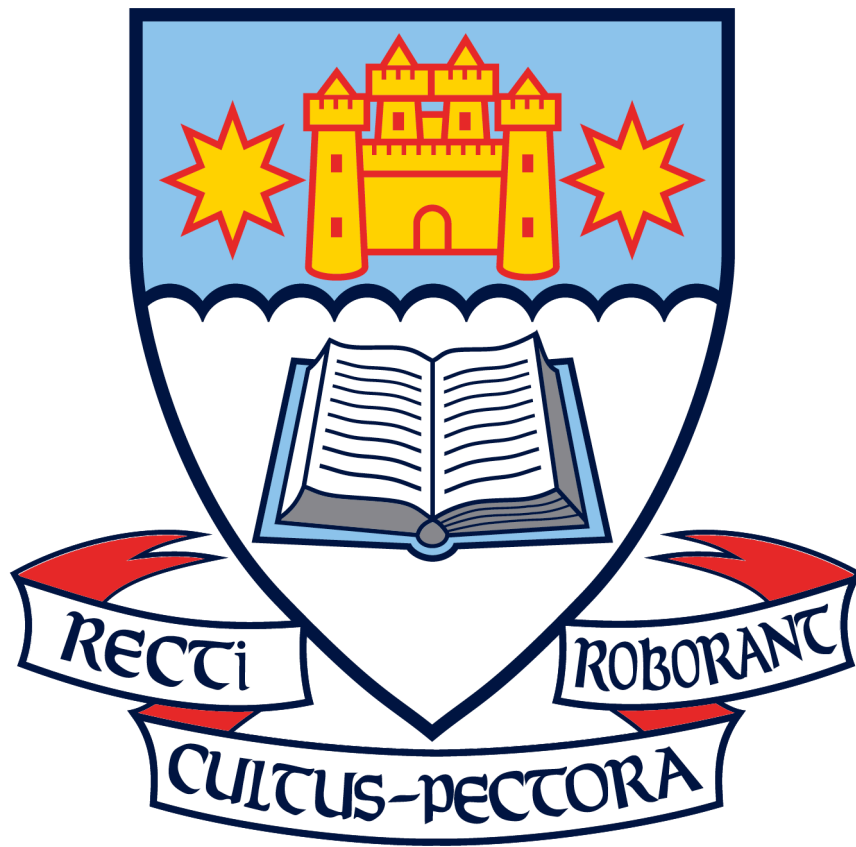




Otago Boys' High School

Course selection for 2026

NCEA Level 1

Contents

[General information](#)

[How to make your subject choices](#)

[Agricultural and Horticultural Science](#)

[Visual Art](#)

[Commerce](#)

[Design and Visual Communication](#)

[Digital Technologies](#)

[English](#)

[Food and Nutrition](#)

[French](#)

[Geography](#)

[German](#)

[History](#)

[Mathematics and Statistics](#)

[Media and Society \(Previously Digital Media Studies\)](#)

[Music](#)

[Applied Physical Education](#)

[Science](#)

[Te Ao Haka-Reo Māori](#)

[Workshop Technology Metal](#)

[Workshop Technology Wood](#)

***NOTE-** From 2024 Level 1 Accounting and Economics is now combined into Commerce and the subject previously known as Digital Media Studies is now renamed Media and Society.

Kia ora boys, parents and caregivers,

Welcome to the Senior School. The aim of this booklet is to assist you with your course planning for next year. The handbook contains information on all subjects currently offered in the senior school.

Be assured that every effort will be made to provide a course of study that will meet your needs and assist you to achieve your academic and career goals.

Advice on course planning is available from the staff listed below. For advice on individual subjects please talk to your teachers and the staff member listed in the information for each subject. Read this booklet carefully and keep it for later reference.

Some quick tips & advice

- Know any prerequisites (what must be studied beforehand);
- Plan ahead into Year 12 and beyond (what your course leads to);
- Consult with the adults you live with and with the teachers in charge of subjects.
- Follow your preferences and choices, not those of your mates.

Key staff for 2026 - You may wish to ask advice from the following staff

Guidance Counsellor	Mr Wither and Mr Howey
Pathway coordinator	Ms Irving

When deciding on subject selections, an invaluable resource is the "[Careers NZ website](#)". Students and their whanau should explore the tool sections, particularly the "Career Quest" and "Subject Matcher" pages.

Students who wish to study a subject at a higher level should discuss this with:

Mr Richard Harvey, Deputy Rector, his email address is richard.harvey@obhs.school.nz

General information

Classes will be organised and timetabled to operate only if there are sufficient numbers of students interested and if staffing and resources are available. There may be composite (mixed level) classes. There is the possibility of linking with Otago Girls' High School for very specific courses that are not able to be delivered at Otago Boys' High School. Entry to such courses requires a rigorous process and only a small number of students will be admitted each year. For the vast majority of students, the school's policy is to have students taught here at school by teachers.

Specific information for Year 11 students in 2026

All students study SIX subjects which must include English and Mathematics & Statistics. All courses will lead to the NCEA Level 1 qualification. Most subjects will have a mixture of internally and externally assessed Achievement Standards.

To achieve NCEA Level 1 students must gain **80 credits overall**, which will include 10 credits in Literacy and 10 credits in Numeracy. Literacy and numeracy credits are an important part of the NCEA qualification. Students cannot achieve NCEA level 1, 2 or 3 unless they gain 10 level 1 literacy credits and 10 level 1 numeracy credits.

From 2024 onward this can be achieved in two ways:

1. Learners will need to achieve a 20-credit co-requisite using either the new literacy (5 reading credits and 5 writing credits) and numeracy (10 credits) assessments.

or

2. From an approved list of literacy and numeracy-rich assessment standards. These standards are indicated for each subject in the tables found on the subject pages below.

Recognising High Achievement

You can gain a NCEA with Merit or Excellence. If you gain enough credits for your NCEA and 50 or more of them are at Excellence, you will earn NCEA Level 1 with Excellence. If you get 50 or more credits at Merit (or a mix of Merit and Excellence), you will earn NCEA Level 1 with Merit.

Course endorsements 2025

A course endorsement provides recognition for a student who has performed exceptionally well in an individual course. The key objective of a course endorsement is to motivate students to achieve their potential in one or more courses. Students will gain an endorsement for a course if, in a single school year, they achieve:

- 14 or more credits at Merit or Excellence at the lower level that supports the endorsement

**at least 3 of these credits from externally assessed standards and 3 credits from internally assessed standards. Note this does not apply to Physical Education and Level 3 Visual Arts.*

Centurions & Bronze Oak Leaf

Centurions recognise those students who have passed all internals and externals through the course of the year. It is acknowledged through the award of the Bronze Oak Leaf, a permanent symbol of our school motto "*Recti Cultus Pectora Roborant*". At various other times throughout the year, in senior assemblies and in year group assemblies, those students who are still maintaining a 100% pass rate will be acknowledged in the company of their peers.

How to make your subject choices

From the evening of **Wednesday the 3rd of September**, you will notice a new link on your KAMAR Portal homepage (<https://obhs.school.kiwi/>) called "Course Selection".



Otago Boys' High School

Student & Parent Portal

Home Page (logged in) Calendar Notices Report Absence Attendance Academic ▾ Details ▾ Careers ▾ Contact Us

Course Selection

When you click on Course Selection you will see a screen that looks like this:

SubjectsL1 Full Year Courses

Course	1	2	3	4	5	6
English						
Level 1 English (11ENG)	☐					
Mathematics						
Level 1 Mathematics and Statistics (11MAS)		☐				
Science						
Level 1 Science (11SCI)			☐	☐	☐	☐
Accounting						
Level 1 Accounting (11ACC)			☐	☐	☐	☐
Agriculture						
Level 1 Agricultural Science (11AGR)			☐	☐	☐	☐

You must make 6 course selections in total. There are some exceptions to this, such as those students being accelerated in Mathematics.

When making course selections you will notice the grey boxes turn to green ticks. You must make one selection per column. In the 1st column you can only select Mathematics & Statistics. In the 2nd column you are only able to select English. Columns 3 to 6 are for your "free" choices, you are strongly advised to select Science as a choice. You will be able to see how your selections are progressing at the bottom left of the screen.

We are expecting workshop numbers to be very tight in 2026. Boys may choose either Workshop Technology Metal or Workshop Technology Wood, not both. Priority will be given to boys who have previous experience in these subject areas.

When you are sure you have made the 6 course selections then click on “Preview Selection”, as shown below and when you are satisfied with your choices please click on “Confirm selection”.

Course	1	2	3	4	5	6
Level 1 History (11HIS)						✓
Te Reo Maori						
Level 1 Te Reo Māori (11MAO)						
Media Studies						
Level 1 Media Studies (11MST)						
Music						
Level 1 Music (11MUS)						
Technology Metal						
Level 1 Metal Technology (11WTM)						
Technology Wood						
Level 1 Wood Technology (11WTW)						

Subject Confirmation ✕

Please confirm your course selection:

- 1: Level 1 English - 11ENG
- 2: Level 1 Mathematics and Statistics - 11MAS
- 3: Level 1 Science - 11SCI
- 4: Level 1 Agricultural Science - 11AGR
- 5: Level 1 Applied Physical Education - 11APP
- 6: Level 1 History - 11HIS

Confirm Selection
Close

Preview Selection
Save

1: Level 1 English - 11ENG, 2: Level 1 Mathematics and Statistics - 11MAS, 3: Level 1 Science - 11SCI, 4: Level 1 Agricultural Science - 11AGR, 5: Level 1 Applied Physical Education - 11APP, 6: Level 1 History - 11HIS

If you change your mind before the deadline please submit another round of choices and please inform Ms Gorman by email (anne.gorman@obhs.school.nz). We are always here to help and advise.

DEADLINE FOR MAKING SUBJECT SELECTION IS

WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPT

Agricultural and Horticultural Science

For further information please see or contact Mr Tim Ashdown - tim.ashdown@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11AGR

Entry information: There are no prerequisites for this course.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: The course offers an introduction to Agricultural and Horticultural production in New Zealand. It is a full NCEA course that offers a mix of internal and external standards. It covers a range of practical and theoretical skills and would appeal to any student who would like a career in the exciting fields of applied sciences and primary industries. It is also suitable for any student who wishes to grow their own food at home.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

In this course we will be learning about the History of Agriculture in NZ, the primary products grown here, animal husbandry, seed sowing and soil science.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Demonstrate understanding of life process and how it is managed and how it is managed in a primary production system.	6	91928	Internal	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of factors that influence the purpose and location of primary production.	5	91929	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of how soil properties are managed in a primary production system	5	91930	External	N	N

Course costs: Exercise book 1B5

Further study from this course: The course is ideal preparation for Level 2 study or for developing skills needed to grow your own food.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: Any career in Agriculture or Biology would be helped by doing this course.

Visual Art

For further information please see or contact Ms Anna Ward – anna.ward@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11ART

Entry information: Art in Years 9 and 10 is a big advantage, but not essential.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: Visual Art at Level 1 focuses on further developing students' practical knowledge in photography, printmaking and painting. Teacher selected models are used to introduce students to how ideas are developed. This is an important tool for Level 2. The course covers developing practical knowledge in wet and dry media, with a focus on painting and printmaking processes and procedures. The research component of this course gives depth and context to the artworks from Māori, NZ European and other cultures.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

Critical thinking, initiative, flexibility, creativity, media literacy, and communication are just some of the skills developed in the creative field of Visual Art. It provides the environment and opportunity for students to experiment, develop and express their own artistic identity.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Use practice-based visual inquiry to explore Aotearoa New Zealand's Māori context and another cultural context	5	91912	Internal	N	N
Explore Visual Arts processes and conventions to inform own art making	5	91914	External	N	N
Produce a body of work informed by established practice, which develops ideas, using a range of media.	5	91915	External	N	N
Produce resolved artwork appropriate to established art making conventions	5	91913	Internal	N	N

Course costs: The fee is \$90 and it includes but is not limited to the following items: A3 folder, sketchbook, set of paints, 6 brushes, 4 pencils, erasers, a mixture of weighted papers, printmaking plates and tools, printmaking inks, tape, folio boards.

Further study from this course: Levels 2 and 3 Visual Art

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: When thinking about future careers, it is important to understand that the skills learnt in Visual Art are a unique blend, and therefore transferable to a wide range of jobs outside the field of Visual Art. Today, modern creative industries are competitive environments in which many pathways for employment can be found. These include television, arts heritage, illustration, marketing, advertising, product design, curator, art historian, packaging, fashion, photography, tattoo artist, animator, gaming and web development.

Commerce

For further information please see or contact Mr Gwyn Pratley – gwyn.pratley@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11COM

Entry information: There are NO prerequisites for entry into this course.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: Commerce is the use and exploration of *accounting*, *economic*, and *business* concepts and models to make sense of society and solve problems. In this subject, ākonga will build the knowledge, skills, and values they need to navigate, and participate in, the economic world. They will learn how participants in the economic world make decisions, and they will analyse how these decisions impact sustainability.

The achievement standards are based around:

- organisation's financial decision making
- price determination for an organisation
- how interdependent financial relationships are affected by an event
- how an organization's financial viability is affected by an event

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course: Studying Commerce will provide ākonga with a broad financial knowledge base to draw from in a variety of roles and organisations in the future.

Understanding financial viability and decision-making processes are essential for operating small businesses. This is equally true of both the continued operations of established businesses and the founding of new ventures. Beyond the operation of businesses, ākonga will have opportunities to develop deeper connections with personal financial capability, and a greater understanding of the financial concepts they encounter in their daily lives.

Exploring the role of pūtake in business operations will have ākonga weigh financial information against social and cultural factors. This experience with complex problem solving can be applied in fields such as governance, community organisation, and project management.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Demonstrate understanding of an organisation's financial decision making	5 Credits	92028	Internal	N	Y
Demonstrate understanding of price determination for an organisation	5 Credits	92029	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of how interdependent financial relationships are affected by an event	5 Credits	92030	External	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of how an organization's financial viability is affected by an event	5 Credits	92031	External	Y	N

Course costs: Nil

Further study from this course: Commerce is a foundational subject that prepares ākonga for further specialised secondary school study. At NCEA Levels 2 and 3, Commerce branches into *Accounting*, *Agribusiness*, *Business Studies*, and *Economics*. A tertiary pathway post Otago Boys' High School also exists to degrees such as Bachelor of Commerce or Arts. Polytechnic courses such as National Diploma in Business Studies or Management.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: Economics can lead to employment in the following sectors: banks, finance and investment companies, share brokers, accounting firms, business services, law firms, major commercial and industrial companies, Reserve Bank, Treasury, Pharmac, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Department of Internal Affairs, Department of Labour, Statistics NZ, Ministry of Commerce, NZ Trade Development Board, economic research and consultancy firms, hospital administration and health authorities, local government and planning authorities, universities and other educational institutions, sociologists & planning.

Design and Visual Communication

For further information please contact or see Mr Patrick Cass - patrick.cass@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11DVC

Entry information: DVC (Design and Visual Communication) in Years 9 and /or 10 preferred, but not essential. Students should be self-motivated and have the ability to work independently. Having a natural flair for drawing or sketching would be an advantage. Students should be comfortable using computers, have good 3D spatial perception and be able to demonstrate attention to detail. Students must have a laptop capable of running AutoDesk 3D modelling software.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: DVC is a creative visual course where students will be using a wide variety of media and drawing techniques on architectural and product design briefs. Students will cover creative design tasks, while developing visual communication skills. Freehand, instrumental and/or computer aided drawing are used as a means of representing design ideas. 3D printing of designs and hand made scale miniatures or prototypes may be used. Research skills, initiative, ingenuity and resourcefulness are attributes a student will develop through his work.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

As visual communication is how most communication occurs (estimated at 80%) there is no more important or relevant skill to hone, especially in this digital age. Any future where ideas need to be developed and/or communicated will benefit from Design and Visual Communication.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Generate product or spatial design ideas using visual communication techniques in response to design influences	5	92000	Internal	N	N
Use representation techniques to visually communicate own product or spatial design outcome	5	92001	Internal	N	N
Develop product or spatial design ideas informed by the consideration of people	5	92002	External	N	N
Use instrumental drawing techniques to communicate own product or spatial design outcome	5	92003	External	N	N

Course costs: There is a small fee to cover the extensive equipment offered to the students. A wide variety of high-quality pens, inks, paints & paper are used. There is also a department colour printer that is extensively used, a 3d printer, miniature modelling materials & equipment. The room is full of specialized equipment that allows for broad presentation techniques that cater to individual strengths and abilities.

Further study from this course: Levels 2 and 3 Design and Visual Communication. University degrees and diploma courses are available at various tertiary institutions in the following areas: architectural design, surveying, engineering, interior design, commercial/print illustration, product design, graphic design, web design, game design, fashion design, art.

Potential careers that value learning and skills form this course: architect, surveyor, engineer, interior designer, product designer, graphic designer, web designer, game designer, illustrator, fashion designer or artist.

Digital Technologies

For further information please see or contact Mr Carl Wright carl.wright@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / 11DGT

Entry information: It is preferable that you have taken Year 9 and Year 10 Digital Technology as this course is quite demanding. You will need to demonstrate confidence in multiple applications.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: Students will be creating databases and will design an infographic from their collected data. They will continue to develop their confidence in designing digital outcomes such as websites and infographics while assessing their usability and aesthetics. Programming is the core learning of over half of this course and will be at the heart of learning. Students will learn three programming languages (HTML/CSS and Python).

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

You will learn to code websites from the ground up, from design to final implementation using original graphics you have designed. You will also learn one of the most popular coding languages used at Google, Python. Additionally, you will develop your problem-solving skills and your ability to critically analyse existing interfaces.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Develop a digital media outcome - Web Design	5	92005	Internal	N	N
Create a computer program - Python	5	92004	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of usability human computer interfaces	5	92006	External	N	N

BYOD device: Recommended Device. It is highly advantageous that you have a laptop of the recommended specification as listed on the school website. Loan laptops and devices will be available if this is a problem.

Further study from this course: Level 2 Digital Technology

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: web designer / developer, digital media and marketing, computer programmer, software engineer, IT consultant, database administrator, data analyst, games developer, application developer.

English

For further information please see or contact Ms Gena Bagley - gena.bagley@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11ENG

Entry information: English is a compulsory subject as part of any Level One student's course. Students will be guided into the appropriate programme based on their Year 10 achievement and advice from their Year 10 English teacher. Entry to any Year 11 programme is at the discretion of the Head of English.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: Level One English courses cover an array of different text-types, topics and contexts, and these are often organised by themes, historical periods, genres or specific skills. Students will be exposed to multiple learning opportunities that enable them to practise their reading, writing, viewing, speaking and listening prowesses.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

Students of English will develop competent and effective communication skills: careful reading, accurate writing and critical thinking. Level One English provides the building blocks for higher levels of study, and it endeavours to empower students' reading and writing expertise, so that they can access various areas of the curriculum.

Assessments of learning will come from the course content below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Develop ideas in writing using stylistic and written conventions	5	91926	External	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of significant aspects of unfamiliar text	5	91927	External	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of specific aspects of studied text	5	91925	Internal	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of how context shapes verbal language use.	5	91924	Internal	Y	N

Course costs: TBC (The course may include a small one-off cost for a subscription to an online writing programme.)

Further study from this course: English is offered at both Years 12 and 13. Level One English also prepares students for other literacy-rich subjects, such as Media Studies and Classics. The study of English literature, as well as English language, are both well-established and popular tertiary pathways internationally.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: English as a discipline extends far beyond its literary confines, offering invaluable skills and insights applicable to various other fields of study and professional areas. Careers in administration, finance, journalism, teaching, general management and research are examples.

Food and Nutrition

For further information please see Ms Emma Moore - emma.moore@obhs.school.nz or Ms Jacqueline Irving - jacqueline.irving@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11FDN

Entry information: It is an advantage but not a requirement to have taken this subject in the Junior School where safe and efficient work routines in our specialist room have been established. Students will undertake both written and practical assessments with photographic evidence at this level. *Food and nutrition underpins all the learning in this subject and is threaded throughout the topics and contexts in this course.*

Topics and contexts studied in this course:

- **Understanding Food Safety** - Students will be given the opportunity to confidently plan and prepare food safely for teenagers.
- **Love my kai** - Students examine a range of food activities which influence eating patterns, food practices and the well-being of self, and others.
- **Making Healthy Food Choices** - Food labels, packaging and the media all impact what we eat. We will explore the positive and negative influences of food advertising and food policies on Hauora.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course

Students need to become competent users of language, text and numbers in a range of contexts. Managing self and working as part of a team are instrumental to success in this practical environment. Collaboration and an understanding of culture will enhance success in this subject.

Assessments of learning from this course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below. It will cover a mix of practical work that will be photographed and written evidence.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Demonstrate understanding of wellbeing through the application of a model of health.	5	92008	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate an understanding of a decision-making process in a health-related situation.	5	92009	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of personal, interpersonal and societal factors that influence hauora.	5	90210	External Exam	N	N

Course costs: Students wishing to have Otago Boys' High School supply ingredients for practical lessons will be invoiced. Alternatively, students may supply their own ingredients.

Further study from this course: There is a natural progression into NCEA Levels 2 and 3 in Food and Nutrition. We are a University Entrance subject

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: Research, Food Technologist, Product Developer, Marketing, Chef, Hospitality, Sports Nutrition, Food Science, Dietician, Agricultural Business, Food Marketing and Teaching.

Tertiary courses include: Bachelor of Culinary Arts. Bachelor of Agriculture and Food Marketing.

French

For further information please see or contact Ms Elaine Kelly - elaine.kelly@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11FRE

Entry information: Ideally you should have completed a full year course in Year 10. If you have not but have former experience of learning French in a different context then you should see Ms Kelly who will assess whether you qualify to take this course.

Topics and contexts studied in this course:

This course builds on the topics you have studied in Year 10 and includes:

Me and my people - talking about your family, friends and relationships, your routines at home

My social life and Whakanui (celebrations) - leisure time, entertainment, parties and outings

Hauora (wellbeing) - sports and activities, healthy living options

Familiar places - your home, local area and holidays

Across these topics you will expand your knowledge of French grammar and will be able to communicate in the present, past and future tenses. A wide variety of authentic materials is used including articles from magazines, news websites for young people, the “Language Perfect” website and other online resources such as “The Language Gym”, “Textivate” and “Teachvid” as well as several AI based learning tools. You will also have the chance to attend French Camp or Immersion Day.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

- Communicating and Effectively Engaging an Audience (Writing, Verbally, Visually)
- Demonstrating Cross cultural and Bilingual Competence
- Thinking both Critically and Creatively
- Demonstrating Resilience and Solving Problems
- Displaying Effective Interpersonal Behaviour whilst Working Independently and in Teams
- Reflecting on Performance and Personal Learning
- Organising Effectively and Displaying Digital Competence

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below and students.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Interact in spoken French to share and respond to information, ideas and opinions. (2 conversations)	5	91964	Internal	N	N
Communicate in French for a chosen purpose. (Spoken and/or written presentation)	5	91965	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of written French related to everyday contexts. (Reading Comprehension)	5	91966	External	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of spoken French related to everyday contexts. (Listening Comprehension)	5	91967	External	N	N

[Back to the contents page](#)

Course costs: \$13.00 for a grammar workbook which you will use for Year 11,12 and 13

Further study from this course: At this stage of your education, to further study at Level Two

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course:

There are many employment pathways open to you because of learning a language. Obvious jobs such as translator, interpreter or teacher are only a few. There is much research that demonstrates that employers really value the transferable skills that you bring because of learning languages, even if they don't need you to speak a language.

Many companies have suggested that having a second language gives you the competitive edge and a USP (Unique Selling point) over other candidates. It is an unusual qualification that employers respect and that makes you look intelligent. Statistics show that you can also earn more than average if you have a second language.

Geography

For further information please see or contact Ms. Kate Hope – kate.hope@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11GEO

Entry information: There are no prerequisites for the course.

Contexts studied in this course: This is a full year course with students expected to complete 20 credits. The general aim of the Level 1 Geography course is to have students gain an understanding of environments which are homes for people. Students will begin to understand the important natural and cultural features of the environment (te taiao) and to investigate the associated processes and relationships.

Topics:

- Natural Processes (coastal, fluvial, glacial)
- Extreme natural events (Tsunami, Earthquakes)
- ARC GIS - digital mapping programme
- Decision making related to a geographic challenge e.g Shark cave diving
- Sustainability of mining and of dairy farming.
- Spatial Distribution of Phenomena (e.g the location of sports stadiums in NZ and the world).
- Street Art and Coastal Erosion research
- Geographic skills such as map interpretation, construction, analysis, research, fieldwork, evaluation, processing, and valuing will be developed. Many of these will have been introduced to students through their existing Social Studies programme.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

- Skills in research and data collection, analysis and evaluation, mathematical and computational skills;
- IT skills, for example computer cartography and the use of databases and spreadsheets; Digital Literacy.
- Written and oral communications skills, including report writing and data presentation;
- The ability to understand abstract concepts and articulate these to a range of audiences;
- The ability to capture and analyse spatial and geographical data;
- Planning and problem-solving skills;
- Creative thinking and the ability to recognise the moral and ethical issues involved in debates;
- The ability to work independently and also in a team, taking on board ideas and coming to a consensus;
- Self-motivation and self-reliance.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below. The majority of students will complete 15 credits worth of assessment.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Demonstrate understanding of the spatial distribution of phenomena and its impacts within te taiao.	5	91932	Internal	Y	N
Explore te taiao using data.	5	91933	Internal	N	Y
Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes operate within te taiao.	5	91934	External	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of geographic decision making in Aotearoa New Zealand or the Pacific.	5	91935	External	Y	N

Course costs: Approximately \$35 for skills workbook. Additional cost for field trip (approximately \$25 - \$35).

[Back to the contents page](#)

Further study from this course: To Level 2 Geography where all skills taught are developed further and applied to our local area. A variety of skills such as gathering, processing, evaluating information are developed which can be applied in other subjects.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: At university level, pathways are available in a range of areas. Ākonga might concentrate on Physical Geography, Social and Political Sciences, Development Studies, Migration Studies, Resource and Environmental Management, Geographic Information Systems, Geology, or Urban Planning. Ākonga with a base in Geography can use their knowledge to enrich a career in engineering, surveying, science, law, management, commerce, or technology.

Geographers work in a wide range of fields, including:

- Urban and regional planning
- Land management
- Industrial location and marketing
- Environmental monitoring and resource management
- Community development at home and abroad
- Researchers, analysts, consultants, technologists, and planners.
- Locational studies-GIS analysts, remote sensing specialists, photogrammetrist, surveyors.

German

For further information please see or contact Ms Elaine Kelly - elaine.kelly@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11GER

Entry information: Ideally you should have completed a full year course in Year 10. If you have not but have former experience of learning German in a different context then you should see Ms Kelly who will assess whether you qualify to take this course.

Topics and contexts studied in this course:

This course builds on the topics you have studied in Year 10 and includes:

Me and my people - talking about your family, friends and relationships, your routines at home

My social life and Whakanui (celebrations) - leisure time, entertainment, parties and outings

Hauora (wellbeing) - sports and activities, healthy living options

Familiar places - your home and local area and holidays

Across these topics you will expand your knowledge of French grammar and will be able to communicate in the present, past and future tenses. A wide variety of authentic materials is used including articles from magazines, news websites for young people, the “Language Perfect” website and other online resources such as “The Language Gym”, “Textivate” and “Teachvid” as well as several AI based learning tools. You will also have the chance to attend German Camp.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

- Communicating and effectively engaging an audience (Writing, Verbally, Visually)
- Demonstrating cross cultural and bilingual competence
- Thinking both critically and creatively
- Demonstrating resilience and solving problems
- Displaying effective interpersonal behaviour whilst working independently and in teams
- Reflecting on performance and personal learning
- Organising effectively and displaying digital competence

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Interact in spoken German to share and respond to information, ideas and opinions. (2 conversations)	5	91968	Internal	N	N
Communicate in German for a chosen purpose. (Spoken and/or written presentation)	5	91969	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of written German related to everyday contexts. (Reading Comprehension)	5	91970	External	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of spoken German related to everyday contexts. (Listening Comprehension)	5	91971	External	N	N

[Back to the contents page](#)

Course costs: \$13 for a grammar workbook which you will use in Year 11,12 and 13

Further study from this course: At this stage of your education, to further study at Level Two.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: There are many employment pathways open to you because of learning a language. Obvious jobs such as translator, interpreter or teacher are only a few. There is much research that demonstrates that employers really value the transferable skills that you bring because of learning languages, even if they don't need you to speak a language.

Many companies have suggested that having a second language gives you a competitive edge and a USP (Unique Selling point) over other candidates. It is an unusual qualification that employers respect and that makes you look intelligent. Statistics show that you can also earn more than average if you have a second language.

History

For further information please see Mr Alastair Campbell - alastair.campbell@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11HIS

Entry information: There is no specific entry requirement beyond a genuine interest in the past.

Topics and contexts studied could include:

- Black Civil Rights in the USA
- Status of Maori in NZ during the 20th and 21st centuries
- The Otago Gold Rush
- NZ & World War II

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn: critical reasoning and analytical skills, including the capacity for solving problems and thinking creatively

- intellectual rigour and independence, including the ability to conduct detailed research
- ability to construct an argument and communicate findings in a clear and persuasive manner, both orally and in writing
- capability to work without direct supervision and manage time and priorities effectively
- ability to discuss ideas in groups, and to negotiate, question and summarise
- capacity to think objectively and approach problems and new situations with an open mind
- understanding of the different factors that influence the activities of groups and individuals in society.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below. The majority of students will complete 15 credits worth of assessment.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Engage with a variety of primary sources in a historical context	5	92024	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of the significance of a historical context	5	92025	Internal	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of historical concepts in contexts of significance to Aotearoa New Zealand	5	92026	External	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of perspectives on a historical context	5	92027	Internal	Y	N

Course costs: \$30 approx - Field Trip to research Otago Gold Rush

Further study from this course:

Within school - Level 2, 3 and Scholarship History.

After school - Higher education including law, business, politics, international relations and policy.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: armed forces, accountancy firms, banks, higher educational institutes, law firms, management consultancies, non-governmental organisations, publishing, schools, state services, and television and radio broadcaster.

[Back to the contents page](#)

Mathematics and Statistics

For further information, please see Mr Richard Roe richard.roe@obhs.school.nz or Mr Richard Sykes richard.sykes@obhs.school.nz.

Although there are two choices for Mathematics and Statistics, you will only be able to select 11MAS on the portal when selecting your 2025 subjects. We will work with you upon receiving 2024 results to place you into the most appropriate Mathematics and Statistics course for you.

11 Numeracy is a course that has been designed for students who have not gained numeracy in year 10 and are beginning level 4 of the New Zealand Curriculum or below in testing done at the end of the year.

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11MaS

Entry information: While students may have a preference as to which course they choose, the final placement will be dependent on their performance in Year 10 and advice from their Mathematics and Statistics teacher. All students need to put on their course selection form is Year 11 Mathematics and Statistics (11MAS).

Topics and contexts studied in this course: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Graphing and Statistics.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

Problem-solving, mathematical processes, and statistical enquiry.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Explore data using a statistical enquiry process	5	91944	Internal	N	Y
Use mathematical methods to explore problems that relate to life in Aotearoa New Zealand or the Pacific	5	91945	Internal	N	Y
Interpret and apply mathematical and statistical information in context	5	91946	External	N	Y
Demonstrate mathematical reasoning	5	91947	External	N	Y

Course costs: \$25 for write-on booklets supplied by the Mathematics Department. A scientific calculator, costing approximately \$25.

Further study from this course: This course will lead to Level 2 and Level 3 Mathematics and Statistics courses at school

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: The course will be centred around developing and applying mathematical and statistical problem-solving and analytical skills. Critical thinking and being able to unpack the question are key ideas in this course. These are valuable skills for those interested in careers in science, health, arts, trades, education, commerce and technology.

[Back to the contents page](#)

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11Num

Entry information: While students may have a preference as to which course they choose, the final placement will be dependent on their performance in Year 10 and advice from their Mathematics and Statistics teacher. All students need to put on their course selection form is Year 11 Mathematics and Statistics (11MAS).

Topics and contexts studied in this course: Number, Measurement, Geometry, Graphing, Statistics.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course: Problem solving, mathematical processes, statistical enquiry and analytical skills.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Use Mathematics and Statistics to meet the numeracy demands of a range of situations	10	32406	External	N	Y
Explore data using a statistical enquiry process	5	91944	Internal	N	Y
Use mathematical methods to explore problems that relate to life in Aotearoa New Zealand or the Pacific	5	91945	Internal	N	Y

Course costs: \$25 for write-on booklets supplied by the Mathematics Department. A scientific calculator, costing approximately \$25.

Further study from this course: This course will lead to an alternative pathway through NCEA, students will be able to progress to level 3 mathematics but it may take them longer to get there.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: The course will be centred around developing and applying mathematical and statistical problem solving and analytical skills. Critical thinking and being able to unpack the question are key ideas in this course. These are valuable skills for those interested in careers in science, health, arts, trades, education, commerce and technology.

Media and Society (Previously Digital Media Studies)

For further information please see or contact Mr Scott Mouat -scott.mouat@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11MSD

Entry information: This subject is an innovative adaptation of Level One Media Studies, allowing students to develop the skills and learning of Media Studies within the new Social Studies NCEA structure. All students are welcome to try this subject.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: This course is designed to look at contemporary media and the role it plays in shaping our society by considering the core concepts of social studies through a media lens. As part of this course, students will look at the influence and roles of social and entertainment media in shaping society, demonstrating their learning through reflecting on work and creating various media texts as part of their assessment. This course allows students to advance their practical skills in storytelling and critical thinking, as well as literacy skills, improvised drama work and an introduction to editing..

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course:

Critical thinking, interpretation and analysis skills, structuring and managing time and resources (logistics), writing screenplays, production and editing software.

Assessments of learning from the course content will come from the following options.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Social Studies 1.2 Describe a social action undertaken to support or challenge a system.	5	92519	Internal	Y	N
Social Studies 1.1 Demonstrate understanding of findings of a social studies inquiry.	5	92048	Internal	Y	N
Drama 1.2 Participate in creative strategies to create a drama.	5	91941	Internal	N	N

Course costs: \$10 for Adobe Suite Licenses

Students must have an A4 clearfile. NB It is highly advantageous that you have a laptop of the recommended specification as listed on the school website. Limited loan devices are available from Media Studies if this is a problem.

Further study from this course: Level 2 Digital Media Studies, History, Geography.

Potential careers that value learning and skills form this course: Media production, television, radio, film/television, journalism, publicity, social media influencer and other creative industries.

[Back to the contents page](#)

Music

For further information please see or contact Konrad Hanson konrad.hanson@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11MUS

Entry information: Music in Years 9 and 10 is preferred but is not essential. Students need the ability to perform on an instrument/vocal. It is recommended that students are taking lessons for their instrument.

Topics and contexts studied in this course:

- Performance
- Music Technology
- Theory
- Film Music
- Various Genres
- Composition/Songwriting

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course: Creative thinking, confidence in performing and speaking to an audience, self-management, and collaboration.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Use music skills in a music style	5	91948	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate performance skills	5	91949	Internal	N	N
Shape music ideas to create an original composition	5	91951	External	N	N

Course costs: Purchase/Hire of Instrument/Tuition Fees as applicable

Further study from this course: Music at university, MAINZ, SIT, Ara Institute of Canterbury

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: Collaboration, communication, and creativity serve you well in a variety of fields: musician, accompanist, music production, audio engineer, composer, songwriter, arranger, film scorer, education.

Applied Physical Education

For further information please see or contact Mr Mike McGarry – mike.mcgarry@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11APP

Entry information: Students need to have shown commitment to fully participate in the practical aspects of this subject in Years 9 and 10.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: This 20-credit course is practically based with an emphasis on the social development of the student and the positive effect that exercise can have on their lifestyle and well-being. The students will participate in a range of physical activities. They will be able to demonstrate knowledge of how their body functions and what effects exercise has on the quality of movement.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course: Emphasis is placed on the development of teamwork and interpersonal skills.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Students are able to apply movement strategies in an applied setting	5	92016	Internal	N	N
Students are able to demonstrate understanding of how kotahitanga is promoted in movement through application of strategies	5	92017	Internal	N	N
Students are able to demonstrate understanding of the influence of a personal movement experience on Hauora.	5	92018	External	N	N
Students are able to demonstrate understanding of influences on movement in Aotearoa New Zealand or the Pacific.	5	92019	External	N	N
<i>The following Unit Standards may also be offered:</i>					
Demonstrate mountain biking on grade 1 terrain	2	US 20137	Internal	N	N
Complete white and yellow orienteering course	2	US 5479	Internal	N	N

Course costs: The School Physical Education uniform is compulsory to wear. There is a High-Performance Sport fee of \$50.

Further study from this course: Internally into Level 2 Physical Education, Level 2 Applied Physical Education, and Outdoor Education.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: Externally into the Health and Fitness industry.

[Back to the contents page](#)

Science

For further information please see or contact Tim Ashdown - tim.ashdown@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11SCI

Entry information: There are no entry requirements.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: In this year 11 course you will study the New Zealand ecosystem, Chemical reactions, Climate change and Mechanics and Electricity.. The aim is to show you a variety of skills and knowledge over the course of the year. Our aim is to give you the skills to continue studying science into the future.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course: You will learn about investigative work and practical skills, research and group work. You will also be able to present work in a variety of ways and work on individual projects.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Demonstrate understanding of a science informed response to a local issue	5	91920	Internal	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of Chemical reactions in context	6	92021	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate understanding of human-induced change within the Earth system	5	92044	Internal	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of a physical system using energy concepts	5	92047	External	Y	N

Course costs: \$30 for external study books and exercise book.

Further study from this course: This course is an ideal preparation for studying Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth and Space Science or Agricultural Science in years 12 and 13.

Potential careers that value learning and skills form this course: A wide variety of careers require a knowledge of Science. You will also learn important skills like analysing and investigating the world around you.

Te Ao Haka-Reo Māori

For further information, please contact Mr Neil Brew - neil.brew@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11MAO

Entry information: A genuine interest in Kapa Haka, performance, and Te Reo Māori is essential. While previous experience in Kapa Haka and Māori Performing Arts is advantageous.

To get the most out of this subject, students are strongly encouraged to join our kapa haka group. This is where you'll get the true benefits of the subject and experience the spirit of Te Ao Haka firsthand.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: This full year course develops the skills of listening, writing, reading and speaking in Te Reo Māori. The course topics are based on the students themselves, their families, their interests, hobbies, and a range of everyday topics, for example kei te kainga, hui marae, kei te kura, and te ao taiohi. The course also aims to deepen students' awareness and understanding of Māori culture and protocol.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course: Collaboration and teamwork, creativity and imagination, critical thinking, problem solving, global and cultural awareness, information literacy, leadership, oral and written communication skills, social responsibility and ethics, technology literacy, initiative. This programme is designed to ensure the above skills are taught and utilised in our classes to ensure our boys have a wide understanding of the world and their place in it.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Achievement standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Demonstrate understanding of key features of Te Ao Haka	6	91976	Internal	Y	N
Kōrero kia whakamahi i te reo o tōna ao	6	91086	Internal	Y	N
Perform an item from a Te Ao Haka discipline	6	91977	Internal	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of categories within a Te Ao Haka discipline	4	91978	External	Y	N
Demonstrate understanding of elements within a Te Ao Haka performance	4	91979	External	Y	N

Course costs: Nil

Further study from this course: Te Ao Haka-Reo Māori 2 (Year 12), Te Ao Haka-Reo Māori 3 (Year 13).

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: An ability to speak and understand the Māori language is a desirable skill in many employment areas, especially those that work with Māori or require employees to have a cross-cultural awareness.

Workshop Technology Metal

For further information please see or contact Mr Greg Densem - greg.densem@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11WTM

Entry information: Experience in Year 10 Workshop Technology Metal is preferred but not essential.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: This is a Unit Standards based, vocationally focussed course of study. Key topics are, Prototype design and construction, Measurement, Safety, Handtools.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course: Workshop safety, Design process, CNC design and programming, correct use and care of hand, power and machine tools. Marking out, cutting, shaping, forming and welding skills.

Topic of learning	Credits	Unit standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Demonstrate knowledge of safety procedures in a specific engineering workshop	2	22926	Internal	N	N
Develop a simple product using engineering materials	10	22924	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate basic engineering workshop skills under close supervision	12	22923	Internal	N	N
Select, use, and care for simple measuring devices used in engineering	2	4433	Internal	N	N

Course costs: A base fee of \$120 is included in the school fees to cover the cost of “standard” metal and other consumable items such as paints (excluding spray), abrasives, gas and welding supplies. Items such as hinges, handles, catches, timber, upholstery and any other special materials or components must be sourced and supplied by the student.

Further study from this course: Within school, the subject is available at Level 2 (Year 12). Polytechnic or Apprenticeship.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: The skills gathered can be applied to many potential occupations such as: Fabrication, refrigeration and air conditioning, general engineering, tool making, fitting and machining, maintenance engineering, lock-smithing, plus many other trades. It is also a good launching pad for tertiary study (especially design or engineering).

Workshop Technology Wood

For further information please see or contact Mr Johnny Simmons – johnny.simmons@obhs.school.nz

NCEA Level 1 / Course code: 11WTW

Entry information: Preferably a student should have successfully completed a Year 10 course in either Wood or Metal Technology. Students must have a good work ethic, be enthusiastic and take pride in the work that they produce.

Topics and contexts studied in this course: Students design and construct a bespoke Chopping Board using hand skills and modern machinery. Students will use the Technology Design Process to design and model a bluetooth speaker system, within this project they will get to use CNC technology like the laser cutter and router to make their project.

Useful 21st Century skills and competencies you will learn in this course: Creativity, eye-hand coordination, develop work ethic, neatness and accuracy, social skills, correct use of hand tools and machines, self-confidence.

Assessments of learning from the course content will be an appropriate and personalised selection from the list below.

Topic of learning	Credits	Unit standard number	Mode of assessment	Counts towards Level 1 Literacy	Counts towards Level 1 Numeracy
Demonstrate and apply knowledge of safe working practices and use PPE during the construction of a BCATS project	2	24352	Internal	N	N
Apply elementary workshop procedures and processes for a BCATS project	8	24356	Internal	N	N
Demonstrate knowledge of construction and manufacturing materials used in BCATS projects	4	92014	Internal	N	N
Use joints for a BCATS project	3	25920	Internal	N	N

Course costs: \$150 which covers the cost of timber, screws, glue and sandpaper. Hinges, handles and catches are to be bought by the students.

Further study from this course: Level 2 Technology Wood.

Potential careers that value learning and skills from this course: Any profession where an importance of eye-hand co-ordination is required. Any trade that requires practical skills.