



ALBANY
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9

Options

Booklet

2026

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Cushla Shepherd
Principal

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Albany Junior High School (AJHS). You want to choose a school community that provides informed pastoral, academic and social experiences for your son or daughter. At AJHS, our students' learning and wellbeing is central to everything we strive to achieve. Our Junior school's unique four year programme provides curriculum diversity, challenge, and personalised learning which fosters and supports the emerging adolescent's distinctive learning and personal needs. Our school is very proud to offer an inclusive, respectful, rich and authentic learning community where every student is encouraged to explore and develop their own, and others strengths and capabilities. We aim to develop the 'whole child' through a formative developmental stage of their life to equip them for our changing world. We welcome you and your family to join us at AJHS.

CONTACT DETAILS

HEADS OF LEARNING

English	shelley.wilson@ajhs.school.nz
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The Arts	pip.faulknor@ajhs.school.nz

CORE SUBJECTS 2026

- English
- PE & Health
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

ENGLISH core full year subject 9ENGL

Subject Description

English is the study, use, and enjoyment of the English language and its literature. This includes oral, written, and visual communication.

In the new English curriculum, Stage 4 is a two-year course spread over Year 9 and Year 10 which focuses on disciplinary English knowledge.

Knowledge areas and their associated practices include:

- Language Studies, in which students craft persuasive, expository, and creative texts
- Text Studies, in which students engage in text analysis and critical interpretation
- Oral Communication, in which students complete a variety of presenting and listening tasks

The emphasis of the new curriculum is to develop analytical, creative, and critical skills through deep engagement with texts.

Subject Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

PE & HEALTH core full year subject 9PEHE

Subject Description

Movement is integral to the human experience. It facilitates a lifelong understanding of our bodies, contributes to our hauora, and allows us to live physically active lives. Movement is affected by and affects who we are, how we experience and interact with others, and our relationship to and place in society.

Physical Education develops the social, emotional, intellectual, and cultural capabilities of ākonga. These capabilities inform the ways in which ākonga understand tikanga in movement contexts, provide diverse ways of participating in physical activities, and contribute to movement's wider benefits to hauora.

Subject Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

MATHEMATICS core full year subject 9MATH

Subject Description

This subject enables students to develop generalisations of mathematical ideas and methods through the exploration of applications, the effective use of technology, and abstract reasoning. The goal of this subject is to help students use mathematics confidently to solve problems. Throughout this subject students will develop their knowledge about Number, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Statistics, and Probability, and drawing on the practices of mathematics and statistics. Students will learn to communicate, make connections, reason mathematically, discover patterns, and use the technology available to them. The use of mathematical and statistical logic and reasoning enable students to identify and explain relationships and to justify conclusions.

Subject Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

SCIENCE core full year subject 9SCIE

Subject Description

Science uses the nature of science strand from The New Zealand Curriculum to teach ākonga what science is and how scientists work. In core Science, students will study all four strands of the science national curriculum: Material World; Physical World; Living World as well as Nature of Science. The 'Material World' includes aspects of Chemistry; 'Physical World' includes aspects of Physics and Earth Science; 'Living World' includes aspects of Biology. Science requires learners to generate and test ideas and gather evidence in order to develop knowledge, understand it, and explain it. Scientists do this by making observations, carrying out investigations and modelling, and communicating and debating with others.

Subject Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

SOCIAL STUDIES core full year subject 9SOCI

Subject Description

Social Studies encourages students to observe, to wonder and be curious about people, places, and society, and to take an interest and engage in social issues and ideas.

Through Social Studies, students develop understanding, knowledge, and skills in relation to social, cultural, economic, and political processes. This enables them to contribute to and participate in society as critically informed, ethical, and empathetic citizens with a concern for the wellbeing of communities and a commitment to a fair society for all.

The year 9 program focuses on Government, WWI, local history (Te Raki Paewhenua/North Shore), Geographic Skills and Travel and Tourism.

Subject Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

OPTIONAL COURSES 2026

Year 9 Options 2026

Choose 6 in total.

Each course will run for half a year, unless stated. There are no prerequisites.

You must select at least:

ONE course from Technology,

ONE course from The Arts.

Below is the timeline for the Option Selection Process, including what you need to do.

Date	Action
End of Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option talks to Y8s from teachers during lesson time.
Start of Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email home to parents.• Options Booklet available on school website.• Talk with your parents, caregivers, Whānau teachers and course teachers about courses you are interested in doing next year.
Wednesday 23rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open / Option Evening
Monday 28th July to Friday 15th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make your option selections by visiting the student portal.
Monday 18th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option selection on portal closes. No further changes are possible after this point.• SLT will follow up with students who were absent.

Please note: Option classes will only go ahead if a sufficient number of learners choose the course. We aim to provide our students with a wide range of learning opportunities and activities. There is a cost associated with many of these activities that we, unfortunately, need to pass on to you. The subsidies below each course description contributes to the cost of any trips, visiting speakers, workbooks, subscriptions to online sites, consumables, etc. As these are optional activities, your child will miss out on participating in these extra activities if the subsidy is not paid. Please contact our Accounts Office if you would like to set up a payment plan or apply for financial aid from us.

TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS : compulsory to select at least one

DESIGN AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION 9DVC

Course Description

Learn how to communicate design ideas using 3D drawing methods, rendering and model making. Undertake a design brief and explore potential solutions using these skills. During this course students will explore 3 design briefs and get the opportunity to work individually and in a group. The briefs include but are not limited to, a dream study space, a TV or Movie set design and the construction of a novel cardboard chair. Extension opportunities available to produce a personalised laser cut bookmark.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$25

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

DIGITAL DESIGN 9DIDE

Course Description

Crossing the traditional boundaries of arts, design, and technology. Digital Design is a one semester course that will teach you how to use Adobe software to manipulate images and create original outcomes. In Term 1, you will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop to apply the principles of design and create promotional materials such as posters, tickets, banners and more. In term 2, you will use Adobe Illustrator to draw vector based illustrations. You will also learn how to apply the principles of design to create branding materials such as logos and vinyl cut decals.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$15

- Optional additional Adobe License Fee \$15
- Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

COMPUTER SCIENCE 9COMP

Course Description

Get ready to unlock the magic of Computer Science. In the first part of the course, you will learn to create animation and edit images in Adobe Animate and Photoshop. We then combine the creativity of Adobe products, images and basic coding skills to create a web-based application. Once completed we get hands-on with Javascript to create sprites and movement in a 2D space. So join up to unleash your creativity and blow everyone away.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$0

- Optional additional Adobe License Fee \$15
- Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

FABRIC TECHNOLOGY 9FABR

Course Description

Don't Sweat it! Are you ready to learn how to sew a sweatshirt? Learn how streetwear, once the domain of skaters and rappers, became one of the most influential movements in the fashion world, and discover ways to design your own street style brand and the needed sewing techniques to design and make a custom hoodie. Incorporate selected processes to dye, and print fabrics to make your product style even more defined.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$75

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

FOOD TECHNOLOGY 9FOOD

Course Description

Team up with Whipped Cakery for an exciting project! Craft a scrumptious baked creation to be featured in their store. Whipped will select the best idea to create a limited edition treat. Explore cakery ownership, analyse Whipped's processes, and connect with their target market. Master sweet and savoury delights like compotes, coulis, buttercream, icing, and piping.

In Term 2, create a scrumptious appetiser for a school event. Trial a number of basic appetisers and draw inspiration from them to create our own product. This is the perfect opportunity to unleash your culinary creativity and experiment with unique flavours.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$75

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

HARD TECHNOLOGY 9HARD

Course Description

CCreate Personalised Jewellery: Craft bespoke accessories with unique branding, Learn the art of designing and manufacturing custom jewellery featuring your own original graphics. Develop practical skills and knowledge to bring your creative vision to life in our first project.

Illuminate Your Space: Design and construct a personalised zoomorphic lamp, explore the world of lamp-making and gain the skills to create unique lighting solutions. Walk away with a stunning original lamp and expertise needed to produce your illuminated masterpiece.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$65

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

ARTS OPTIONS : compulsory to select at least one

DANCE 9DANC

Course Description

Year 9 Dance focuses on expanding learners' skills in relation to a variety of dance styles. Learners will be involved in both performance and choreography and will create and re-create dance works through the process of manipulating a range of elements, devices, structures and choreographic devices.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$40 (covers external dance specialists / costumes)

DRAMA 9DRAM

Course Description:

Drama is about expressing human stories through action, character, and emotion. In this course, students will explore how to use voice, movement, space, and tension to bring performances to life. Through both scripted and devised work, students will develop confidence, creativity, and the ability to collaborate with others. This course supports personal growth and teamwork while introducing students to the foundational skills of live performance.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$30 - Costume, scripts and theatre maintenance

MUSIC - Discovering 9MUSD

Course Description

Music is a universal language that invites everyone to explore, express, and create. This beginner-level Year 9 Music course is designed to spark a love of music in students who may be new to playing an instrument or engaging in structured music learning. Through guided activities and practical experiences, students will develop foundational musical literacy, explore a wide range of genres, and build confidence in performance and composition.

Learners will have opportunities to try different instruments, participate in group performances, and compose music using digital audio workstations like BandLab. No prior experience is required—just a willingness to learn, collaborate, and discover your musical potential. Instrumental practice will be a key part of this course, and students will be supported as they learn to play and perform both solo and as part of an ensemble.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$35 - Instrument maintenance and specialist tutors

MUSIC - Creative Musicianship 9MUSC

Course Description:

For students with existing musical experience, this course offers an exciting opportunity to deepen skills and take creativity to the next level. Year 9 Music: Advanced Pathway is designed to challenge and inspire students through a balanced mix of performance, composition, and musical analysis.

Learners will refine their instrumental abilities through both solo and group performance tasks, study a variety of music genres, and engage in deeper music literacy activities. Using digital audio workstations like BandLab, students will compose and arrange their own music, exploring the tools used by modern producers and songwriters. A strong emphasis will be placed on musical interpretation, collaboration, and expressive performance.

Instrumental proficiency is central to this course, and regular practice outside of class is expected to support both individual and group success.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$35 - Instrument maintenance and specialist tutors

PERFORMING ARTS 9PART

Course Description:

This option provides students with an opportunity to explore music, dance, and drama within the context of musical theatre and will engage and inspire them to develop their talent. They will experience a range of performance skills in a fun and thought-provoking atmosphere, delving into stories, social issues and personal experiences through processes that require the development of skills in acting, dance, and singing, as well as scriptwriting, direction, choreography, composition, songwriting, creative writing, and more.

The application of all these skill sets develop empathy, emotional intelligence and confidence in students, and are directly translatable to life outside the classroom. This course is designed to develop learners' communication and listening skills, providing opportunities for challenge and success in a safe environment.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$35 towards material needed for costume, scripts and specialist tutors

VISUAL ART 9VART

Course Description

Within this course, you will have opportunities to explore and experiment with a variety of media. You will improve your skills at drawing, whether you are an absolute beginner or a highly advanced artist. The key elements of line, shape, form, tone, colour, texture, space, and design principles will be investigated.

Workshops will allow you to discover, explore and develop new techniques in art making.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$60 for painting/print making consumables

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

LANGUAGES OPTIONS

JAPANESE 9JAPA

Course Description

Within this subject, you will learn what to say and how to act when you meet new people, how to read and write the Japanese script of hiragana and basic kanji (Chinese characters). You will learn about various Japanese foods and cultural dishes from regions of Japan as well as the importance of presentation in Japanese culture. You will be able to order food and drinks at a Japanese restaurant using natural language including taking orders, asking about recommendations and decisions, exchanging money and giving change. On top of this, you will express your feelings and practise fun phrases to use when dining out. Students will learn about Japanese culture through various intercultural language learning tasks. For example, comparing and contrasting New Zealand and Japan's meals and manners as well as trying Japanese brush painting of calligraphy.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$5 for an interactive cultural activity

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

MANDARIN 9MAND

Course Description

Within this subject, you will learn what to say when you meet new people, how to read and write the Mandarin script of Pinyin and basic pictographic Chinese characters. You will learn about daily food and drink vocabulary, daily meals, different types of Chinese cuisines and street food, and key cooking methods, how to ask for food, understand and talk about where, when and how often activities take place, ask for and respond to simple directions. You will also learn how to express your feelings, table manners and dining etiquette when eating out and typical traditional food in different festivals.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$5 for an interactive cultural activity

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

SPANISH 9SPAN

Course Description

Within this subject, you will learn Spanish while creating a school guide book to be used by Spanish-speaking exchange students. In the process, you will use a range of tools to create a map and prepare a profile of the school. In addition, you will learn about how schools work in Spanish speaking countries.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$5 for an interactive cultural activity

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

TE REO Māori 9MAOR

Course Description

This course is a discovery of Pre-Colonial Māori and the competition for resources. Inter-tribal warfare married up traditional weaponry with the development, use and needs of the resources available. Students will learn about the Tikanga (correct protocols and practices) that intertwined the Māori warriors before, during and after a battle. Meaning and appreciation of Te Reo will permeate throughout this course. You will create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive texts in response to content explored in class. This includes an exploration into Whalerider, an analysis of myths and legends and their impact on societal expectations, development of essay and persuasive writing skills in response to texts and a continued focus on reading-skill growth.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$5 for an interactive cultural activity

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

ENGLISH OPTIONS

MEDIA STUDIES 9MEDI

Course Description

We make films! From Superheroes to Taylor Swift to Zach King, explore your spark of interest and set your imagination alight! Come along and discover the wonderful world of film production and the media industry. In this course you will be inspired by Weta Workshop. You'll be dazzled by the creativity of cinematographers, lighting and sound engineers as well as set and costume designers. There will also be an opportunity to get nice and judgy about the monopoly of the mouse: The Walt Disney Company.

With three exciting creative projects you will learn the art of storytelling through the camera lens, designing your own sound and visual effects. You will create your own creative, stop-motion-inspired artistic film, explore the reach and influence of The Walt Disney Company, and create the next big film franchise, complete with creative design and marketing strategy.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH OPTIONS

SPORTS ACADEMY 9ACAD

Course Description

At AJHS we have traditionally had a large number of high performing athletes. We know the dedication that it takes to achieve success at the highest level and as a school we are committed to helping our young sportsmen and sportswomen excel both in the sporting arena and classroom. Students need to apply. The selection process is a thorough, objective process including but not limited to; fitness tests, problem-solving activities and teamwork challenges. Applications will be discussed and further research into students' abilities/attitudes will be carried out where necessary.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$280

FULL YEAR COURSE

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

SPORTS SCIENCE 9SPSC

Course Description

This course is designed for students who are passionate about sport, recreation and fitness. Students will spend time developing skills and applying their knowledge into different training techniques and putting these into practice becoming fitter, faster and stronger all whilst developing mental strength. This course also looks at the basics of Sports Psychology.

[more information..](#)

Course Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

SOCIAL STUDIES OPTIONS

GEOGRAPHY 9GEOG

Course Description

Sinkholes that appear overnight, towering tsunami waves from earthquakes thousands of kilometres away, tornadoes that flatten buildings in seconds, volcanic eruptions that coat cities in metres of ash, this course focuses on natural disasters. Find out what causes these events, their impacts and consequences and how you can survive them. Case studies from across the globe will be used.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.

BUSINESS STUDIES 9BUSI

Course Description

Discover how entrepreneurs innovate, use scarce resources and earn a profit. Discover your creative self as you innovate a product and create a marketing campaign for it. Could you be the next famous teenage entrepreneur?

Learn about what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur - the risks that are taken, product development, supply and demand, logo and brand creation, advertising and marketing. This one semester course focuses on what you need to know to start up and manage your own business.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$0

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

SCIENCE OPTIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE 9ENVI

Course Description

This course is for students who want to find out more about the natural world and understand the impact that humans have upon it. We will investigate the four spheres of planet Earth: atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere, and the interactions between them. During this course, you will increase your understanding of the natural environment using information from biology, chemistry, earth sciences, physics and engineering. Environmental awareness is crucial for wellbeing, prosperity and survival on our planet. This course focuses on the effects of human activity on the environment and explores how we can protect and restore our natural heritage; minimise human impact; reverse environmental degradation; and better manage our environment and resources

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$30

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply

HUMAN BIOLOGY 9HBIO

Course Description

What is blood? 5 litres of crimson liquid flows through your veins. But how does it flow through your body? How does it support every one of your 30 trillion cells? What are its secrets when it comes to killing and defeating Covid 19?

In this course, you will discover the structure of the Circulatory, Respiratory and Immune systems and relate this to their functions. You will have opportunities to link this understanding to current medical /ethical and societal issues. Some history of medicine, medical discoveries and famous scientists will be uncovered too.

[more information...](#)

Course Donation: \$20

Additional costs for EOTC or optional class activities may apply.