language option. *Possible discharge at end of semester one depending on progress made.*

COURSE LEADS TO:

Possible invitation to attend 10LIT

Teacher in charge of subject: Mrs Price

HoD in charge of subject: Mrs Price

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (ENL)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10LIT

This class caters to students who are from a second language English background and have been identified as needing support in learning academic English. It is vital for identified students as it gives them a strong foundation for success, not only in NCEA English, but in all NCEA subjects. It is compulsory for identified candidates.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 to 4:
Ongoing language development tracking using a range of suitable tools. There are no formal assessments for this course, due to the nature and purpose of the class.

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Online Learning (see page 2).

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

Possible invitation to attend 10ENL

Teacher in charge of subject: Mrs Picot

MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS (9MAT)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10 Mathematics & Statistics

Year 9 students will study a generic course that gives them an understanding of concepts that are the basis for studying Mathematics through to Year 13. The course aims to give students the numeracy skills and conceptual knowledge required to use Mathematics in everyday situations. Key strands covered include Number, Algebra and Graphs, Measurement, Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1: Two end of topic tests
- Term 2: Two end of topic tests
- Term 3: Two end of topic tests
- Term 4: End of Year Exam

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Online Learning (see page 2).

\$24 Phase four: Foundation workbook from WalkerMaths (OfficeMax)

Students are recommended to invest in a Graphic Calculator (approx. \$130), as this will be well used throughout their Senior Mathematics and Statistics courses. Alternatively, a Scientific Calculator (we recommend Casio FX8200AU \$70)

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Mathematics

HoD in charge of subject: Ms O'Carroll

SCIENCE (9SCI)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10 Science

Students will learn a lot about the world around them and also learn a lot of science skills that will help in future Science studies.

During Year 9, students will complete a range of integrated topics incorporating a several areas of science including:

1. The nature of science
2. The nature of matter
3. Life and the taiao
4. Life of plants and animals
5. Energy

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 Lab Skills, Matter and Atoms
- Term 2 Hunua
- Term 3 Body Systems
- Term 4 Energy, Light and Sound

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Online Learning (see page 2).

\$20 Take home workbook (OfficeMax)

\$TBC Field Trip (to be added to account at time of trip)

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Science

Teacher in charge of subject: Mr Williamson

HoD in charge of subject: Mr Williamson

JUNIOR SOCIAL SCIENCES (9SOS)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10 Junior Social Sciences

Students in Year 9 Junior Social Sciences learn about the world around them and how they can participate as informed citizens in New Zealand society. From 2023 the new Aotearoa New Zealand histories curriculum became compulsory. Topics are drawn from the following, including rohe and local contexts:

- Whakapapa me te whanaungatanga – Culture and identity
- Tino rangatiratanga me te kāwanatanga – Government and organisation
- Tūrangawaewae me te kaitiakitanga – Place and environment
- Kōwhiringa ohaoha me te whai orange – Economic activity

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 – When Cultures Collide – SOLO Maps and written paragraphs
- Term 2 – Contested Identities: Who are New Zealanders? - Portfolio folder
- Term 3 – Human Migration – Group interview and evaluation task
- Term 4 – The Business of Being Kiwi – Common Assessment Task

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Online Learning (see page 2).

\$100 for a possible Field Trip to Rangiriri and Hauora as part of EOTC Week

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Junior Social Sciences

Teacher in charge of subject: Ms Redwood

HoD in charge of subject: Ms Redwood

PE AND HEALTH (9PED)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10

In Year 9 Health, students will be covering a range of topics which will enhance their understanding of how their Hauora can be impacted and learn to make positive health enhancing decisions. The main topics include: Alcohol, Coping with Change, Loss and Grief, along with making Healthy Lifestyle changes. Within these topics, students will gain an understanding on how to make health enhancing decisions that can impact themselves, others and wider NZ society.

In Year 9 PE, will move through a range of practical activities, which encourage co-operation and inclusion, but also allow for personal growth. These activities include cooperative sport through a Sports Education Model, Fitness which includes learning about the components of fitness, Anatomy of the human body along with Biomechanics which will include Projectile Motion, Force Summation and Balance, along with a performance improvement programme in Badminton.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 – Health Alcohol Assessment.
- Term 2 – Components of Fitness
- Term 3 – Anatomy and Biomechanics (Projectile Motion)
- Term 4 – Performance improvement in Badminton

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Nil.

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

NCEA PE

Teacher in charge of subject: Mr James

HoD in charge of subject: Mr James

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES (9DTG)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10

Students will continue to develop their understanding of Computational Thinking and Designing and Developing Digital Outcomes.

Designing and Developing Digital Outcomes: They will use Photoshop to produce a visual Mihimihi and develop websites using HTML5 and CSS3.

Computational Thinking: They will learn programming fundamentals and algorithms by developing their coding skills using Scratch and Python.

- Computer Science: They will learn about Binary and Data Representation.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 or 3 Assignment – Teach Me About - Web Development
- Term 2 or 4 Assignment – Visual Portrait - Photoshop

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

\$10 Adobe software (college)

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Digital Technologies

Teacher in charge of subject: Mrs Rehu

HoD in charge of subject: Mrs Rehu

Year 9 Languages - Compulsory

All students will study either Te Reo Māori or Japanese in Year 9.

Students have been given a taster course in both Te Reo Māori and Japanese this year and will study the language they choose for five periods in every ten-day cycle for one year unless they would like to be considered for, or are directed to, the extra English language classes or ESOL classes by their teachers.

TE REO MAORI (9MAO)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10

Students will build confidence in understanding and communicating using te reo Māori through familiar sentence patterns and everyday vocabulary.

Learning will take place through engaging contexts such as Whanaungatanga (relationships) - building on from their Year 8 'Ko Wai Au?' (Who am I?) unit of work; Te Huarere (the weather), Matariki, Hauora (health and wellbeing), Te Wiki o te Reo Māori and Te Kīngitanga.

Alongside learning the language, students will explore tikanga Māori and deepen their understanding of te reo Māori revitalisation within Aotearoa and their role in supporting te reo Māori to flourish.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- **Term 1:** Whanaungatanga – presentation sharing family connections
- **Term 2:** Te Huarere – presenting a weather report
- **Term 3:** Hauora – facilitating an active workshop promoting health and wellbeing
- **Term 4:** Te Kīngitanga – research project and presentation

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Online Learning (see page 2).

\$50 Field Trips (to be confirmed at time of trip)

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Te Reo Māori

Teacher in charge of subject: Ms Hiddleston

HoD in charge of subject: Ms Hiddleston

JAPANESE (9JPN)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10

Follow on from their Year 8 Course, Year 9 students will be involved in a comprehensive Introductory Course in Japanese. Students will learn how to express themselves in Japanese in everyday situations, such as introducing oneself and others, talking about family, pets and friends, discussing one's favourite hobbies, food or social events using social media platforms and digital tools in collaborative learning contexts. Students will also learn more about Japan, its people, culture, and customs through literature, media, information technology and people interaction. Students will have the opportunity to host visiting Japanese student groups during the year to put into practice their Japanese language skills. Students will be able to apply to go on Sancta Maria College Japan Cultural trip in their senior year of studies.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1
- Term 2
- Term 3
- Term 4

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Online Learning (see page 2).

\$TBC Field Trips (to be added to account at time of trip)

\$30.00 - iitomo1 Student Activity Book (college)

COURSE LENGTH

Full Year

COURSE LEADS TO:

NCEA Japanese

Teacher in charge of subject: Mrs Kevern

HoD in charge of subject: Mrs Kevern

Year 9 Arts Programme

All students will study at least one of the following three subjects:

Art

Music

Drama

Students will complete two terms of study in their two selected subjects. The time allocation given to these subjects is four periods in every ten-day cycle.

The school will try to ensure students are given their first choice, but this will depend on the number of students opting for different subjects.

ART (9ART)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10

Students will develop the following skills which leads to Year 10 Art.

- **Drawing:** Using pencil to create realistic, observational drawing
- **Painting:** Using painting conventions such as flat colour and blending to create a finished painting
- **Printmaking:** Students will be introduced to woodcut printmaking, learning the process to create a finished print
- **Photography:** Students will have an opportunity to learn about photography conventions and complete their own set of photographs

Students will create artwork that responds to both contemporary and traditional artists and themes. Students will work within a theme but will have choice of their own subject matter and creative outcomes which allows agency and their own creativity to develop.

Students will be introduced to ways of working that support learning at senior level.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

Semester one and two assessments are the same

- Term 1 / 3 Drawing skills & Woodcut Printmaking
- Term 2 / 4 Painting & Photography

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

\$10 Take home component (college)

COURSE LENGTH

Two Terms (One Semester)

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Art

Teacher in charge of subject: Ms Simmons

HoD in charge of subject: Ms Simmons

MUSIC (9MUS)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10 Music

Year 9 music students will develop the following music skills which leads to Year 10 music:

- **Performance skills** where students either perform as a soloist or in a group ensemble (by singing, playing keyboards, ukulele, drums, guitars, etc.)
- **Composition skills** by creating digital music with music software programs.
- **Theory/ Listening skills** by learning how to read music (or to continue to develop their individual theory skills)
- **Music History Research skills** by learning about how to analyse different styles of music including NZ music by referring to the elements of music.

All students studying music are encouraged to learn an instrument or sing through either the itinerant scheme or with private lessons.

In 2025 the instruments offered through the Itinerant Music Scheme are:

Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Bass Guitar, Trumpet, Trombone, Clarinet, Flute & Saxophone, Guitar and Drum Kit. There are limited spaces.

Students who study music and have itinerant music lessons are also expected to be involved in a co-curricular music group, such as the Choir, Orchestra, Concert Band, Big Band, Stage Band or Symphonic chamber strings.

Music students are also encouraged to become involved in musical competitions, such as the Chamber Music NZ, Rock Quest, Tangata Beats, The Big Sing, the KBB Festival, Play it Strange and Stand Up Stand Out.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1 or Term 3 Music Theory and Research Task
- Term 2 or Term 4 Solo /Group Performance Task

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

- \$25.00 ABRSM Discovering Music Theory Grade 1 (take home workbook, available at the cashier office)
- \$50 Membership for the year per ensemble group Choir, Orchestra, Concert Band, Big Band, Stage Band or Symphonic chamber strings. (maximum \$100)
- There are some orchestral instruments available for hire with an additional instrument hire cost (if required) See the HOD Music for further details.

COURSE LENGTH Two Terms (**One Semester**)

COURSE LEADS TO: Year 10 Music

Teacher in charge of subject:

HoD in charge of subject: Ms Shone

DRAMA (9DRA)

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10

Drama has the capacity to move and challenge values, cultures and identities. Through participation in drama, students develop their capacities of expression and imagination and learn to focus on and use their senses. The process of making and presenting drama gives students opportunities to develop their self-confidence and skills in interpreting, researching, negotiating, problem solving and decision making

This course includes:

- Improvisation/Theatre sports – You will learn a series of theatre sports games designed to help you think quickly, initiate and advance ideas, accept other people's ideas and learn basic performance skills.
- Role-play and character development – Through a series of exercises and activities you will learn to create and portray a range of convincing characters and sustain a role throughout a performance.
- Drama techniques workshop (use of voice, body, movement and space) - In this workshop you will learn how the effective use of drama techniques help to show meaning in a performance. You will learn how to speak clearly and to project your voice on stage.
- Performance Poetry – You will show the use of drama techniques in a performance of a given poem.
- Perform an acting role – You will research a character in a given script, and will develop the characteristics that allow the audience to see the character and not you – use drama techniques to shape your character.
- Drama journal work – You will complete a written journal on all the units covered in this course.

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

Semester Course – Assessments for semesters 1 and 2 are the same

Semester 1 and 2

- Theatre Sports
- Superhero (Genre work) Unit
- Māori Mythology
- Acting/Devising Unit

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

Nil

COURSE LENGTH

Two Terms (One Semester)

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Drama

Teacher in charge of subject: Ms Oliver

HoD in charge of subject: Ms Oliver

Year 9 Technology Programme

All students will study at least one Technology

- Hard Technology THM
- Textiles (Soft Materials) TSM
- Food Technology TFM
- DVC (Design and Visual Communication) DVC

Students will complete two terms of study in their selected subject.

The school will try to ensure students are given their first choice, but this will depend on the number of students opting for different subjects.

TECHNOLOGY

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended study for: Year 10

Textiles (two terms) Technology (9TSM)

Hard Materials (two terms) Technology (9THM)

Foods (two terms) Technology (9FTM)

DVC Graphics (two terms) (9DVC)

Students will be informed of confirmed costs at the start of each course

Technology can be described as intervention by design. It has an impact on us all whether you are academic or practical. It is a useful subject if you choose to take a trade apprenticeship, choose a career in a technology- related industry, or even if you choose a university career path.

Year 9 technology will provide students with practical and creative experiences, gaining skills while completing a range of activities and learning experiences.

All Technology courses include:

Technological practice

- The stages that must be followed to solve a problem or issue that leads to a solution that is successful and fit for purpose.

Technological knowledge

- Developing and learning new knowledge skills through research, problem-solving and critical reflection.

Nature of Technology

- Investigating how technology fits into our community, society and the world around us

SCHOOL BASED ASSESSMENTS

- Term 1
- Term 2
- Term 3
- Term 4

COURSE ENHANCEMENT COSTS

\$70 Materials per semester (college) - includes take home products

COURSE LENGTH

Two Terms (One Semester)

COURSE LEADS TO:

Year 10 Technology

Teacher in charge of subject: Ms Rehu

HoD in charge of subject: Mrs Rehu

