

Heretaunga College Junior Curriculum Information for 2021

Kia ora koutou,

Heretaunga College is super excited to inform our wider school community that we will have a new Junior Curriculum from 2021!

This curriculum will offer your child a new and exciting way of learning that is contextualised, reflective of student interest, which focuses on developing our young people into independent, agentic learners ready for the challenges of our modern society.

Following on from the outstanding success of our new senior school curriculum, our teachers have worked hard for a number of years now to reinvigorate programmes for our Year 9 and Year 10 students from 2021.

Our Purpose / Our Why?

Underpinning all curriculum at Heretaunga College is our purpose, our whakatauki, and our mission. Please see the handout ([link here](#)) that explains the essential ingredients for the learning that happens here at Heretaunga College. These, alongside our [5 Ways to Wellbeing](#) model and our Pride Values provide the rich approaches to teaching and learning that are both 21st Century and student-centred.

In a nut-shell...

Our Year 9 and 10 students from 2021 will be engaged in a new, authentic and exciting programme of learning. Some of the key aspects of this curriculum include:

- Year 9 and 10 taught together in combined junior courses
- Courses that are based on student interest and need
- Courses that are contextualised and that promote authentic and real-world learning opportunities
- Learning that covers the breadth required within the New Zealand Curriculum
- Student choice in what they learn
- The school year broken into two semesters (two terms per semester)
- Students will choose seven courses for Semester One and seven courses for Semester Two
- Each course will be three hours per week
- All junior students will have an 8th course – this is for mentoring (three hours per week) and for enrichments
- From Year 9 through to Year 13, students will have a Kaiarahi (guide/mentor) who will stay with them throughout the years at Heretaunga College
- The mentoring programme for juniors will feature 1-1 academic tracking, restorative practice and wellbeing programmes, goal-setting, active community participation and a focus on learning and application of our Pride Values.

Our courses...

We have colour-coded the courses that we will offer to students. See the table below:

Course Colours	How often?	Curriculum Area
Blue courses (A)	At least... 1 per semester (two terms)	Science
Blue courses (B)	At least... 1 per semester (two terms)	Maths
Yellow courses (A)	At least... 1 per semester (two terms)	English
Yellow courses (B)	At least... 1 per semester (two terms)	Social Science
Orange courses	At least... 1 per year	PE/Health
Purple courses	At least... 1 per year	Technology and Digi Tech
Green courses	At least... 1 per year	Languages (Te Reo, German and Japanese)
Red courses	At least... 1 per year	Visual and Performing Arts
White courses	At least... 1 per 2 years	Commerce
Lavender courses	Admission to these courses will be determined at HOD / Dean discretion. Students will be identified on an individual basis, or by application.	Gifted and Talented Learning Support

Please refer to the handout attached for course titles:

[Parent Handbook](#)

Mentoring and Enrichments...

The 8th course that our students will be engaged in is their Mentoring programme. This is three hours per week with their Kaiarahi (guide/mentor). Enrichments will begin from week six of term one. These enrichments are created from our five ways of wellbeing, and provide students with one hour per week course they choose, that supports their individual wellbeing. Details can also be found on the parent handbook.

Finally, please refer to our [Google Slide](#) that was shown at our recent Junior Curriculum Parent Evening. You will find links to other documents, videos and a course selection 'cheat sheet' to guide you through the process of making informed course choices alongside your child.

Any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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