



Subject Selection Booklet 2026



A Starting Point

Before making any subject choices, it is important to think about what you enjoy doing at school and what your strengths are. Try answering these questions.

- **What subjects am I good at?**
- **What subjects do I enjoy?**
- **What subjects do others say I am good at?**
- **What job/career/pathway am I interested in?**

KEY REMINDERS for choosing your subjects:

- Keep your selection broad – your ideas may change over time
- Check the recommended and compulsory subjects that you may need for further study at school or at tertiary Level
- Speak to your parents, teachers, dean and any other person that can provide you with information or ideas

In addition to subjects that you take, employers tell us that there are certain skills and competencies that they are looking for in their future workforce.

- Thinking/Problem solving
- Communication
- Manages Self (time management/presentation)
- Relates to others
- Participates and contributes (is actively involved in situations)
- Technologically aware
- **and above all shows a positive attitude and a sense of pride in self.**

Part of our Senior School Programme at William Colenso College is to build these skills and competencies so that you are a strong applicant for a course or apprenticeship and a career.

You can then try to match those factors to a particular career pathway. There are plenty of people at school who can help you with this

- Your subject teachers
- Your Form Teacher
- Your Dean

Other useful resources or people are

- Your Parents and Caregivers
- Career Services website <https://tahatu.govt.nz/>

Once you have a possible pathway you then need to select your subjects so that you can travel down your chosen pathway. For some pathways there are some subjects that you are required to do and some that are recommended.

ENGLISH

Level 1 (20 credits)

L1ENG

This course focuses on developing critical reading skills as students interpret and analyse how language is used in different types of texts to create meaning. Developing writing accuracy is an important focus of this course, along with developing students' understanding of the structure, style and conventions required when creating different text types. Students are expected to prepare for both English Externals.

Level 2 (24 credits)

L2ENG

This course focuses on achieving University Entrance Literacy by meeting the reading and writing requirements. This means a focus on Reading Responses, Information Literacy skills, Writing Portfolio and Externals. Students are expected to prepare for at least 1 External Assessment. Broad success in Level 1 Achievement Standard English including External/s; L1 Literacy. Entry is at the discretion of the HOL.

Level 3 (18+ credits)

L3ENG

This course focuses on the academic skills required to pursue higher education in the study of Literature and Texts. Students are expected to prepare for at least 1 External Assessment. Broad success in L2 English, including University Entrance Literacy (or part-thereof); L1 Literacy. Entry is at the discretion of the HOL.

Level 1 - 3 ESOL (20 credits)

ESOL

This course is for Non-English Speaking Background students and International students. It supports students learning in the mainstream. Students will also be offered Level 1 - 3 Reading, Writing, Listening and Oral Unit Standards. Activities involve reading and writing, listening and speaking.

Level 1&2 Voices and Visions (5-8 credits) 2 Hours Friday course

ENGF

This is an English course aimed at students with a keen interest in Speech, Debate, and Visual Texts. This course is aimed at developing students' analytical and creative skills in visual and oral language. Students will prepare and deliver their own speeches in this course, as well as analyse visual/oral texts. The course runs for 2 hours per week on Fridays - full attendance is required.

MATHEMATICS

Level 1 (20 credits offered)

L1MAT

This course builds on the skills covered in Y10 mathematics through internally assessed standards. Possible topics include solving problems using numeric reasoning, measurement, linear algebra, probability and transformation. Also includes the possibility of a simple statistical investigation. The Level 1 maths courses will be flexible in what standards are included to meet the needs of the particular students.

Level 2 (22 credits offered)

L2MAT

This course builds on the skills learned in Level 1 Maths. It is an academic course with both internal and external assessments. Topics include solving problems using algebra, calculus, probability, trigonometry, systems of equations, co-ordinate geometry and sequence and series.

Level 3 Maths (20 credits offered)

L3STAT

This Level 3 maths course focuses on more research and analysis than on calculations. Students will explore how to analyse time series, data, bivariate data, make a formal inference, conduct a statistical investigation and solve problems using probability (externally assessed).

SCIENCE

Level 1 (20 credits)

L1SCI

A foundational science course building on Year 10 learning. Students explore selected topics in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth & Space Science through a mix of internal and external assessments.

Level 2 CHEMISTRY (up to 20 credits)

L2CHEM

It covers core chemistry theory and practical skills with a blend of internal and external standards. The exact mix is tailored to class needs and may include Bonding, Organic Chemistry, Aqueous Solutions, Oxidation–Reduction, Polymer Chemistry, and Ions in Solution.

Level 2 PHYSICS (up to 20 credits)

L2PHY

Develops physics concepts and practical investigation skills through a combination of internal and external assessments. Standards are selected to suit the class and may include Mechanics, Electricity, Physics Investigations, Atomic and Nuclear Physics, and Applications of Physics to real-world contexts.

Level 2 BIOLOGY (up to 20 credits)

L2BIO

Focuses on biological theory and practical work with a mix of internal and external assessments. The programme is tailored to the class and may include Cell Biology, Genetics, Adaptations, Practical Investigations, and the technical applications of microscopes.

Level 3 CHEMISTRY, PHYSICS and EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCE (20 credits)

L3CH/PX

Builds on Level 3 studies with in-depth work in Chemistry and Physics, assessed through internal and external standards. Standards may include Atomic Physics, Electricity, Mechanics, Waves, Organic Chemistry, Thermochemical Principles, and Chemistry in the world around us.

Level 3 BIOLOGY AND (18 credits)

L3BIO

Extends Level 3 Biology with advanced study through a mix of internal and external assessments. Standards may include Animal Behaviour, Plant Responses, Human Evolution, Socio-scientific Issues, Genetic Manipulation, and Homeostasis.

VISUAL ARTS

Level 1 ART (15 credits)

L1ART

Students will learn to develop practical skills in painting, mixed media and digital art. Students must be well motivated and have good creative skills.

The course develops drawing and painting conventions and students develop a single theme for their work based on their own world and surroundings.

Level 1 DESIGN (15 credits)

L1DES

This course is an art course which combines photography and design elements. Students will learn to use Photoshop to create pattern and animated art works. They will use artist models to help generate finished artwork.

Level 2 PAINTING (20 credits)

L2ART

Students will be able to further develop their strong drawing and painting skills. Students will complete research activities and develop their own work with reference to artistic models.

Level 2 DESIGN (24 credits)

L2DES

Students will learn both drawing and computer skills in Photoshop. Research and generation of ideas will be covered in-depth and students will produce a folio of work at the end of the year which will reflect their design skills

Level 2 PHOTOGRAPHY (24 credits)

L2PHOT

Students will learn about digital SLR cameras and learn how to take good art photographs. Students will learn good Photoshop skills as they produce a body of work in photography which shows an understanding of creative photographic skills.

Level 3 PAINTING AND PRINTMAKING (22 credit)

L3ART

A practical and theoretical course in which students explore and develop ideas thematically. Drawing and development of visual ideas is the basis of this course. Students need the ability to think and work independently and the creativity to generate and re-generate ideas in the making of artworks. Students will work with acrylic and mixed media.

Level 3 DESIGN (22 credits)

L3DES

Design involves creative and exploratory design solving. Drawing and development of visual ideas is the basis of this course. Students work with design briefs that involve research, the generation of creative ideas, and production of finished artwork. Drawing and the ability to communicate ideas visually are essential to this course.

Level 3 PHOTOGRAPHY (22 credits)

L3PHOT

A practical and theoretical course using digital cameras and Photoshop technology. Students who did not complete Level 2 photography are also eligible for this course. Students will build upon their ability to explore and develop ideas thematically. Students need the ability to think and work independently and the creativity to generate and re-generate ideas in the making of artworks.

PERFORMING ARTS

Level 1 MAKING MUSIC (18-24 credits)

L1MUS

A practical and theory-based course that incorporates music making with sound production and technology. Students will present solo and group performances, learn music notation and the Science of Sound and Use Music Technology to create music

NB: there will be music theory and exam (written) work involved in order to meet the achievement criteria of each standard. This course encourages independent and group learning activities.

Level 2 (25 credits) / Level 3 (20 credits) MAKING MUSIC

SMUS

A practical and theory based course that incorporates music making.

Students will present solo & group performances, learn music theory, song writing, use music technology to create and manipulate music.

NB: There will be Music theory (written) work involved in order to meet the achievement criteria of each standard. If students have not done some L2 standards they may need to sit these before doing the L2 & L3 Standards.

This course encourages independent **AND** group learning activities – **FULL** commitment is expected as your own and your peers' achievement may rely on you.

Level 1 DANCE (20 credits)

L1DAN

A practical course that involves learning dance technique, developing group work, some theory, performance work and extra Rehearsals. This course encourages independent learning and group work. All are expected to participate in this.

Level 2 and 3 DANCE (20 credits)

SDAN

A practical based course which incorporates a range of movement tasks. Students will be required to participate in devolving Dance technique, working on solos, duets and group work. Performance and theory related tasks. Producing their own work with others and extra rehearsals. This course requires independent and group learning activities. Full participation is required.

PERFORMANCE (10 credits) Friday 2 hour course

SDAN

A practical based course which incorporates a range of movement and drama tasks. Students will be required to participate in devolving Dance technique, working on solos, duets and group work. Performance and theory related tasks. Producing their own work with others and extra rehearsals. This course requires independent and group learning activities. Full participation is required.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Level 1 HISTORY (20 credits)

L1HIS

Throughout this course we aim to develop; skills of inquiry, interpretation, problem-solving, gathering, processing and presenting information, and the understanding of important historical concepts that help explain the world we live in, the causes and consequences of important events. Topics are drawn from local, national and global events and issues. There is also the opportunity for students to choose a historical event of their own to research.

Level 1 GEOGRAPHY (20 credits)

L1GEO

This course will explore the relationship between the land and us; exploring "What Is Where, Why There, and Why Care?" to make sense of te Taiao. Te Taiao consists of all things that make up the surrounding environment. This includes features such as rivers, mountains, people, buildings, and infrastructure. Through this course we aim to develop skills relating to perspectives, data collecting/inquiry, communication, and research methods. There will be two internal assessments worth 5 credits each and two externals, worth 5 credits each also. The topics for study will be drawn from local, national, and global events and issues.

Level 2 HISTORY (20 credits)

L2HIS

This course is made up of a mixture of History and Social Studies based topics. Throughout this course we aim to develop; skills of inquiry, interpretation, problem-solving, gathering, processing and presenting information. We also seek to understand people's perspectives, rights, roles and responsibilities. Topics are drawn from local, national and global events and issues. There is also the opportunity for students to choose a historical event of their own to research.

Level 2 TOURISM (20 credits)

L2TOUR

We offer students an opportunity to gain NCEA credits for Level 2 and/or 3. The course is based around several Unit Standards which develop a broad understanding of the Tourism Industry.

Level 2 and 3 PSYCHOLOGY (16 credits)

L2PSYC

Psychology helps students understand the factors that influence their own and other's behaviours and responses to real life situations. Psychology draws on English skills in critical thinking, research and writing. The Psychology standards will explore questions about life.

Level 3 HISTORY (20 credits)

L3HIS

Level 3 History aims to continue on with the skills and knowledge students developed in Level 2 History with a shift in emphasis towards a consideration of historical method and historiography. Students complete an historical research assignment, of their choice, as part of their internal assessment.

LANGUAGES

Level 1 TE REO MĀORI (20 credits) TIKANGA (10 credits)

L1MAO

Students will learn through kōrero, whakarongo, tuhituhi, pānui, whakaari and whakaatu. Both internal and external assessments are available (Students should aim to sit External exams at the end of the year). Tikanga unit standards are an important part of this subject

Level 2 TE REO MĀORI (20 credits) TIKANGA (11 credits)

L2MAO

Students will learn through kōrero, whakarongo, tuhituhi, pānui, whakaari and whakaatu. Both internal and external assessments are available (Students should aim to sit External exams at the end of the year). Tikanga unit standards are an important part of this subject

Level 3 REO MĀORI (20 credits) TIKANGA (23 credits)

L3MAO

Students will learn through kōrero, whakarongo, tuhituhi, pānui, whakaari and whakaatu. Both internal and external assessments are available (Students should aim to sit External exams at the end of the year). Tikanga unit standards are an important part of this subject

Level 1-3 KAPA HAKA (20 credits) Friday 1 hour course

L3MAO

This course is designed for those who want to learn all about Māori Performing Arts. You will develop skills in poi, waiata, haka, mau rākau, patu and other elements of kapahaka. You will participate in drama, singing and dance through a Māori perspective with reference to tikanga. You will contribute towards leading a local event, you will learn onstage and offstage etiquette, event management and learn the skills and techniques required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH

Level 1 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (20 credits)

L1PE

This course builds on skills learnt in the Middle School but with more emphasis on team work, self management, biomechanics and physiology, and strategy. There are written aspects associated with the Achievement Standards.

Level 1 HEALTH (20 credits)

L1HEA

Level 1 Health focuses on understanding *Hauora* — the Māori concept of holistic wellbeing and how personal, interpersonal, and societal factors influence health. Students will explore decision-making processes, develop strategies to support and enhance their own and others' *Hauora*, and examine real-life health issues relevant to young people in Aotearoa. This course helps build knowledge and skills that promote positive wellbeing and informed choices.

Level 1 OUTDOOR EDUCATION (20 credits)

L1OED

Are you looking for fun, adventure, challenge and want to learn skills in an outdoor classroom? Look no further than Outdoor Education. Outdoor education is a medium that provides a wide variety of learning opportunities across a range of subject areas. Learn practical skills like kayaking, bush skills and rock climbing, but at the same time develop Personal Confidence and Growth, Developing Trust in yourself and others, Leadership, Communication skills, Responsibility for yourself and others, Organisation skills and Awareness of the environment. The Level 1 class on Friday means we will have class time to prepare for trips away, do local training and complete assessments and we will do our trips away during the week (2-3 days each term).

Level 2 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (18 credits)

L2PE

Level 2 Physical Education is a theory-based subject that builds on the foundations of Level 1. Students explore how the body functions and how to improve performance and fitness, with a focus on anatomy, exercise physiology, and biomechanics. The course also places strong emphasis on social responsibility, encouraging students to work positively with others, contribute to group tasks, and reflect on how their actions can influence both individuals and teams. By engaging with a significant event or sport, students investigate its impact on the individual, others, and wider New Zealand society.

Level 2 HEALTH (20 credits)

L2HEA

The course covers topics such as Sexuality and gender issues, Resiliency and change, Adolescent health issues and Wellbeing.

Level 2 and 3 OUTDOOR EDUCATION (20 credits)

L2/L3OE

Level 2 and 3 will be offered as a subject line/s during the week, this will have a mixer of class time and self-directed learning based around a year-long module of learning. It will be focused on planning and completing a range of multiday trips which will be selected by the students. Students will come out of classes for the away trips and will be required to do work in their own time to complete assessments.

Level 2 ARMED FORCES COURSE (20 credits)

L2ARM

The aim of this course is to help students prepare to enter the armed forces or a physically demanding career. The course will be based around achieving the entry criteria for the armed forces. It covers topics such as team work, self-management, bush-craft and creating training programmes to improve fitness.

Level 3 PHYSICAL EDUCATION (18 credits)

L3PE

In this course students put into practice knowledge learnt at Level 2. Students must be able to work independently and be highly motivated. They will look at skill analysis, skill improvement and performance of a skill, with other optional units depending on progress.

Level 3 HEALTH (20 credits)

L3HEA

Level 3 Health focuses on analysing health issues in New Zealand and internationally. Students explore contemporary ethical issues linked to specific health topics and research medical practices relevant to the New Zealand context. The course develops critical thinking and research skills while deepening understanding of how health impacts people and communities.

TECHNOLOGY

Level 1 FOOD TECHNOLOGY AND HOSPITALITY (20 credits)

L1FAN

A full year course. Food Technology and Hospitality education provides ākonga with opportunities to develop their basic cookery skills and understanding required for both the Food Technology (Product Development) and the Hospitality Industries. The aim of this course is to provide students real-life skills through practical experiences.

Level 1-3 SOFT MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY (18 credits)

STECH

This course caters for Year 11-13 students. Year 11 students design and produce a lined bag Year 12 students Leisurewear and Year 13 students Formal Wear. The projects can be negotiated but are a **minimum** requirement before proceeding to the next level of programme. The emphasis is on technical competency, organisational skills, design and presentation (standard of completion). *Students wanting to make high-end garments are required to provide their own fabric.*

Level 1 CONSTRUCTION (20 credits)

L1CON

This is an introductory course for students interested in construction. The course provides students with a well-balanced, practically orientated course that develops lifelong skills, confidence and a pride in paying attention to detail. The main focus of this course is the Level 1 ITO Unit Standards in Building Construction. The course is assessed using a range of practical and written tasks, covering Construction Fasteners, Construction Materials, Workshop Safety, Construction of 2 Projects and Workshop Procedures and Processes.

MANAAKI MARAE (Ringawera) (8+ credits) 2 hour Friday Course

MANAAKI

The majority of this course will be practically based, however, there is also a theory component regarding the cultural practices and procedures exercised by Māori in daily life, that reflect traditional practices: Tikanga. Practical assessment will involve learners planning and preparing kai for manuhiri at our school and will extend to include our wider school community. This is a Level 1 - 3 class.

MANAAKI MARAE (Kaiāwhina) (20+ credits)

L2FAN

To provide ākonga with opportunities to develop skills and understanding required for both the Food Technology and the Hospitality Industries. The aim of this course is to give students real-life skills before they enter the workforce, with a focus on manaakitanga and catering for large numbers of people.

L3 students opting into this class are eligible to achieve a mix of credits from both Cookery and Manaaki Marae standards. However, to achieve a pass in the L3 Manaaki Marae standards, students must be available to prepare and host events with Manaaki Marae (Ringawera) students.

Level 2 CONSTRUCTION (20 credits)

L2CON

This course develops the knowledge, skills and understanding covered in Level 1 Construction. The projects are more complicated than those made in Level 1 Construction and develop a greater depth of understanding and a higher degree of skill and accuracy. Students are required to work both independently and alongside others to solve a range of construction problems. The main focus of this course is the Level 2 ITO Unit Standards in Building Construction. The course is assessed using a range of practical and written tasks covering Construction Hand tools, Construction Power Tools, Workshop Safety and Construction of projects.

Level 1 and 2 (20 credits) MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

L1MENG, L2MENG

The course is an opportunity for Year 11 - 13 students to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of Mechanical Engineering. Students are required to work alongside others to solve a range of mechanical engineering problems. The main focus of this course is the Level 1 - 3 ITO Unit Standards in Mechanical Engineering. The course is assessed using a range of practical and written tasks covering the following, Workshop Safety, Drawing, Machining, Fabrication and Developing a simple product using engineering materials. Practical projects in the past have included the construction of a go-kart.