



Year 10 Specialist subjects 2026

To help students choose 'Specialist subjects' for 2026, this booklet contains:

- a brief description of each Year 10 subject
- links to video clips of teachers presenting information on each course.

Also, families are invited to an information evening at MHJC on Wednesday 30th July from 5:30pm.
(At this evening, please go straight to whanau displays, not the Theatre, which is for Year 6 families)

Instructions

Use the **Specialist subjects table** below to ensure that:

- your 1st and 2nd choices must come from different columns.
- your 3rd choice can come from any column.

A link to the **Specialist subject selection Form** will be emailed to students on Thursday 31st July, This:

- is for you to **enter 3 Specialist subjects**, from which you'll be allocated 2 to study.
- must be **submitted by Friday 15th August** (Term 3 Week 5)

Subject charges

Some subjects have charges, which are for either a 'take home' component, or outside provider costs.

By choosing a Specialist subject, parents agree to pay the charges listed before the course starts.

Social Sciences	Arts	Technology	Languages
Business Studies	Music (\$25)	Food Technology* (\$100)	Te Ao Māori
Media Studies (\$25)	Visual Art (\$70)	Technology - hard materials (\$80)	Spanish
History	Drama & Dance	Digital Technology (\$80)	
Outdoor Education (\$400)	Drama	Design & Visual Communication	
Hospitality & Catering* (a business focus) (\$100)		Fashion and Design (\$80)	

* NB - you can not choose both Hospitality & Catering AND Food Technology

Social Sciences

Year 10 Business Studies

In Business Studies, you'll learn about the roles of business in society and the economy. You'll explore business goals, types of business and why people set up businesses, including the importance of entrepreneurship skills in the Business environment.

You'll also investigate basic Finance, Marketing, and Economics. This includes banking, income, tax, and how to budget, save and invest. We work in teams to run a business for Market Day, in which students make decisions to try to make their business profitable. In Economics, we learn about markets and how consumers and producers affect supply and demand, and thus prices.

[Video link](#)

No subject charge

Year 10 Media Studies

In Media Studies, you'll explore media concepts critically and apply them in the production process through practical activities. You'll learn the essential skills and knowledge needed to progress to senior Media Studies. These skills include communicating confidently, which is developed as you work in production groups to create media products, such as short films.

You'll enjoy opportunities to enter external short film competitions, and will examine visual texts to unpack the director's role. Using cameras and digital editing software, you'll work through a process to meet the requirements of a client brief. Students learn to convert digital footage into a public shared resource, and to open a YouTube Account to upload their own videos. One of these is a video CV for applying for jobs via the Indeed website.

[Video link](#)

\$25 subject charge

Year 10 History

By studying some major events, trends and developments of the twentieth century, you'll gain an understanding of today's World. In particular, the past provides a perspective on current issues such as race relations and conflict, both in New Zealand and overseas. Examples are our investigation of the causes and social impact, of major World events, such as the wars of the first half of the 20th Century.

Learning History develops skills in writing, presenting or debating an opinion, critical thinking, and analysis of information sources skills, and includes interpreting historical cartoons. These skills are helpful in tertiary education and a wide range of careers, including law, medicine, journalism and marketing.

[Video link](#)

No subject charge

Year 10 Outdoor Education

If you're adventurous, enjoy being out in nature and keen to experience activities like whitewater kayaking, mountain biking, camping and tramping in both coastal and forest environments, then this course could be perfect for you! You'll learn to organise an 'expedition' that is both challenging and safe, and to build your resilience, independence and collaboration skills in unfamiliar situations.

The course includes both classroom-based and outdoor lessons, with some overnight trips. It's delivered by both experienced teachers and external instructors. The focus is on leadership, interpersonal skills, environmental awareness, managing risks and developing confidence and self esteem. Students will require basic, appropriate outdoor clothing; a detailed gear list will be provided to families.

Please note that this subject has a **higher course fee** due to costs associated with equipment hire, instructors, and venue access. **Full payment is required prior to the course beginning** to confirm your place. Due to logistics and staffing, only one Year 10 Outdoor Education class will be offered.

[Video link](#)

\$400 subject charge

Year 10 Hospitality & Catering

This course is a Technology and Business Studies based course. Technology is a University approved course and continues in secondary schools to Year 13 NCEA and Scholarship. In Year 10, you'll develop and test food and beverage products that meet a client's design brief for a specific event or function. This will develop your ability to think creatively and to work both independently, and as a team member.

You'll learn about Food Safety in the Service and Hospitality Industry, the history of different food businesses and how they're organised, including the role of marketing, advertising, and finance (costing, yield, pricing). Your understanding will be demonstrated by working in a team to prepare and serve food for real events during the year. You'll visit different food businesses to enhance your class learning.

You'll learn the skills and knowledge needed in NCEA Levels 1, 2 & 3, and beyond. There are many Technology-related careers and tertiary courses for which Technology is an entry requirement.

Students **cannot choose both** Hospitality and Food Technology.

To secure your place in the class, full payment is required before the course starts.

[Video link](#)

\$100 subject charge

Arts

Year 10 Music

Year 10 Music builds on the skills students have already developed as musicians. To participate in this course, students should have at least one year of experience learning an instrument. Regular access to this instrument outside of school is highly recommended.

Music theory and musical elements are explored through score reading, listening, and analysis of selected pieces. This knowledge is further developed through songwriting and composition, with additional opportunities to explore music technology.

You'll create, rehearse, and perform both live and recorded performances to build presentation skills, confidence, and self-management. Developing technical ability on a primary instrument, you'll access the itinerant music programme, which provides weekly instrument lessons in small groups during class time.

[Video link](#)

\$25 subject charge

Year 10 Visual Arts

The focus is on practical art-making, to learn to express yourself effectively and to extend your range of skills, knowledge and techniques in a variety of traditional and contemporary media and processes, including drawing, painting, printmaking and design, and digital applications.

You'll be required to keep a Visual Arts diary and will be assessed both formally and informally on your practical knowledge, understanding and skills throughout the course.

This Year 10 course is a prerequisite for enrolling on a Visual Art or Graphics course at senior level. Graphics is part of the Visual Arts curriculum, and should not be confused with Digital and Visual Communication (DVC).

"The internet has created an explosion of opportunity for traditional artists, digital designers and multimedia artists" <http://www.studentartguide.com/articles/reasons-to-study-art>

Full payment is required **before the course starts** to secure your place on the course.

[Video link](#)

\$70 subject charge

Year 10 Drama & Dance

This course develops basic skills in both drama and dance, and the balance of time spent on each area will reflect the interests and needs of the group. Although there are no pre-requisites, enthusiasm and a willingness to 'have a go' are important. This is a great choice for students with a passion for performing arts, who want to increase their confidence, public speaking, group work and performance skills.

In Drama, you'll develop performance skills, such as techniques, elements and conventions, which help you to perform in a range of situations. You'll learn to work with different people in a range of situations, building your communication skills and confidence when performing in public. There's an opportunity to view a live performance as a class, and you'll study a Playwright and perform scenes from their plays.

In dance, you'll learn a variety of techniques and choreographic skills in a number of genres and styles. You'll work both independently and in groups to compose work to be performed in front of an audience. You will be required to audition, rehearse and perform dances at multiple school events throughout the year.

[Video link](#)

No subject charge

Year 10 Drama

Year 10 Drama builds on skills from Year 9, such as Drama Techniques, Elements and Conventions. You'll work in groups to develop and perform pieces for MHJC students and the wider community. There's an opportunity to view a live performance as a class. Scripted work involves studying a Playwright and performing scenes from their plays. You'll create your own script and scene for an audience.

You will learn to work with a wide range of people in various situations, developing your communication skills and confidence in public forums. Although not essential, an interest in performing and creating original work for an audience is beneficial. Enthusiasm and a willingness to try everything are essential. The skills acquired in Drama lead to a number of pathways. Speaking with confidence in public is an invaluable asset. Being able to work cooperatively and creatively develops problem solving skills.

[Video link](#)

No subject charge

Technology

Year 10 Food Technology

Technology is a University approved course and continues through to Year 13 NCEA. In this Year 10 course, you'll use technological practice to design, develop and test food products that meet a design brief. You'll think creatively, both independently and in groups, to undertake research and development using a variety of sources. You'll evidence your learning in written and practical form.

You'll learn the skills and knowledge needed in NCEA Levels 1, 2 & 3, and beyond. There are many Technology-related careers and tertiary courses for which Technology is an entry requirement.

*Students **cannot choose both** Food Technology and Hospitality.*

*Full payment is required **before the course starts** to secure your place on the course.*

[Video link](#)

\$100 subject charge

Year 10 Hard Materials Technology

This course is suitable for both female and male students. You'll develop technological products using modern processes, machine tools and computer aided design (CAD) programs. You'll investigate existing products to identify the key attributes that make products successful, and then make 'mockups' or models to test your ideas, before using a range of hard materials to create a final product.

The range of skills and knowledge developed will prepare you for NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3; Technology is a University approved course, and many Technology-related careers and tertiary courses have Technology as an entry requirement.

*Full payment is required **before the course starts** to secure your place on the course.*

[Video link](#)

\$80 subject charge

Year 10 Digital Technology (Electronics/Coding)

Digital technology is a University approved course and continues to Year 13. You'll learn coding for games and apps on different coding platforms, and program and use microcontrollers and electronic components to produce your own products, such as music amplifiers and light units. It's a practical course, with some theory and written work. This course is suitable for both female and male students.

It is an advantage to have taken the year 9 DGT Technology course, but not a prerequisite. You'll need some problem solving skills and a logical approach, as demonstrated in Maths and Science. A Mac or Windows laptop with a USB port is best, as you'll often use software to program digital microcontrollers. Chromebooks and iPads may have limitations for this.

The course is project-based, and uses inquiry and 'learning by doing'. It includes:

- Understanding of circuit design and electronic components
- Using prototype boards to test and prove electronic circuit designs and programmes
- Safe and competent use of workshop machinery and power tools
- Programming and use of microcontrollers with a practical outcome
- Manufacturing processes using CAD, 3D printing and laser cutting
- Using computers as an aid to design and development

*Full payment is required **before the course starts** to secure your place on the course.*

[Video link](#)

\$80 subject charge

Year 10 Design and Visual Communication (formerly Graphics)

Design and Visual Communication (DVC) is an international language, which enables students to demonstrate their ideas. DVC is taught through Year 13 and on to Technical Institutes and Universities in Architecture, Graphics Design, Engineering, Interior Design, Advertising, Computer Graphics, Landscape Design etc.

Having studied DVC in Year 9 is useful, though it's not a prerequisite. This Year 10 course lays the foundation for Year 11 DVC. It focuses on meeting design briefs from: Architectural Design; Technological Design; and Media Design.

It develops students' ability to find solutions to real-life design problems by applying the design process and communicating their ideas. You'll use a range of 'Graphics Modes', such as:

- Free-hand sketching in 2D & 3D
- Technical drawing (instrumental drawing 2D & 3D)
- Rendering
- Modelling
- Design Software

*Full payment is required **before the course starts** to secure your place on the course.*

[Video link](#)

No subject charge

Year 10 Fashion and Design

Technology is a University approved course and continues through to Year 13 NCEA. In this course, you'll follow the Design Process and learn knowledge and skills to design and create items that meet a Design Brief. Specifically, you'll investigate the use of colour and digital design, and create fashion illustrations to present your design ideas.

You'll design and make a 'personal item', which expresses who you are through fabric, design, shape, texture and colour. This will allow you to express yourself in a unique way through fabric, design, shape, texture and colour - learning specialist construction skills on the way. You'll learn about the world of fashion, in the past and present day, what is trending and the future possibilities of fashion.

After an introductory project you will be given the opportunity to Design and Make items suitable for a personal project or you may wish to get involved in a community project. Some of these projects can be linked to e-badges and cornerstones such as the Wearable Arts competition or a project that makes something for others for Leadership with service.

Join this class to have some fun, letting your creative ideas become a reality.

*Full payment is required **before the course starts** to secure your place on the course.*

[Video link](#)

\$80 subject charge

Languages

Year 10 Te Ao Māori

The Te Ao Māori kaupapa is to build on the skills and knowledge that students' bring to the course from previous learning. You'll explore a range of skills, events and situations that are important to Māori people, including Te Reo Māori (Māori speaking and writing), Tikanga Māori (Culture and traditions) and Te Ao Haka (Māori Performing Arts). Tikanga Māori is learned within Whakatau, mihi, pōwhiri and Te Ao Haka.

In Te Ao Māori, students may have the opportunity to complete NCEA Achievement and Unit Standards. Tikanga Māori skills and knowledge are applied in real life situations. Learning Te Ao Haka involves students in discovering, identifying, accessing, and exploring foundational knowledge and ideas.

[Video link](#)

No subject charge

Year 10 Spanish

There are more Spanish speakers than English speakers in the world; more than 350 million native speakers over 22 countries. In the Year 9 course, students learn both language and culture, which will enable them to also understand other Latin-based languages, like Portuguese and Italian.

On this course, you'll complete a NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standard, and be prepared for further study of Spanish at senior school, should you choose. You'll learn to: use Spanish to describe yourself and others, apply correct Spanish grammar, and understand Spanish and Latin-American lifestyle, festivities and traditions. Also you'll have Spanish penpal friends to email!

You'll learn through: videos and presentations; language software such as Rockalingua, and Duolingo; interacting with other students in class; field trips in which you'll apply your conversation skills; and interacting with other Spanish students from other schools in New Zealand.

[Video link](#)

No subject charge