



**Tauranga  
Girls' College**  
*The School of Choice*



# Year 9 Course and Subject Information

# Reaching Your Potential at Tauranga Girls' College

At Tauranga Girls' College our Year 9 programme is broadly based so that ākonga/learners have the opportunity to experience a wide range of subjects and have the potential to discover new talents. The College is a Bring Your Own Chromebook school (BYOC). Students use digital technologies as a platform to enhance their learning. There are eight areas of learning to be studied.

**All Year 9 students study 25 periods per week.**

## Extension Programme

This programme caters for the academic needs of students in Years 9 and 10 who have shown academic ability and talent on entering TGC.

Ākonga who are selected into the extension classes are able to progress in an environment which will challenge individuals to reach their potential. The curriculum in core subjects has been designed to extend and engage students to achieve at an Excellence level.

The aim of the extension classes is to:

- Encourage students to become independent and cooperative learners
- Provide enrichment opportunities and reinforce knowledge from home

## Designed for Thinking

Choosing to learn in the Designed for Thinking class means ākonga will experience collaboration, creativity, communication and critical thinking at the heart of learning.

In this class students focus on learning about the Design Thinking framework, future focused skills, learning to learn and the United Nations Sustainable goals. Students have the chance to let their passions and curiosities drive them to come up with solutions to problems and challenges.

This class is for students that "think outside the box", if they are passionate, self-driven or a thinker. If they enjoy learning through exploring and want to be challenged to notice the world around them, this is the course for them. Choosing gDTM as a core learning class means students have one less subject of choice. This enables the class to have one day together to work through their passion project, problem solving or connecting with mahi in the community while thinking about and using the Design Thinking framework.

## Supportive Learning

At TGC support is offered in a number of ways to those ākonga with additional education needs. This may include literacy and/or numeracy support, development of individual learning programmes and support with learning strategies specific to the individual students. Two classes offered to support students learning needs are:

### **English Support**

This course is an opportunity for students who need to improve their literacy ability and will cover their reading and writing skills, spelling and vocabulary.

### **Fast Track Mathematics**

This option provides support for those students who find Mathematics challenging by teaching the material one or two weeks ahead of their Mathematics class.



## Core Subjects

Core subjects align with the New Zealand Curriculum. Students study the following:

### English

This subject develops thinking and literacy capacity, using reading, writing, speaking and visual analysis while exploring human nature and the world around us, in both the creation and interpretation of texts.

### Mathematics

This subject is based on the three learning strands of the New Zealand Mathematics Curriculum where students will learn to think critically and communicate through logic and reasoning.

### Physical Education and Health

This subject is based on the four learning strands of Personal Health and Physical Development, Motor Skill Development, Relationships with other people, Healthy Communities and Environments.

### Science

In Science, students explore how both the natural physical world and science itself work so that they can participate as critical, informed, and responsible citizens in a society in which science plays a significant role.

### Social Studies

Social Studies will challenge our students to think critically, collaborate with their peers, and be reflective. We explore human, social and economic behaviour in different cultures and environments at different times, including Te Tiriti o Waitangi, with a focus on empathy and perspective.

### Te Ao Māori

A new course designed to build and grow a foundation of Mātauranga Māori - Māori knowledge. We explore uara (values), tuakiritanga (identity), a place-based curriculum about Tauranga Moana, Māori tikanga (methods) and hauora (health). This is a half year course.

## Subject Choices

The variety of subjects offered provides an opportunity for students to try new things and experience a number of different subjects. Good careers advice is to keep subjects as broad as possible. **It is highly advised** to select subjects from a variety of areas of the curriculum. *Please select five half year subjects from the following list:*

### Art

This course is designed to give ākonga the opportunity to develop their creative thinking and artistic skills. Ākonga generate their own ideas within a generic theme. Artwork is created in the following fields, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

### Athlete Development Programme

This course is designed for students who wish to develop further as an athlete. They **must** be involved in regular physical activity eg dance, martial arts, sport. This course will cover the following topics: fitness, skill analysis & development, goal setting, injury prevention and nutritional inquiry.

### Business Enterprise

Students learn business skills such as entrepreneurship, innovation, financial planning, teamwork and running a business.

### Dance

Students will work collaboratively to learn and create dance in response to a range of stimuli to communicate ideas. Students will think critically to explore and analyse their work and the work of others.

## **Design & Visual Communication**

The focus is on creativity. The student will be introduced to the three strands of Design Heritage, Design Thinking and Visual Communication. These skills will be developed in preparation for future pathways and will allow the learner to investigate the design of others, generate and explore their own design ideas and apply communication skills to present their design in response to a design brief. Students will be designing their own perfume bottle.

## **Computer Science (Digital Technology)**

The mission of this exciting and dynamic learning area is to develop thinking skills and to allow students to create a range of digital projects. Students will work independently and collaboratively to build and program robots, tell stories, design websites and develop 2D platformer games as well as learning to type and manage themselves appropriately on a computer. The Year 9 Computer Science course is aimed at building students' confidence when using computers, growing logic and problem-solving skills while providing opportunities for creativity, risk taking and fun.

## **Drama**

Students will use imagination, creativity and critical thinking to communicate ideas, stories and characters in performance. Working collaboratively, they use the techniques, elements and technologies of Drama to devise their own performances, develop performance skills, and reflect on their work.

## **English Language (ESOL)**

This is an optional subject which English as a second language learners may take in addition to the gENG class. It is designed to assist those second language learners to strengthen their language skills. Students will be selected to go into this class.

## **Food Technology**

Food Technology strives to prepare students for a lifetime of preparing cost-effective foods that will fuel their bodies, look after our planet, and taste delicious! This course offers a creative approach whilst laying foundational food safety and preparation skills and life-long nutritional knowledge is weaved into collaborative design tasks. Executing a range of prototypes by following a design thinking process, students will consider stakeholder feedback to guide their next cook. From the Humble Potato to the Impossible Burger student's perfect their final product for a healthier and more sustainable lifetime of eating.

## **Foreign Language: Chinese (Mandarin)**

Learning a foreign language develops your thinking. You learn about other cultures and how to communicate with your peers in another language. You have the opportunity to participate in the Multicultural Festival and Chinese traditional festival celebrations in Tauranga.

## **Foreign Language: French**

Learning a foreign language develops your thinking. You learn about other cultures and how to communicate with your peers in another language.

## **Materials & Product Design**

This is a hands-on course where learners use their practical and creative skills to design and construct works from a variety of materials. They begin to explore a range of techniques using workshop tools and machines. They collaborate with classmates to produce products with their own unique identity. Projects may include candle holders, jewellery boxes, picture frames and games.

## **Māori Performing Arts**

For beginning students this is a theory and practical course involving skills of research, waiata composition, pūoro, waiata, poi, waiata-a-ringa and dance.

## **Music**

For students with **previous** experience in music, who will extend their existing skills by learning to create music through composition and performance and communicate their ideas through notated music.

## **Musicianship**

For **beginning** students who will learn to play the guitar, bass guitar, keyboard and drums and work collaboratively to prepare songs to perform in a group. They will also use computer programmes to create music to accompany film images.

### **Ngā Toi Māori Art**

This course is designed to give ākonga the opportunity to develop their creative thinking and artistic skills within a toi Māori context. Artwork is created in the following fields, painting, printmaking and sculpture.

### **Te Reo Māori**

Language and culture are covered in each of these subjects which are taught by the communicative approach. Te Reo Māori is available at beginner's level (half year).

### **Te Reo Rangatira**

Te Reo Rangatira is designed to meet the needs of students who have some knowledge of Te Reo Māori and Te Ao Māori. It is not for beginners, this is an intermediate course of Te Reo Māori. This course is a full year course.

### **Textile & Fashion Design**

This course is a creative, hands-on subject where students become a "Textile Designer" working collaboratively using the design thinking process to come up with a unique applied design using a variety of different materials and techniques including e-textiles. The second project involves learning about the fundamentals of the fashion industry where they become a "Fashion Designer" and build mastery of practical sewing skills and learn to think sustainably.