



NELSON COLLEGE

TE KURA TAMATĀNE O WHAKATŪ

INTERNATIONAL



NEW ZEALAND
EDUCATION
Manapou ki te Ao

MANAAKI | CARE

Pietas

PONO | INTEGRITY

Probitas

KAIRANGI | SUCCESS

Sapientia

NGĀ POU

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WELCOME

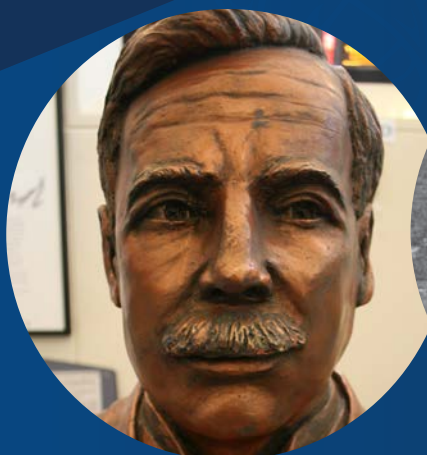
NAU MAI, HAERE MAI

Founded in 1856, Nelson College is the oldest state secondary school in New Zealand.

The school has around 1000 boys. It is a well-known landmark in Nelson City, set on beautiful grounds with excellent facilities for learning, sport, recreation and performing arts.

Many well-known former students have attended Nelson College. The most famous is Sir Ernest Rutherford, who won the Nobel Prize in 1908 for his work on radioactive elements. Other notable Old Boys include former New Zealand Prime Ministers Sir Wallace Rowling and Sir Geoffrey Palmer.

With more than 170 years of history, the school has built a strong reputation for academic excellence, leadership, sports, arts, and personal growth. Students benefit from a supportive community where they are encouraged to challenge themselves, develop confidence, and prepare for success both in New Zealand and internationally.



NELSON

WHAKATŪ

A PLACE TO GROW, LEARN AND EXPLORE

Nelson is a welcoming coastal city of about 50,000 people, set at the top of New Zealand's South Island and forming the heart of the wider Nelson–Tasman region. Known for its striking natural beauty, creative culture, and strong community spirit, the area blends relaxed rural charm with a lively urban centre.

Nelson enjoys some of the highest sunshine hours in the country, with warm summers and mild winters that make outdoor activities easy year-round. The broader Tasman region adds even more diversity, from golden beaches and orchards to national parks and small towns, creating a vibrant, connected place to live, study, and explore.

Approx flight times to
Nelson:

Auckland 90mins

Wellington 45mins

Christchurch 55mins





Nelson has a diverse economy with important industries such as horticulture, fishing and tourism. The region is well known for its vineyards, orchards and seafood.

Nelson's natural environment provides endless opportunities for outdoor adventure. The region offers easy access to golden beaches, rugged mountains, alpine lakes, clear rivers, and expansive national parks. Locals and visitors enjoy Tahunanui Beach, a favourite spot for swimming, paddleboarding, and other water activities. Three national parks—Abel Tasman, Kahurangi, and Nelson Lakes—are all within a 90-minute drive, each offering spectacular landscapes ideal for kayaking, hiking, and encountering native wildlife.



ACADEMIC MARAUTANGA

CURRICULUM

Nelson College has a long history of strong academic results and is known across New Zealand as a leading school for boys, both inside and outside the classroom.

We offer a wide range of subjects that help students earn credits toward the New Zealand high school qualification, the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA). The New Zealand education system gives students a lot of choice in their subjects, which helps them stay engaged and enjoy their learning.

Students have the chance to learn in a modern, forward-thinking boys' school. Our curriculum includes many academically focused courses, as well as options in arts, drama, music and a variety of cultural activities.

QUALIFICATIONS AND PATHWAYS

International students can use their NCEA results to match qualifications in their home country, stay in New Zealand for university study, or move on to other English-speaking countries.

In recent years, students from Nelson College have used their New Zealand results to enter universities in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

The school also supports students who need English-language tests such as IELTS. We have easy access to local testing centres and can help arrange private tutoring if students need extra preparation.

INNOVATION

Nelson College provides strong academic programmes as well as practical, hands-on vocational pathways for students.

In recent years, the college has invested in new facilities and creative programmes to support every student's needs.

We have a Trade Centre on site, where students can study practical courses such as Automotive Engineering, Building and Construction, Engineering and Light Fabrication, Food and Hospitality, and Basic Joinery and Carpentry.

For students who are high-performance athletes, we also offer specialist sports development options, including our Rugby Extension class. These programmes run during the normal school day and can be chosen as part of a student's timetable.



EXTRA CURRICULAR

MAHI KURA ĀPITI

SPORT AND RECREATION

HĀKINAKINA

New Zealand education gives students plenty of chances to enjoy sports and other leisure activities. Our school has a strong sports programme that supports every student to take part, improve, and succeed in the sport they choose.

Nelson's mild climate makes it easy to enjoy a healthy, well-balanced lifestyle all year round, with lots of time outdoors.

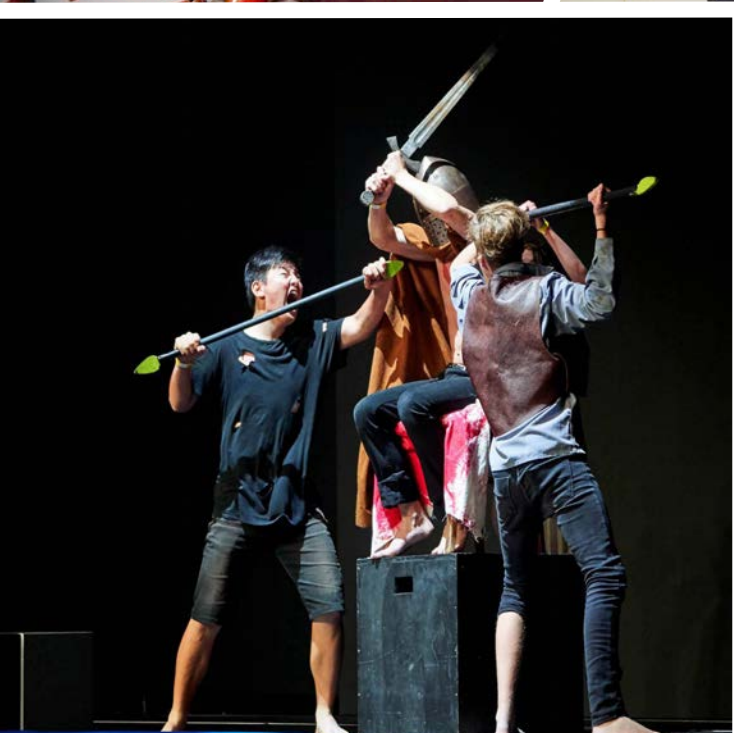
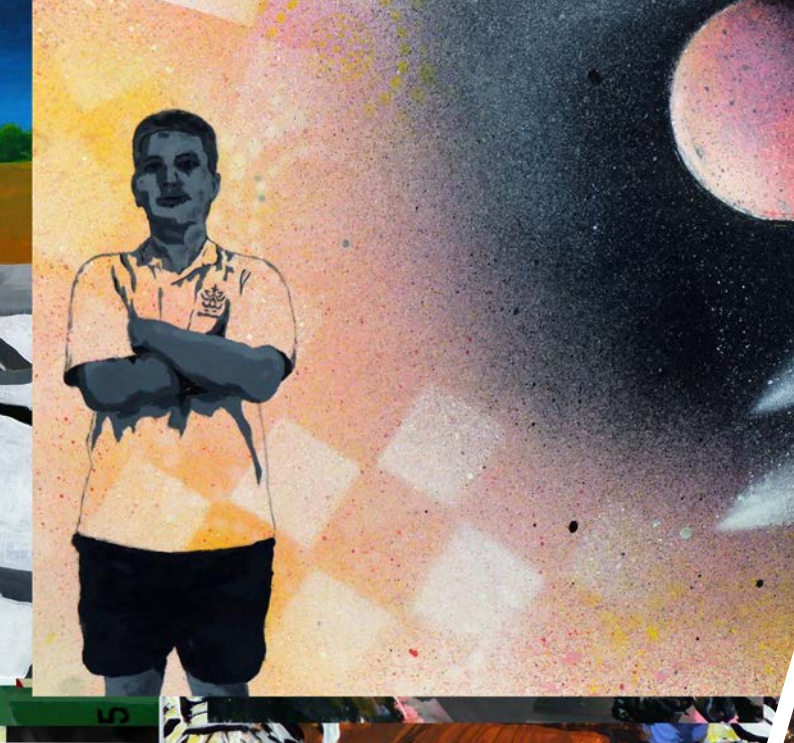
We have excellent facilities, including two gymnasiums, a swimming pool, several sports fields, and access to more than 30 different sports. Some sports are run at school, while others are offered through local clubs.

Students compete in many competitions and tournaments at local, regional, and national levels. Our senior teams have a strong record across New Zealand, and in recent years many of our students have become professional athletes in sports such as basketball, volleyball, football, cricket, and rugby.

Sports available include:

Basketball, Volleyball, Football, Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis, Golf, Boxing, Badminton, Mountain Biking, Rowing, Swimming, Karate, Jujitsu, Touch Rugby, Flag Football and Underwater Hockey.





ARTS AND CULTURE

NGĀ TOI

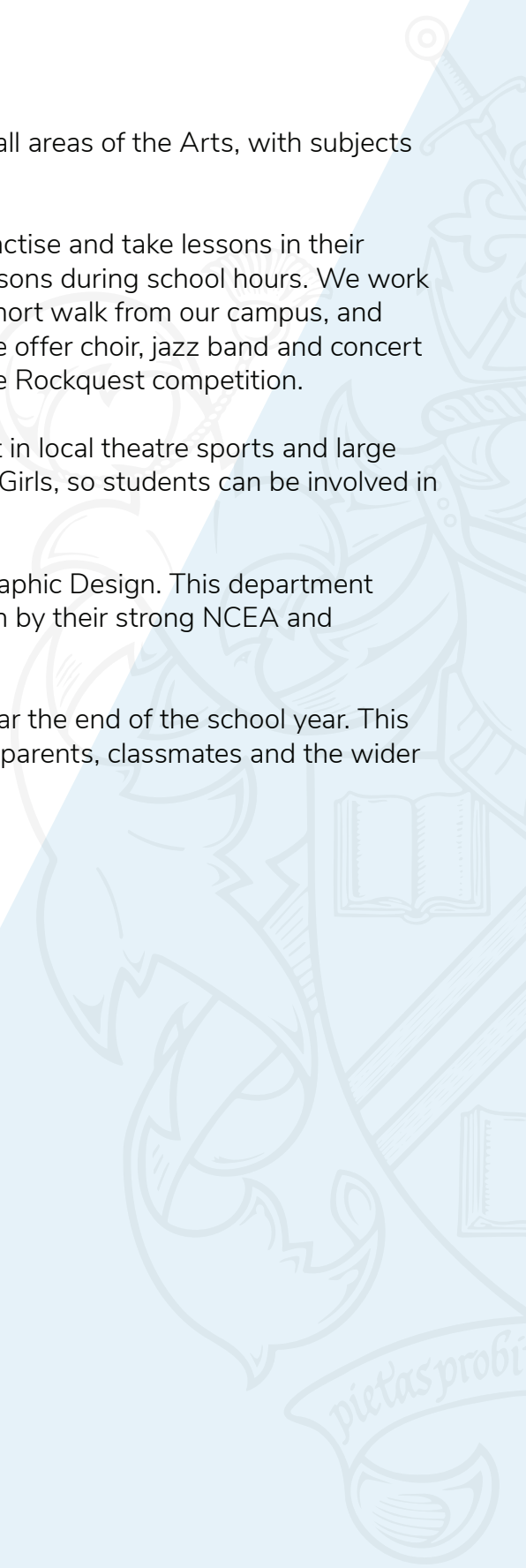
Nelson College encourages students to take part and do well in all areas of the Arts, with subjects available from Year 9 to Year 13.

For musicians, we have a full music suite where students can practise and take lessons in their chosen instrument. Students can also enrol in itinerant music lessons during school hours. We work closely with the Nelson Centre of Musical Arts, which is only a short walk from our campus, and students can join their programmes. For group performances, we offer choir, jazz band and concert band, as well as chances to form small groups and perform in the Rockquest competition.

Our Drama programme gives students opportunities to take part in local theatre sports and large productions. We work with our sister school, Nelson College for Girls, so students can be involved in shared performances on stage.

In Visual Arts, students can study Painting, Photography and Graphic Design. This department regularly supports students to produce high-quality work, shown by their strong NCEA and Scholarship results.

We celebrate student success in our Creative Arts Showcase near the end of the school year. This event allows students to perform and display their folio work for parents, classmates and the wider community.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

AKORANGA TŪ-Ā-NUKU

Outdoor Education gives students great opportunities to grow in all areas — personally, socially, and as leaders — while learning new practical skills.

Nelson College is proud to own its own Outdoor Education Centre, Matakitaki Lodge. It is located on the edge of Nelson Lakes National Park near Murchison, about 120 kilometres south of Nelson. At the start of each year, all Year 9 students take part in an introductory programme at Matakitaki. This camp helps them get to know their new classmates, connect with their teachers and feel confident in their new school. All Year 10 classes also spend a week at Matakitaki Lodge on an adventure camp, learning about the outdoors in a beautiful natural environment.

Students can choose Outdoor Education as a subject in Years 11, 12 and 13. In these classes, they learn and practise skills such as navigation, bushcraft, tramping, mountaineering, kayaking, rock climbing and mountain biking. Each week, students take part in a short school-based trip to build their skills before going on a longer multi-day wilderness camp.

Nelson is surrounded by three National Parks — Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi — giving students an amazing natural environment to develop their outdoor skills.





ACCOMMODATION

WHARENOHO

BOARDING

TE KURA NOHO

Nelson College has two historic boarding houses on the school grounds. Although they were first built in 1929, they now have modern, comfortable facilities.

Each house can accommodate up to 65 students and has 24/7 adult supervision. A Housemaster, a Matron and support tutors look after the boys and help with daily routines. Academic tutors also assist students with homework, assignments and exam preparation. Boarding students eat all their meals in the dining room — three times a day, seven days a week.

Boarders can use the school's sports facilities outside of normal school hours, giving them plenty of chances to stay active and enjoy recreation on campus.

The school is only a 10-minute walk from the city centre, giving boarding students easy access to shops, services and entertainment.

HOMESTAY

WHARENOHO RIHI

Nelson College also offers homestay accommodation. Students can choose to live with a local New Zealand family in their home, close to the college. This is a great way to experience everyday family life in a new culture.

Our Homestay Coordinator looks after the whole process. They check and approve each homestay, visit the homes, and support both the families and the students to make sure the experience is safe, easy and enjoyable for everyone.







WHERE
YOUNG MEN MATURE
AND THRIVE

STUDENT SUPPORT AND WELL-BEING

HAUORA

Nelson College is a signatory to the Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021.

PASTORAL CARE

We provide strong pastoral care for international students. Students are welcome to use our International Centre before school, between classes, during breaks and after school. It is a quiet, supportive space where they can relax, study, or get advice and guidance from staff.

MEDICAL

The school has an on-site sick bay, and the regional hospital is directly across the road, giving us fast access to medical support. All international students are enrolled with a local GP (General Practitioner) when they arrive.

ORIENTATION

Our international orientation programme helps students get a strong start at Nelson College. Before they arrive, students receive information about life at the college, the city of Nelson, and everyday living in New Zealand.

On their first day, students are officially welcomed and taken on a tour of the campus to help them become familiar with their new school. We support students in a variety of ways with academics, cocurricular registration (sport and music) and uniform purchase.

COUNSELLING

We provide one-to-one, confidential counselling and support through our trained social workers. We also have two Learning Support Coordinators who work with students, their families and teachers to support any learning differences or needs. They are supported by a team of Teacher Aides who help students in the classroom.

SERVICE

We encourage students to respect themselves and others by serving the community. Building strong connections is important to our college, and students take part in many service activities such as charity events, leading school activities, supporting environmental projects and volunteering.

NELSON COLLEGE FOR GIRLS

WHANAUNGATANGA



NELSON COLLEGE FOR GIRLS
TE KURA TAMAWAHINE O WHAKATŪ



LEARNING APART, AND TOGETHER

Nelson College has a close relationship with Nelson College for Girls. The two schools are only a five-minute walk apart and share a long, connected history. Each maintains the strengths of single-sex education, while working together to offer students a wide range of meaningful and enriching experiences.

These include joint international tourism activities and educational trips, shared holiday boarding accommodation, and combined Music, Drama, Debating, and Kapa Haka groups that bring students from both campuses together.



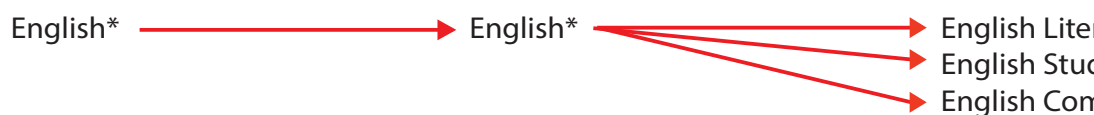


YEAR 9

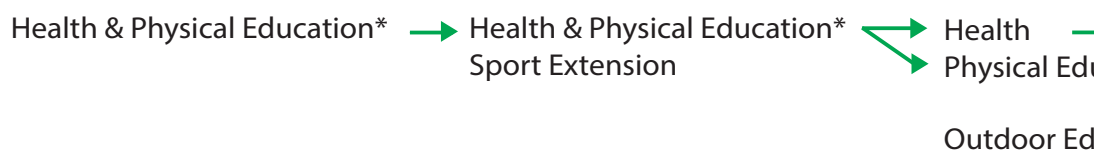
YEAR 10

YEAR 11

ENGLISH



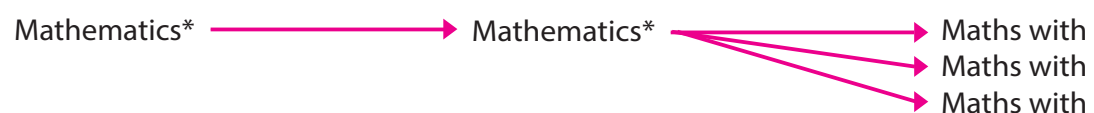
HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



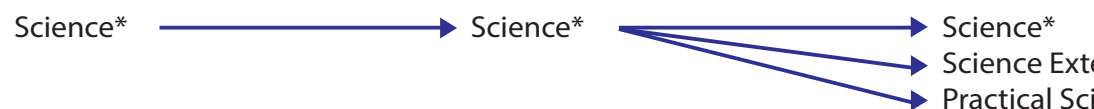
LANGUAGES



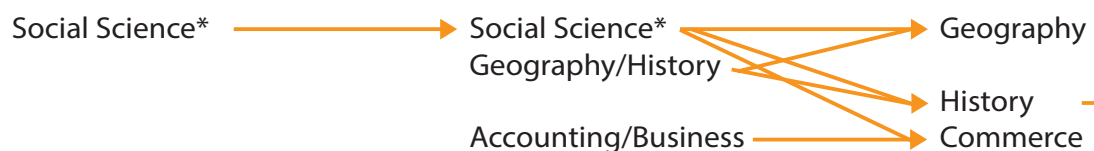
MATHEMATICS



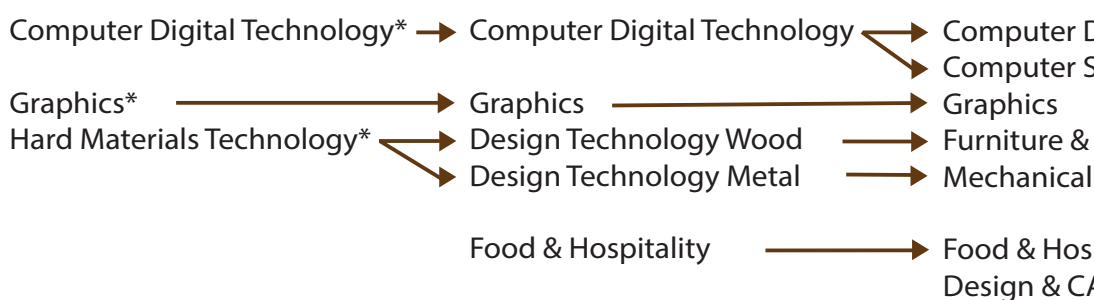
SCIENCE



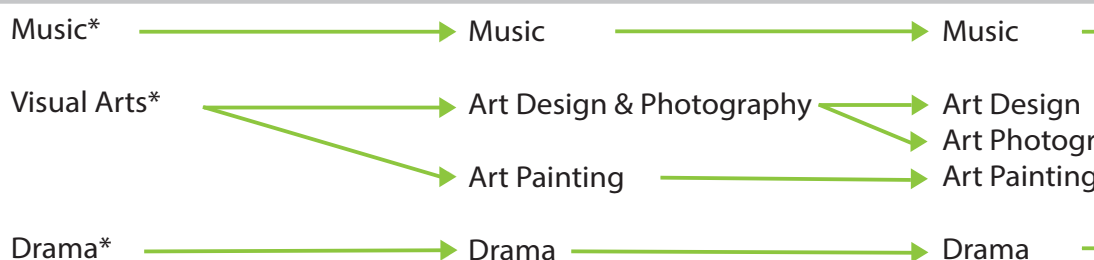
SOCIAL SCIENCES



TECHNOLOGY



THE ARTS

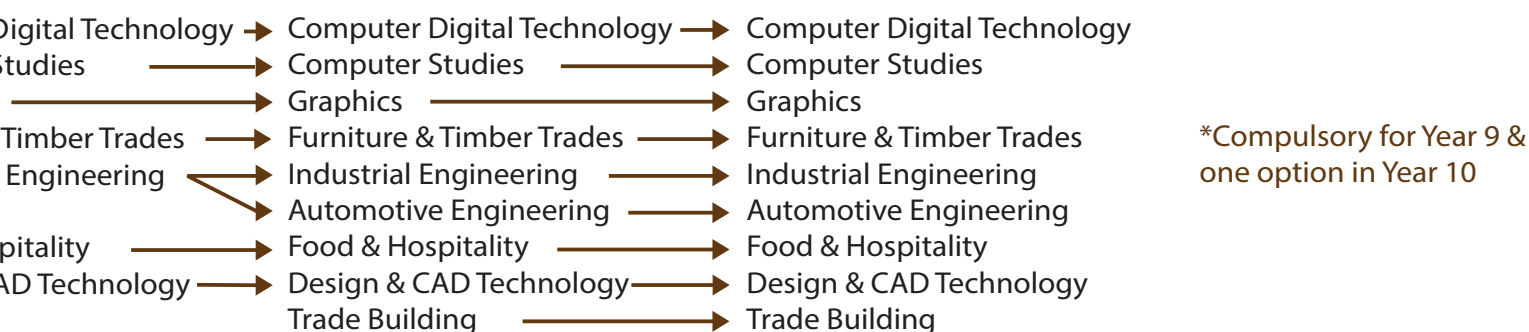
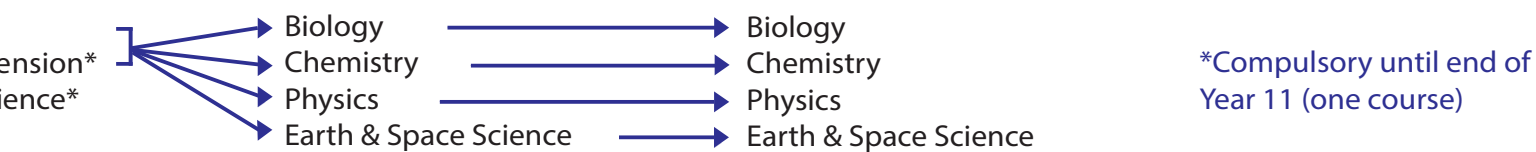
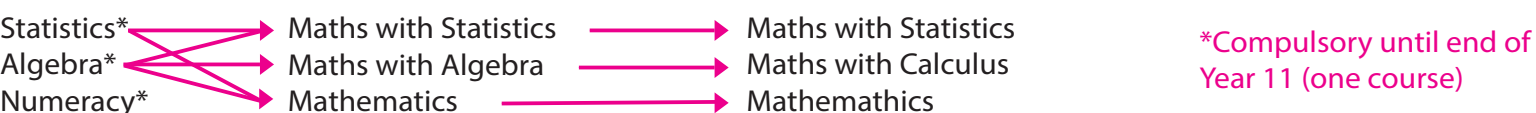


CAREERS & FUTURE PATHWAYS

Vocational Pathways

- Ngā ara akoranga

1 (NCEA LEVEL 1) YEAR 12 (NCEA LEVEL 2) YEAR 13 (NCEA LEVEL 3)



UNIFORM

KĀKAHU KURA

Our Nelson College uniform reflects the school's long tradition of pride, discipline, and belonging. The Oxford and Cambridge blue palette, paired with the crest, gives students a sense of identity and connection to the College's history. It's smart, distinctive, and instantly recognisable — a daily reminder that every student represents something bigger than themselves..





NELSON COLLEGE

TE KURA TAMATĀNE O WHAKATŪ

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EDUCATION**
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