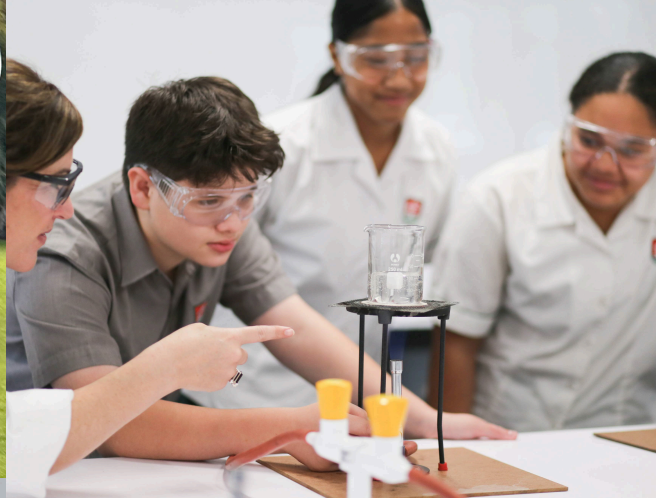


Onehunga High School



YEAR 9 ACADEMIC PROGRAMME 2026





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YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

The Year 9 curriculum at Onehunga High School is guided by the New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) and is designed to provide students with a broad and balanced foundation for learning. It focuses on building the foundational knowledge and skills required for success in the senior school and beyond.

Life Long Learners

Our aim is to equip students not only for academic achievement but also for lifelong learning and participation in a rapidly changing world. The Year 9 curriculum serves as the foundation through which students build and strengthen the Key Competencies identified in the NZC.

- thinking;
- managing self;
- relating to others;
- participating;
- contributing; and using language, symbols, and texts.

The programme also develops key competencies and values that prepare students to be confident, connected, and actively engaged learners.

Curriculum Structure

Year 9 students study courses in the Learning Areas identified in the NZC:

- English
- Health & Physical Education
- Languages / Literacy
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Science
- Social Sciences
- Technology
- The Arts



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ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMES

Onehunga High School is recognised for delivering programmes that support and challenge students to reach their full potential.

Progress in Every Classroom

Learning programmes in every class are designed to develop each student's knowledge and skills, supporting strong progress through the curriculum.

Personalised learning is at the heart of our approach, ensuring the diverse needs of students are met and each learner is supported to achieve personal excellence through stretch and challenge.

This is guided by our pedagogical framework, which provides a shared language for learning and supports effective teaching practice across the school.

Enrichment Classes

From 2026, we will introduce enrichment classes in the junior school for students working well above the expected curriculum level. These classes will provide deeper learning opportunities and, where appropriate, allow for accelerated progress.

Learning Support Programme

Identifying learning needs and tracking progress are central to the programme. Some students may receive in-class support, individualised learning plans, or targeted small group or one-to-one instruction. Specialist staff work closely with students and maintain regular communication with parents and relevant external agencies.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Students with ESOL, needs are catered for. Those with very limited English language are supported with specialised ESOL classes.



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COMPULSORY COURSES

All Year 9 and 10 students at Onehunga High School study the following subjects:

English

This course builds students' skills in oral, written, and visual language to prepare them for success in NCEA. Students explore a range of texts, such as novels and poetry, and take part in activities like debates, poster creation, and writing in different forms.

Mathematics

Students develop key skills and understanding across the strands of the New Zealand Curriculum: Number and Algebra, Geometry and Measurement, and Statistics. The course promotes confident problem solving and helps students make sense of connections across mathematical concepts. A strong foundation is laid for future study in senior levels.

Science

Students explore the relationship between science and society while studying topics such as matter, mixtures, ecosystems, cells, reproduction, energy, light, sound, and astronomy. Key components include conducting experiments and researching socio-scientific issues.

Social Science

Students explore how people interact with each other and their environment through different times, cultures, and places. Themes include identity and culture, government and leadership, human rights, conflict and war, sustainability, and economics. The course supports students to become informed, responsible members of society.

Physical Education and Health

Students take part in a variety of physical activities designed to develop their movement skills, confidence, and teamwork. The course encourages positive attitudes, goal setting, and making informed choices about physical well-being. Health education focuses on the concept of Hauora and explores topics such as relationships, nutrition, personal safety, and decision-making.



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OPTIONAL COURSES

Choosing your electives

As well as studying the compulsory subjects set out in the New Zealand Curriculum, students also have a choice to study a language for the year.

They also have a choice to select two Art courses and two Technology courses . These are called elective courses.

You will be asked to select your electives on the enrolment form and we will confirm your option selections at the enrolment interview.

Arts & Technology Electives:

Table A

- Architectural Design
- Digital Technology
- Product Design
- Master Chef
- Business Studies

Table B :

- Visual Art
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Media Studies



Language OR Literacy:

Most students choose a language in Year 9, which is studied for the entire year. Students that require extra literacy skills for academic success at secondary school will be directed into that course by our staff.

Language options that are available are:

- Te Reo Māori
- Chinese
- French
- Samoan
- Tongan
- Japanese (new in 2026)



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THE ARTS

Visual Arts

This course offers art-making experiences in at least three fields, combining observational drawing, sculpture, colour theory, pattern design, intaglio or collograph printing, painting, multi-media practices, and potentially digital tools like the Adobe Suite. Students will explore how international and New Zealand artists create art, with the programme recognising toi Māori and tikanga Māori, and reflecting the multicultural makeup of students and society by drawing on a wide range of traditional and contemporary, local and global subject matter to inspire idea development.



Media Studies

In this course, students will explore the world of film making and storytelling, identifying the ways media impacts their own lives, and critiquing the role the audience plays in the creation of media. Students will also explore the basics of film making and discover their own unique storytelling style. Student will put their cinematography and editing skills to the test as they produce their own media product.



THE ARTS

Dance

Students will learn and rehearse a choreographed dance phrase as part of their introduction to performance. This unit focuses on developing technical skills, spatial awareness, and movement memory, while also encouraging creativity and collaboration. Students will have the opportunity to perform for a live audience, allowing them to apply their learning in an authentic context.

Drama

Students will explore drama through exciting activities that build confidence and creativity. They'll learn how to use voice, body, movement, and space to bring characters and stories to life. Group work and short performances will help develop teamwork and communication skills. Students are encouraged to take risks, try new ideas, and support one another in a fun and positive environment. No experience is needed – just imagination and a willingness to get involved!

Music

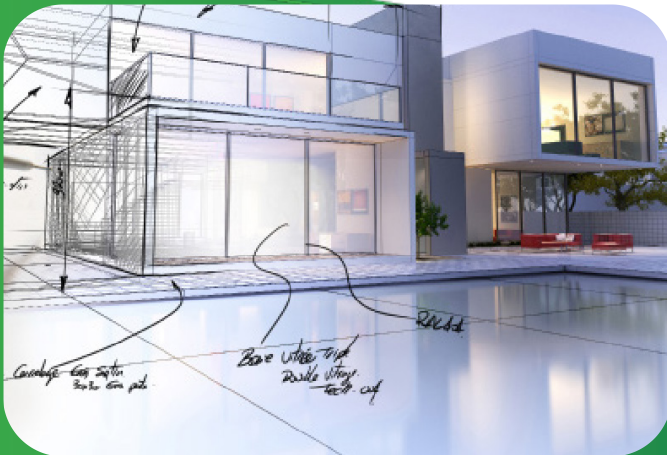
Students will learn the fundamentals of music, including performance on their chosen instrument and an introduction to basic music conventions. They will explore the history and development of music across different genres and time periods. The course includes beginner composition tasks, giving students the chance to create and structure their own musical ideas.



TECHNOLOGY

Product Design

Students will design and make products using a design brief and specifications. Students will learn problem solving and hands-on workshop skills producing a real take home product. They will manufacture two different products using a range of different materials and techniques. This will include using traditional manufacturing methods as well as 3D printing.



Architectural Design

Develop drawing, modelling and communications skills around an architectural context. Students will learn how to present drawings and models when solving a simple architectural design brief. The course will include basic CAD and 3D print models.

Digital Technology

Students will explore how digital technologies and computational thinking can be applied to solve real-world problems. Working in small teams, they will develop creative digital solutions. The course also introduces students to key design tools and techniques, helping them build confidence with both software and visual communication. The goal is to empower ākonga to become capable and creative contributors in an increasingly digital world.



Master Chef

This course is a fun introduction to cooking that will teach basic kitchen skills mixed with a weekly cooking challenge. The course culminates with a “grand final” lunch that the students will prepare for selected teachers.



Business Studies

Business Studies introduces students to the world of business and enterprise. It provides a foundation for understanding how businesses operate, the role of entrepreneurs, and the key principles that underpin success in business. Through examining case studies, practical activities and projects like making business plans or products to market, students will develop skills that will prepare them for future learning and real-world experiences.



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**We look forward to you continuing your
learning journey with us!**

09-636-6006
www.ohs.school.nz

