Fairfield College
Year 9 Subject Option Choice Form 2026

Student First Name:	**Student Surname:**

LEARNING AREAS

These core subjects run for the whole year:

- English
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Science
- Social Science
- Te Ao Maaori (one 90 minute block per week)

The following option subject runs twice a week for one term. These options are compulsory:

- Health Education (HEA)
- Financial Studies (FIN)

OPTION CHOICES **All subjects in the following learning areas run for one term**	**PREFERRED CHOICES** **Students will take 8 options in total**

The Arts:

- Digital Media Design (DMD)
- Drama (DRA)
- Media Studies (MES)
- Music (MUS)
- Music for Life Programme (MFL)
- Toi Whakairo/Maaori Carving (TOI)
- Visual Arts (ARC)

Technology:

- Design Engineering Metal (DEM)
- Design Engineering Wood (DEW)
- Digital Technology (DIT)
- Electronics (ELE)
- Food Technology (FOT)
- Hip Hop/Culture and Knowledge (HIP)
- Product Design and Jewellery Making (PDJ)
- Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics (STM)
- Textiles Technology (TET)

Languages:

- Mandarin (MAN)
- Spanish (SPN)
- Te Reo Maaori

Programmes

- Advanced Physical and Outdoor Education (OPE)
- Cultural Performing Arts (CPA)
- Junior Foundation Programme (JFP)
- Passion Project (PPJ)

Please select 7 other subjects from the Option Choices list. Rank in order of preference.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Please refer to the following pages for further information on Option Choices
We encourage students to select from a variety of curriculm areas to experience and discover their talents and skills

YEAR 9 OPTION DESCRIPTIONS

Advanced Physical and Outdoor Education (OPE): This is an exciting, high-paced, physical and outdoor education experience! Throughout the course, students will engage in an array of exhilarating excursions, from exploring our very own taonga as we navigate the Kukutaaruhe Gully in treasure hunt-type challenges, to building survival shelters. Alongside this, students will learn about the bones and muscles in the body, building their understanding of how we move. We will grow our appreciation of our local area and then adventures they have to offer.

Cultural Performing Arts (CPA): This course explores basic movements and rhythms associated within traditional, contemporary and cultural themes. Discovering and utilizing the collective knowledge of movements from Hula to Tap to Line Dancing, and from Tik Tok to Rock n Roll to Poi and Raakau. Creative participation will be encouraged with an emphasis on developing and highlighting students' personal interests and strengths.

Design Engineering Metal (DEM): This is a chance to look if Engineering or Metal work is something that you may consider to study further at year10 and onwards. We have a full workshop where you will use hand tools and some power tools to make a project. You will be taken through the process of manufacturing and shown career areas that this course will lead to.

Design Engineering Wood (DEW): This is a chance to look if Wood work is something that you may consider to study further at year10 and onwards. We have a full workshop where you will use hand tools and some power tools to make a project. You will be taken through the process of manufacturing and shown career areas that this course will lead to.

Digital Media Design (DMD): Students will be introduced to the world of animation. As well as learning the fundamentals behind the field, students will learn how to make things move using different techniques across a range of software. Animation principles • Character design • Motion graphics • 2D animation

Digital Technology (DIT): Students will learn project planning and computer science skills. The digital industry covers a wide range of possible contexts for creation of digital applications with students able to explore interests in information and communications, computer programming, software development, web development, games, and computer systems.

Drama (DRA): The junior drama course involves performing drama from a script, improvising and devising. It also involves learning about the drama elements, conventions and techniques. The course is focussed on performance, but some written work is required.

Electronics (ELE): In this course, students will learn to identify and use basic electronic components in circuits and systems. This course has a strong practical focus where students will learn and apply electronic concepts.

Financial Studies (FIN): Financial education is critical for ensuring all students will be supported to become active informed citizens, so they are prepared for their financial future, manage their finances effectively and contribute to New Zealand's economy. Topics include how to generate revenue, managing debt and financial decision-making for example. This provides a solid foundation for future learning, including specialisation in business studies.

Food Technology (FOT): Food Technology involves students learning to prepare basic food items. Students will investigate, design and make their own food product, which is often a real highlight. This subject is an opportunity for all students to develop confidence in the kitchen and learn valuable life skills.

Hip Hop/Culture and Knowledge (9HIP): This course will explore the history and culture of Hip Hop 1973-2000s. We will explore how Hip Hop began and how the Culture helped poor people of colour (inner city) of Bronx, New York cope with the economic and cultural injustices of New York City, as well as inner cities across the United States. We will explore the 5 parts of Hip Hop: 1. Bboy/BGirls: the evolution of break dancing and Hip-hop dancing; 2. Emceeing/MCing: Rapping and Lyrics; 3. DJ/Music making/producing; 4. Graffiti/visual arts; 5. Knowledge of Revolutionary MCs, Dancers, DJs and Graffiti Artists.

Junior Foundation Programme (JFP): Students who have received learning support via RTLB or a learning support class at their previous schools will be invited to continue receiving support in this programme. This is a specialist intervention programme run by Fairfield College's Learning Support Faculty where students can focus on their literacy and numeracy skills in a small group setting – no more than 10 students at a time – for two lessons a week for at least one term. There will also be opportunities to look at how each student is progressing in their mainstream subject areas. Each year 9 class has a specialist teacher aide assigned to it to support all students in the group across all core subject areas.

Mandarin (MAN): The focus of this course is to experience the fun and challenge of learning to communicate in a new language. You will learn how to communicate in simple Chinese, to read simple passages and to write basic Chinese characters. You will also develop an understanding of Chinese culture and a respect for cultural diversity. You will participate in activities such as dialogues, games, songs and role-playing. By the end of Year 9 you will be able to talk and write about yourself, your family, friends and pets, your daily routine, where you live, what facilities our school and Chinese classrooms have, and the weather.

Media Studies (MES): This course is an introduction to the various media that students face in their everyday lives, for example: social media (Instagram, Tik Tok, YouTube), graphic novel, and film. Students will learn technical skills around the construction of visual texts by creating their own media product such as a comic strip or graphic novel.

Music (MUS): A course that concentrates on performance as a class on either guitar, keyboard or singing. We cover the basics of these instruments, and we try to perform together regularly once we have learnt a song. We also cover song writing, so that students can know how to write their own song, together with a bit of theory and history of music.

Music for Life (MFL): This project-based programme combines music education and the well-being principles, of mindfulness, expression, social connection, achievement and selfcare. This project not only helps students develop musical skills but also fosters emotional and social growth.

Passion Project (PPJ): Passion Project is a project-based option class in which students research any topic they are passionate about and create a project to share with others. Passion Project encourages creativity in the classroom and promotes inquiry, perseverance, problem solving and innovation, among other lifelong skills. In the Passion Project class, we want students to think outside the box to pursue areas of genuine, authentic interest and inquiry.

Product Design and Jewellery Making (PDJ): In this course, students will explore conceptual design elements and draw inspiration from nature to create unique jewellery designs. After developing design ideas and receiving approval from the instructor, students will learn various moulding techniques and materials and create their own unique piece.

Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STM): This course is designed to give students the opportunity to follow the design process using a range of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills. Using the school's laser cutter and a range of hands-on tasks, students will design and create personalised projects to keep, give away, or sell.

Spanish (SPN): Students begin a Spanish journey in 2025. Making connection to everyday vocabulary including sport and leisure activities, food, clothing, school and other aspects of life will allow students to experience the culture and history of the Spanish language. Skills in writing will also be developed.

Te Ao Maaori (MAO): Year 9 Maaori is aimed at building the students' confidence to use basic sentence structures which will explore kaupapa such as kai, whanau, waiata, marae, te kura and tikanga Maaori. Selected this course gives the students an opportunity to learn more about the Maaori culture and have a better understand of Te Reo Maaori. Te Ao Maaori has two main foci that we study during the year. The content of this subject requires students to experience many of the most positive elements of Maaori culture such as learning the school himene, haka and waiata a ringa. Students are exposed to authentic hui practices such as powhiri on our school marae. We experience manaakitanga, whanaungatanga and aroha within these opportunities. We also look at Maaori hand games and movement activities. We will also look at Aotearoa New Zealand history through a Maaori lens in order to appreciate our bi-cultural identity. The acquisition of Te Reo Maaori will be informal and falls out of the work we do during the year.

Textiles Technology (TET): Textiles Technology offers students an introduction to sewing. Students will follow the design process through to the completion of a final product. This is a hands on course that will give students the opportunity to experience a range of different textile skills that could include tie dying, embroidery, macramé or screen printing.

Toi Whakairo/Maaori Carving (TOI) This is chance for students to explore Maaori patterns and carvings. Looking at mythical origins, Toi Whakairo explores the evolution of different styles and techniques of Maaori art and culture.

Visual Arts (ARC): This is an introductory course, designed to instil confidence in making art works. Students learn the foundation skills of drawing to support three art disciplines. Painting and printmaking are the main focus, with a choice of photography or sculpture, if time allows. Students will be prepared for art in Year 10 and NCEA Senior courses. Visual diaries are retained by the students.