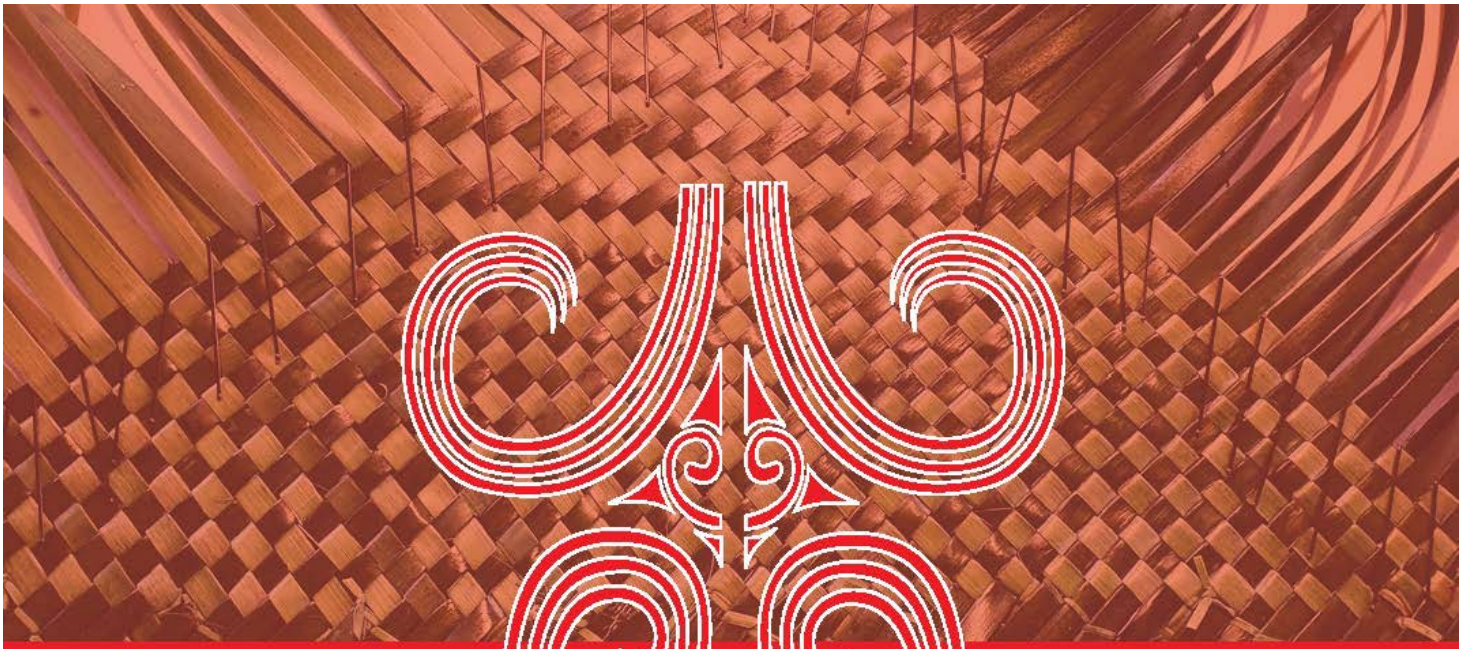
Te Kura Tuarua o Tūranga Wāhine
Gisborne Girls' High School



Course Handbook

Year 9

YEAR 9 COURSE STRUCTURE

Ākonga will study 18 courses across the year. The year is divided into 3 trimesters. Each trimester will last for approximately 13 weeks.

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Trimester 1	Trimester 2	Trimester 3
6 courses	6 courses	6 courses
4 core courses / 2 specialist courses	4 core courses / 2 specialist courses	4 core courses / 2 specialist courses

Core Courses

Core courses make up 12 of the 18 courses studied in Year 9.

Ākonga will stay with the same core class for these learning areas. Ākonga will have specialist Kaiako for each subject, while learning alongside the same group of ākonga.

English	3 courses (one in each trimester)
Mathematics	3 courses (one in each trimester)
Science	2 courses
Social Science	2 courses
Health and Physical Education	2 courses

Science, Social Science, and Health and Physical Education are rotated across the three trimesters.

Specialist Courses

Specialist courses make up the remaining 6 courses studied across the year.

The Arts	Technology	Learning Languages

Each ākonga has 6 specialist course choices across the year. Specialist courses are made up of ākonga from across the Year 9 cohort. This gives ākonga the opportunity to meet and learn alongside ākonga from different core classes.

! Important

All ākonga must take either Te Reo Māori or Te Raukura.

Te Reo Māori	Te Raukura
takes up 2 of the six specialist choices. Ākonga will then have 4 other specialist course choices.	takes up one of the six specialist choices. Ākonga will then have 5 other specialist course choices

CORE LEARNING AREAS

ENGLISH

COURSE 1	9ENG1	OUR PLACE AND SPEECH

Overview

Ākonga will complete a combination of reading and writing activities based on Tairawhiti. They will then present a speech selected from a range of topics.

Who to contact for more information

Steve Webb

Email: stephen.webb@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 2	9ENG2	NZ NOVEL AND PERSUASION

Overview

Ākonga will complete a combination of reading and writing activities based on a NZ novel. This will be followed by debate study and the development of persuasive writing skills.

Who to contact for more information

Steve Webb

Email: stephen.webb@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 3	9ENG3	SHAKESPEARE AND CREATIVE WRITING

Overview

Ākonga will complete a combination of reading and writing activities based on a film study and the analysis of a Shakespearean film. There will be a strong focus on creative writing including poetry writing and response.

Who to contact for more information

Steve Webb

Email: stephen.webb@gghs.school.nz

MATHEMATICS

COURSE 1	9MAT1	GEOMETRY

Overview

In Trimester 1, ākonga start the year with Geometry, where they develop their understanding of transformations, angles, and Pythagoras. They explore how shapes move and change, use angle properties to solve problems, and apply Pythagoras' theorem to find unknown lengths in right-angled triangles.

Who to contact for more information

Jess Williams

Email: jess.williams@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 2	9MAT2	MEASURMENT, STATISTICS, PROBABILITY

Overview

In Trimester 2, ākonga explore properties and measures of 2D and 3D shapes, also learning to convert between units of measurement. They learn to calculate areas and volumes, work with circles, and visualise space in 2D and 3D. In Statistics and Probability, ākonga investigate data using graphs and statistical summaries, and explore theoretical and experimental probability.

Who to contact for more information

Jess Williams

Email: jess.williams@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 3	9MAT3	NUMBER

Overview

In Trimester 3, ākonga extend their understanding of Number, with scientific notation, powers, roots, fractions, decimals, percentages, ratios and rates. They apply these skills in financial contexts, including percentage mark-ups and discounts, simple interest and GST, while developing their ability to use rounding and estimation to check the reasonableness of calculations.

Who to contact for more information

Jess Williams

Email: jess.williams@gghs.school.nz

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

COURSE 1	PEH1	RELATIONSHIPS, SOCIETY AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Overview

Ākonga will have two Health lessons per week. This includes learning about maintaining relationships, sexual relationships and inclusive communities.

Ākonga will have two P.E. lessons per week they will learn about skills to participate with others, social and cultural influences on movement and outdoor education.

Who to contact for more information

Ingrid Meister (HOF)
ingrid.meister@gghs.school.nz

Kelly Warren (Asst HOF)
kelly.warren@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 2	PEH2	PHYSICAL, MENTAL HEALTH AND MOVEMENT

Overview

Ākonga will have two Health lessons per week. This includes learning about nutrition, mental health, online safety and sexual health.

Ākonga will also have two P.E. lessons per week where they will learn about sport science, skills acquisition and the psychology of movement.

Who to contact for more information

Ingrid Meister (HOF)
ingrid.meister@gghs.school.nz

Kelly Warren (Asst HOF)
kelly.warren@gghs.school.nz

SCIENCE

COURSE 1	9SCI1	KAITIAKITANGA

Overview

How does everything in our environment work together to support life?

In *Kaitiakitanga*, ākonga explore the interconnected systems that make life on Earth possible and investigate our role as guardians and stewards of the natural world.

Through the study of living and non-living systems, matter, energy, ecosystems, and environmental change, ākonga will discover how organisms and their surroundings depend on one another and how changes to one part of an ecosystem can affect the whole.

Ākonga will apply scientific thinking to real-world environmental challenges and explore how we can use our knowledge to protect, restore, and care for the environments we depend on.

Who to contact for more information

Sam Mottart

Email: sam.mottart@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 2	9SCI2	APOCALYPSE

Overview

Through the study of geology, evolution, reproduction, disease, and chemical processes, ākonga will investigate natural disasters, environmental change, and the challenges these events could create for human survival.

They will apply scientific thinking, problem-solving, and evidence-based reasoning to real-world survival scenarios. What if Earth itself became uninhabitable? Ākonga will also explore the possibility of life beyond Earth, investigating what humans would need to survive in a different environment and whether another location in our solar system could become a new home.

The ultimate question: If the apocalypse came, would you have the science to survive?

Who to contact for more information

Sam Mottart

Email: sam.mottart@gghs.school.nz

SOCIAL SCIENCE

COURSE	9HIS	HISTORY

Overview

This course explores New Zealand and world history through the causes and consequences of significant historical events, and through exploring historical perspectives. Ākonga will develop skills in reading and interpreting historical documents and writing as an historian using evidence. Topics include Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Human Rights History, and the Black Death.

Who to contact for more information

Dr Nic Taewa
Email: nic.taewa@gghs.school.nz

COURSE	9GEO	GEOGRAPHY

Overview

This course introduces ākonga to how people live in our natural and cultural environment. It looks at social, economic, and environmental impacts with a focus on sustainability. Topics include Locations, Migration, Tourism, and Coastal Processes.

Who to contact for more information

Dr Nic Taewa
Email: nic.taewa@gghs.school.nz

LEARNING LANGUAGES

MĀORI

COURSE 1	9TRK	TE RAUKURA

Overview

Te Raukura is an engaging Year 9 programme that reflects our kura's commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supports ākonga to grow as bicultural citizens of Aotearoa. The programme aims to foster cultural understanding and empathy for different perspectives, while building the knowledge and confidence to engage respectfully in Māori settings and understand the place of te reo Māori within te ao Māori. Ākonga learn basic tikanga, te reo Māori and worldview through a localised curriculum focus.

Who to contact for more information

Kōkā Tira Nikora
tira.nikora@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 2	9MAO	TE WAHAROA

Overview

At this level this course incorporates tikanga Māori and toi Māori, while placing a strong focus on simple communication using te reo Māori. Ākonga will explore topics such as mihimihi, whakapapa, everyday language for school and home. The course includes karakia, waiata, and games. This course provides a strong foundation for continuing into Year 10 te reo Māori. Ākonga will be engaged in activities that explore the core skills of Kōrero, Whakarongo, Pānui and Tuhituhi.

Who to contact for more information

Matua Mōrehu Nikora
Email: morehu.nikora@gghs.school.nz

SPANISH

COURSE 1	SPANISH

Overview

This empowering and engaging 12 week beginner Spanish course introduces Year 9 ākonga to essential language skills through fun, interactive learning. Ākonga build confidence communicating in everyday situations while exploring the cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. The course fosters cultural understanding, empathy, and curiosity, encouraging learners to connect with diverse perspectives and develop a lifelong interest in languages.

Who to contact for more information

Vicky Mottart
vicky.mottart@gghs.school.nz

SPECIALIST COURSES

THE ARTS

COURSE	9ART	VISUAL ART

Overview
This course provides an introduction to the Visual Arts through a range of cultural contexts. Ākonga will explore their own creativity by studying various ideas, methods and techniques across drawing, painting, printmaking and clay sculpture. Ākonga will create final individual artworks whilst developing the foundational skills needed for future Art courses. Throughout the course, they will develop and refine ideas through observation, imagination and experimentation.

Who to contact for more information
Tamsin Wilson
Email: tamsin.wilson@gghs.school.nz

COURSE	9DES	DESIGN

Overview
This course provides an introduction to digital art and media design using drawing and photography. Ākonga will explore themes relating to their own world as well as the international environment, gaining confidence in digital drawing using Procreate on iPads, and computer design using Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

Who to contact for more information
Tamsin Wilson
Email: tamsin.wilson@gghs.school.nz

COURSE	9DRA	PERFORMANCE DRAMA

Overview
This course is designed for ākonga who want to learn to be more confident and perform on stage. It focuses on scripts, Shakespeare and building skills and confidence through group and pair work. It is designed to create understanding of scripts, a rehearsal and performance process, and how costumes and props can add to a performance.

Who to contact for more information
Sam Millar (HOD Drama)
Email: samantha.millar@gghs.school.nz

COURSE	9DRP	PRODUCTION DRAMA

Overview
This course is designed for ākonga who love being creative but would prefer to be backstage. It focuses on skills like costume design, prop making and lighting design and operation. It is designed to build creativity and an understanding of the skills required for the backstage and technical aspects of theatre and is very hands on.

Who to contact for more information
Sam Millar (HOD Drama)
Email: samantha.millar@gghs.school.nz

COURSE	9MUS	DISCOVERY MUSIC

Overview

This course is for ākonga who have very little or no previous musical experience. Ākonga will gain skills in an instrument and will participate in a range of group and class activities.

Who to contact for more information

Jane Egan
Email: jane.egan@gghs.school.nz

COURSE	9MUP	PERFORMANCE MUSIC

Overview

This course is for ākonga who already have some skills on an instrument or who are confident vocalists. Ākonga will receive group tuition in either drums, bass, guitar or keyboard.

Who to contact for more information

Jane Egan
Email: jane.egan@gghs.school.nz

TECHNOLOGY

COURSE 1	9PDT	RESISTANT AND SPATIAL TECHNOLOGY - PRODUCT DESIGN

Overview

Design and develop aTaonga box. Build hands on woodworking skills. Use computer programs such as LightBurn to customise the box with ākonga own designs.

Who to contact for more information

Sue Bristow
Email: sue.bristow@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 2	9FTN	FOOD AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Overview

Design and develop a snack inspired by Aotearoa. Refine the recipe through cooking and getting feedback. Make improvements based on evidence.

Who to contact for more information

Sue Bristow
Email: sue.bristow@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 3	9TET	TEXTILES AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Overview

Design and develop a plushie character through sewing and then bring it to life through website design. Take the new plushie friend home as a taonga.

Who to contact for more information

Sue Bristow
Email: sue.bristow@gghs.school.nz

COURSE 4	9SDT	SPATIAL AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Overview

Design and develop a video game. Learn how to plan and refine game ideas. Create detailed drawings to guide the build and use player feedback to improve the game experience.

Who to contact for more information

Sue Bristow
Email: sue.bristow@gghs.school.nz

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