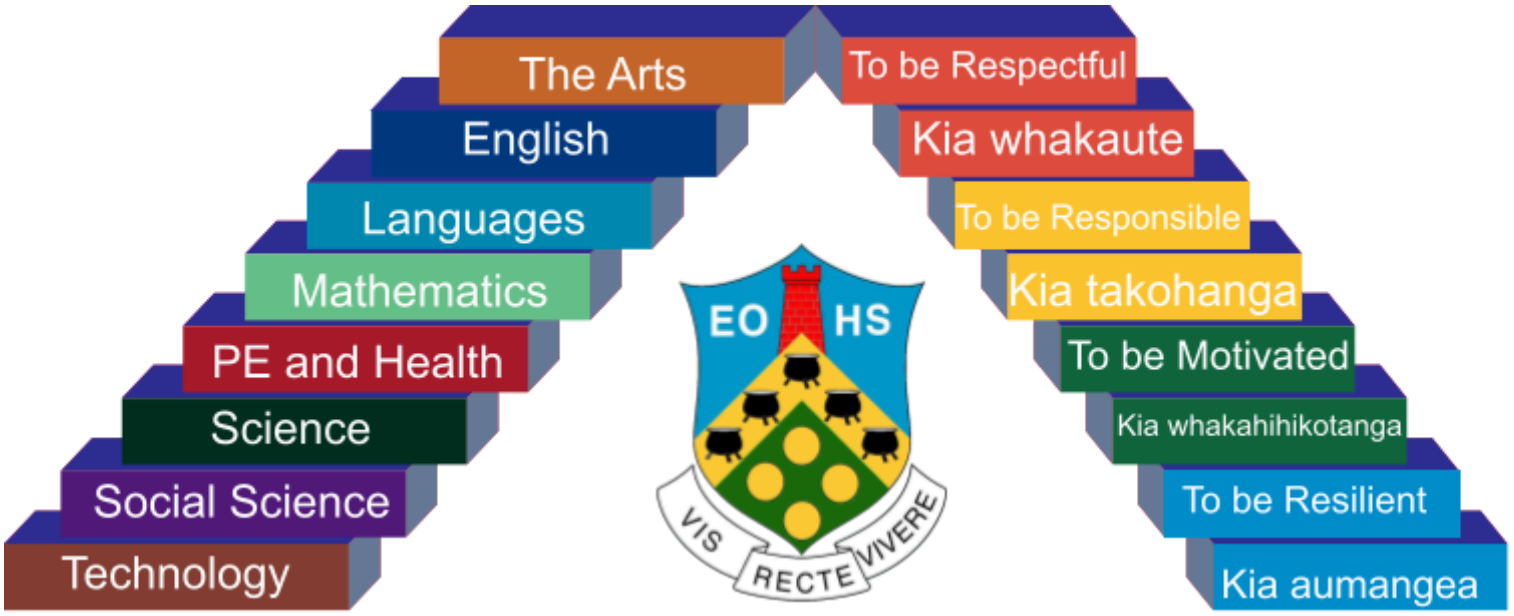
East Otago High School

Te Kura Tai Rawhiti Ki Otakou

Junior Curriculum Option Booklet

2027



The building blocks for your future

"Strength through Learning"

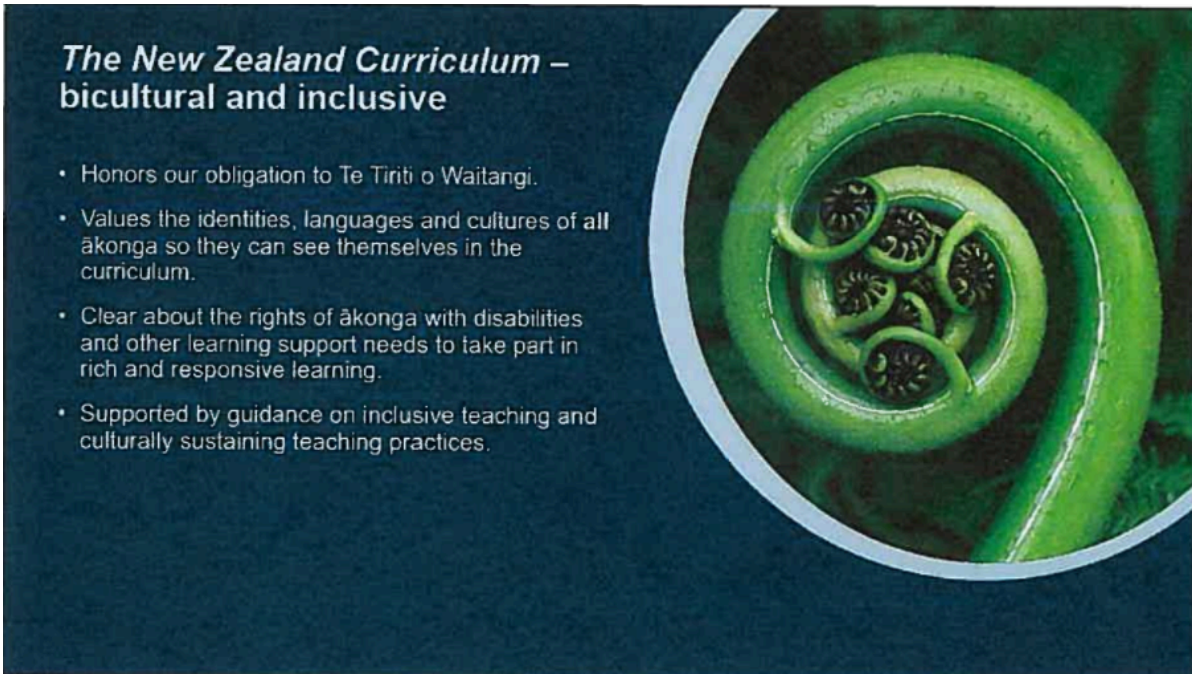
kia kaha ma roto i te matauranga

Student name:

New Zealand Curriculum Levels

The New Zealand Curriculum is being refreshed and introduced in phases. From 2026, schools are required to teach the refreshed English, Mathematics and Statistics curricula in Years 0 –10. In 2027, all learning areas in Years 9 and 10 will be taught using the refreshed curriculum.

At East Otago High School, teaching and learning programmes will reflect the refreshed curriculum, with a focus on building students' knowledge, skills and understanding across all learning areas. The curriculum is designed to support students to make progress, achieve their potential and develop the knowledge and capabilities needed for further learning and life beyond school.



INTRODUCTION

YEARS 9 AND 10 CURRICULUM

East Otago High School offers a dynamic and engaging curriculum for students in Years 9 and 10. Our curriculum is designed to help students build their future, develop a passion for learning and explore their individual interests, strengths and talents. We aim to help students recognise what they are good at, build on these strengths and develop the knowledge and skills to achieve their potential.

Our courses provide opportunities for students to learn in a range of contexts, develop essential skills and build a strong foundation for NCEA and life beyond school.

YEARS 9 AND 10 CURRICULUM

East Otago High School offers an engaging curriculum designed to help students **build their future** by exploring their interests, developing their strengths and gaining the knowledge and skills needed for NCEA and life beyond school.

All students study **English, Mathematics** and **Science** with their year group. They also select six option courses, including:

- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- One Technology course: ICT, Woodwork or Home Economics
- Music or Art

Students choose their remaining options based on their interests and future goals. A subject may be studied twice, but not three times.

Students study three courses each semester, completing six courses each year and 12 across Years 9 and 10. All students also participate in The Eastern Way for two periods each week, focusing on skills for learning, wellbeing and life beyond school.

Staff and Rāwhiti Teachers will work with students and whānau to ensure course choices provide a balanced curriculum and support future pathways.

Students: Use the following pages to explore your interests, passions and talents and choose the courses that are right for you.

Timetable Constraints

Course selection for Semester One (Term 1 and 2)

Please select your six options by indicating in order of preference 1-5.

Course	Curriculum Area	Tick to select
	English	✔
	Maths	✔
	Science	
		1
		2
		3
Back-up Options		
		4
		5

Course selection for Semester Two (Term 3 and 4)

Please select your six options by indicating in order of preference 1-5.

Course	Curriculum Area	Tick to select
	English	✔
	Maths	✔
	Science	✔
		2
		3
Back-up Options		
		4
		5

Semester One Courses

School of Rock	
Learning Area: The Arts (Music)	
Course Description	Unleash Your Inner Rockstar! Join the band and rock the stage! In this high-energy course, you'll explore guitar, drums, bass, keyboards, and vocals while learning what it takes to perform in a band. Whether you're a beginner or already playing an instrument, you'll sharpen your skills and collaborate with others to create amazing music. Discover the history of rock and other genres through hands-on activities, learning to read chord charts, rhythms, and melodies. Rehearse, perform, and build the confidence to shine on stage in epic live and recorded performances. Ready to rock? Let's do this!

Train Like a Pro	
Learning Area: Physical Education	
Course Description	This course involves personal and individualised activities specific to your sport. This is a perfect course for those who want to focus on understanding how you can improve your performance through weight training and programme prescription, as well as providing fundamental knowledge about exercise physiology and biomechanics. Also, we look at what we can do to maintain and enhance our Hauora through sport psychology.

My Team and I	
Learning Area: Physical Education	
Course Description	This course looks at the roles and responsibilities of a sports team while participating in a number of team events/sports. We look in depth at how it functions and the roles of the players, coach, referee, water boy, manager, etc. It will look closely at Interpersonal skills and how they are used to improve the functioning of the team. Students selecting this course will want to learn about teamwork and leadership skills and how to apply them. Individuals will need to demonstrate social responsibility and aim for the highest level.

Making a Difference	
Learning Area: Social Science	
Course Description	Looking at local heroes and organisations that make a difference and help our community. Such as the Fire Brigade, Police, Plunket, St John, the Rural Trust, etc. Guest speakers and field trips to look at what these organisations do, and activities while there. Also involves understanding service to our community.

Myth Busters	
Learning Area: Social Science	
Course Description	In this course students investigated historical and urban myths through inquiry learning. They developed questioning and investigative skills, explored multiple perspectives, and practiced paragraph writing. They examined mysteries like the moon landing and the JFK assassination.

Insta-Furniture	
Learning Area: Technology (Hard Materials)	
Course Description	This is our practical, hands-on workshop course with a focus on mastering skills and techniques. The course combines traditional joinery skills with modern communication technology. Students complete a small furniture project using various woodworking joints and create short Instagram-style videos to showcase and explain their developing skills.

Dishing it Out: Around the World in Flavours	
Learning Area: Home Economics	
Course Description	H`akar from Iceland. Escamol from Mexico. Steak Tartare from France. Wasp Crackers from Japan. This module explores the many different foods and food choices found around the world that will either leave your mouth watering or your stomach churning. You will look at how food availability and choices differ across continents, countries and cultures as individuals, families and societies choose what foods typically form part of the diet or are treated as a delicacy or a taboo as it is offered and, in some cases, consumed alive on the plate in front of you. How have these choices developed, and in what ways does this impact the food choices and food preferences of the people living there? Tradition, ethics and enterprise will be explored to see why tastes and choices vary as you head around the world to experience a variety of dishes to taste and dishes to avoid. Please note: No monkeys, horses, cats or dogs will be harmed in the making of any of the meals produced in this class.

Digital Mania	
Learning Area: Technology (Digital Technology)	
Course Description	The Digital Mania course targets a wide variety of skills with outcomes to solve real-life problems. Emphasis will be placed on developing a range of skills using both online applications and physical digital equipment which will be interactive and able to be programmed. Using a variety of resources, students will develop their programming skills in Block form and/or JavaScript. Students will design a solution to a given problem, and then use their programming skills and a range of accessories with the Microbit set to create a physical solution. Students will also be using specific applications to create online animations that highlight a given challenge, such as recalling a Māori legend or giving instructions to tourists who visit the East Otago Area. We will also be using Stop Motion, which is an animation technique used to bring static objects to life on screen. We will use this application to tell a story which is related to either topical issues of the time or of local interest.

Painting, Photography and Murals	
Learning Area: The Arts (Visual Arts)	
Course Description	In this course, students will engage in a diverse range of visual arts projects: they will design artwork to be displayed in a local cafe to sell and exhibit, explore a range of media techniques, including printmaking and photography. They will also have the opportunity to paint murals that will be displayed around the school.

My World and My Heritage	
Learning Area: Languages (Te Reo)	
Course Description	This two-term course explores Te Ao Māori across four 5-week units. In Term 1, Unit 1: Tūrangawaewae covers identity, whānau, and ancestors through a digital pepeha or poster, followed by Unit 2: Te Marae, where students explore marae protocols, layout, and history by designing a labelled marae model. In Term 2, Unit 3: Mahinga Kai examines traditional food gathering, gardening, and the Maramataka calendar through a seasonal calendar or meal project. Unit 4: Pūrākau me ngā Toi, students will study local legends, kapa haka, and traditional arts before retelling a local legend through a modern medium like a comic or drama performance.

Semester Two Courses

The Sound Factory Make Music. Make Noise. Make It Happen!	
Learning Area: The Arts (Music)	
Course Description	Ever wanted to make your own music, record songs, run a live sound system or create music videos? The Sound Factory lets you explore instruments, recording gear, songwriting, music production, podcasts and live events. Get creative, experiment with technology and work with others to bring your ideas to life. No experience needed — just bring your imagination!

Down on the Farm. From Paddock to Plate	
Learning Area: Science (Agriculture and Horticulture)	
Course Description	Sheep and cattle are the most widely farmed animals in New Zealand, with 44% of all farms in New Zealand being sheep and beef, with a total of 29.5 million sheep and 3.6 million beef cattle. We will be investigating how the common life processes of animals and plants on New Zealand sheep or beef farms are able to be managed by farmers as they aim to improve the number and quality of their animals. We will also explore other farming methods, including poultry, pigs and bees and the effectiveness of growing vegetable cash crops in a tunnel house compared to using a garden environment, both available on school grounds. Experts/including Farmers will talk to us about what they do to help farms become a business success.

From Hill to Sea	
Learning Area: Social Science	
Course Description	An investigation into local environments. How they were formed geologically, how people used them historically, and how they are used today. Visits to local farms, businesses, beaches, Pa etc.

Skills for Living	
Learning Area: Social Science	
Course Description	Financial literacy. Understanding and learning the costs of living, student loans and mortgages through budgeting, investigating investments and small business ideas and marketing. Careers focus on skills and jobs, the workplace, starting at the bottom (working your way to the top), CVs, and preparation for a job interview. Life skills: what to expect while flatting; consumer rights; your legal rights. This can also include everything from flat cooking to using appliances, shopping for a flat, using an iron, and sewing on a button!

Modern Design	
Learning Area: Technology (Hard Materials)	
Course Description	Learn to communicate and present your design ideas in a professional way. Use AI to develop your designs, learning how to critique the output against design conventions and achieve high-quality communication of your designs. Get a basic introduction to CAD skills and see some of your designs come to life on our CNC laser. This is the more academic of our technology courses; this class will be based in the graphics room and primarily involve research, sketching and computer work. If you're looking for the workshop course with lots of hands-on practical work, then check out Insta- furniture in Semester 1.

Product Development	
Learning Area: Home Economics	
Course Description	Sweet as or spicy with a twist. Too sour to handle or slightly bitter with a tangy end. This module will look at how new products are conceived, developed, produced and marketed using traditional flavours or special or local ingredients to bring a new twist to an existing product. You will look into the world of ingredient influence and consumer surveying to learn how product concepts can mean a whole new taste experience where your taste buds do the happy dance. If you love to create in the kitchen, then this module will see you develop a new flavour or texture to excite the palate or tempt the taste buds as we cut out the cookies, bake the cake or spice the rice with new combinations to find the one that blows the competition out of the water...and onto the plate. You will also look at how these new ideas are presented on the shop shelf to try to achieve the top spot of best taste experience or a passing fad of years gone by. So be prepared to explore the options, create something new, experiment with the existing and make the choice to see if your product design will achieve a golden buzzer moment or not.

Te Ao Hurihuri (The Changing Māori World)	
Learning Area: Languages (Te Reo)	
Course Description	In Semester 2: Te Ao Hurihuri – The Changing Māori World, you will explore how traditional knowledge shapes the modern Māori world. Across 20 weeks, you'll learn to give commands and sequence steps while studying the Maramataka lunar calendar and environmental guardianship (Kaitiakitanga). You will use descriptive language and proverbs (Whakataukī) to analyse creative arts like carving, weaving, and Kapa Haka. As the semester progresses, you will build persuasive language skills to debate contemporary issues and rights linked to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Finally, using future tense markers, you will present a project to help revitalise Te Reo Māori in your community and wrap up the year with a formal farewell (Poroporoaki).

All About Me	
Learning Area: Physical Education	
Course Description	This course looks at health topics that contribute to our total wellbeing. Topics may include Hauora (total well-being), Sexuality, Drugs and Alcohol, Keeping Ourselves Safe, Food and Nutrition, body care, cyber safety, as well as physical activity including ABL Games, Māori games and other fun but challenging activities.

Giving Back	
Learning Area: Physical Education	
Course Description	This course looks at the opportunity for you to become a sports leader and understand sports leadership styles under different roles. Roles include the ability to coach, manage or train teams. Students will also have the opportunity to plan events through both theory and practical application. This course also provides knowledge needed for NCEA Level 1- 3 papers.

Painting/ Printmaking and Clay	
Learning Area: The Arts (Visual Arts)	
Course Description	Explore and develop your skills across a range of media including Painting, Printmaking and Clay. In this course, you will learn about carving into lino and printing from your designs, as well as doing screen printing onto fabric and paper. We will use clay to mould animals and sculpt creatures. We will explore different genres of painting, including Landscape, still life and multimedia. Bring your creativity and ideas!