

# OPTION SELECTION

**2026 into 2027**

Botany Downs Secondary College

*Your Guide to Choosing the Right Subjects for Your Future*

# WHY OPTION SELECTION MATTERS



The subjects you choose now shape your future pathways

## Opens Doors

The right subjects unlock university courses, apprenticeships, and career paths.

## Closes Doors

Missing prerequisites can block you from subjects you need later.

## Your Choice

This is YOUR future. Make informed decisions, not ones based on friends or easy options.



# KEY DATES & TIMELINE

1

## Term 2

Careers module sessions in designated slots

2

## Term 2, Week 10

Mon 22: Option booklets and information available on BDSC Student Hub

Wed/Fri Tutor sessions: option information, Q&A

Weds 24: Information evening for Year 11 students, parents, caregivers, and whānau

3

## Mon 20 July (Term 3, Week 1)

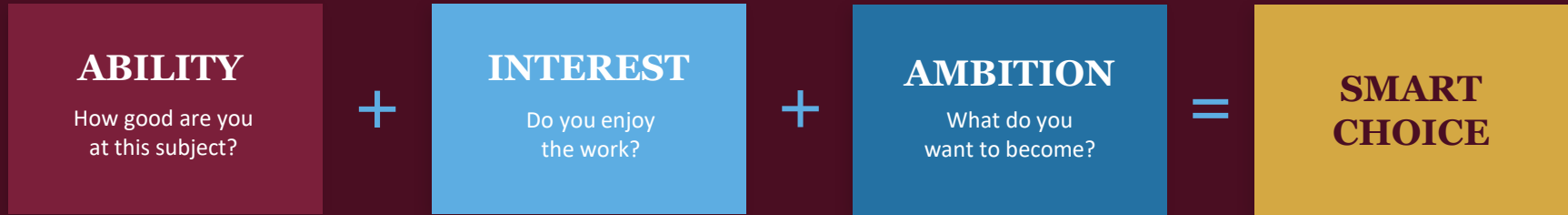
Web portal OPENS for option selections

4

## Monday 27 July (Term 3, Week 2)

DEADLINE: All selections completed in web portal

# THE OPTION SELECTION FORMULA



- ✓ Don't choose subjects just to be with friends
- ✓ Don't pick based on the teacher - they might change
- ✓ If unsure about your career, keep your options broad
- ✓ Talk to subject teachers, parents, and the careers advisor

# WHERE TO GET HELP



## Tutor Teachers

Provide info about BDSC & NCEA requirements, check your selections



## Careers Advisor

Expert guidance on pathways, career planning, and subject requirements



## Subject Teachers & HOLA

Ask about prerequisites, course content, and what to expect



## Option Booklets

Detailed course info on Student Hub and BDSC website - READ THEM!



## Parents & Whanau

Discuss your strengths, interests, and future goals together



## Senior Students

Get real-world perspective from students who have been through it

# COMPULSORY SUBJECTS vs OPTIONS

Year Level	Compulsory	Options
Year 10	English, Maths, Social Studies, Science, Health & PE	<b>3 Options</b>
Year 11	English, Maths, Science, Active Well-being	<b>3 Options</b>
Year 12	English	<b>5 Options</b>
Year 13	None	<b>5 Options</b>

*Course placement within compulsory subjects are determined by the Head of Learning Area based on your academic performance and learning needs.*



Take note of subject restrictions and pre-requisites.  
Check course pathways carefully.

# UNDERSTANDING COURSE CODES

**2ART**

## **Level Number**

The number at the start tells you the NCEA or year level (1, 2, or 3, 10)

**1MAA**

## **A = Alternative**

Lighter version of the full course, often more internally assessed

**3ENE**

## **E = Extended**

Same level but designed for able students who need more challenge

**2MAX**

## **X = Accelerated**

Students working one or more levels ahead of their year group



# HOW NCEA WORKS

## LEVEL 2

**60 credits**

at Level 2 or above

Also requires:

L1 Literacy & Numeracy

## LEVEL 3

**60 credits**

at Level 3 or above

Also requires:

L1 Literacy & Numeracy



Course Endorsement: 14+ credits at Merit or Excellence (minimum 3 internal + 3 external)

# HOW the BDSC Diploma works at Year 11

## LITERACY & NUMERACY

**Co-requisite package achieved**

Can be gained by passing the CAAs or through relevant internal NCEA standards

## ATTENDANCE

**90%**

Justified absences will be taken into consideration.

## ACADEMIC

**Average of 4 or better on 12-point scale; 70% pass rate of NCEA standards**

Average is taken across all subjects



Diplomas will be awarded to qualifying students at the start of 2028.

# LITERACY & NUMERACY CO-REQUISITE (CAA)

## What Is It?

### Literacy CAA (10 credits)

Reading standard: 5 credits

Writing standard: 5 credits

### Numeracy CAA (10 credits)

10 numeracy credits

**Total: 20 credits**

## Key Facts for 2027

- **Must have it before any NCEA level can be awarded**
- Assessment opportunities: May and September
- Year 10 students will sit in second session
- CAAs can be sat from Year 9 to Year 13
- SAC (Special Assessment Conditions) available
- Additional support available for Year 11-13 students who need it

# UE LITERACY: WHICH SUBJECTS COUNT?

*You need 10 credits at Level 2+ (5 reading + 5 writing) for University Entrance*

## Level 2

Biology, Classical Studies, Drama, Economics, English, Geography, History, Media Studies, Music, Psychology, Te Reo Māori

## Level 3

Accounting, Biology, Business Studies, Classical Studies, Dance, Digital Technologies, Drama, EAC (EAL-English Academic Course), Economics, English, Geography, Health, History, Statistics, Media Studies, Music Studies, Physical Education, Psychology

**Auckland University: All students need 17 credits in NCEA English at Level 2 or 3^**



# UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

**60**

**NCEA L3  
Credits**

60 credits at Level 3 or above

**3**

**Approved  
Subjects**

14 credits each in 3 approved  
subjects

**10**

**UE Literacy  
Credits**

5 reading + 5 writing at Level  
2+

**10**

**Numeracy  
Credits**

10 numeracy credits at Level  
1+

*Not all courses are university-approved. Check the approved subjects list in your option booklet.*

**English Rich Subjects or ERS (required for some university courses):**

English, Geography, History, Classical Studies, Te Reo Maori

# UNIVERSITY RANK SCORES

## How Rank Scores Work

- **Best 80 credits at Level 3+**
- Max 5 approved subjects
- Max 24 credits per subject
- **Maximum possible score: 320**

## Points Per Credit

<b>Excellence</b>	<b>4 points</b>
<b>Merit</b>	<b>3 points</b>
<b>Achieved</b>	<b>2 points</b>

## Example Calculation

Subject	Results	Calculation	Score
English	6E, 6M, 16A	$6 \times 4 + 6 \times 3 + 12 \times 2$	<b>66</b>
History	8E, 10A	$8 \times 4 + 10 \times 2$	<b>52</b>
Physics	24M	$24 \times 3$	<b>72</b>
Calculus	4E, 3M, 8A	$4 \times 4 + 3 \times 3$	<b>25</b>
Stats	7M, 10A	$7 \times 3$	<b>21</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>Best</b> 80 credits from 5 subjects	<b>236</b>

# WHAT SUBJECTS ARE RECOMMENDED?



## Engineering

Physics + Calculus  
(required subjects)



## Health Sciences

Maths, + Chemistry + 1  
other Science + 1 ERS



## Nursing

1 Science + 1 ERS



## Law

English Rich Subjects



## Architecture

DVC/Art & Design + 1  
ERS



## Biomedical Sciences

Maths, + Chemistry + 1  
other Science + 1 ERS



## Education

English + Maths



## Business

Maths + 1ERS

**NOTE:** These are examples only. Use the link on page 20 of the Option Information Booklet for more details. You must do your own thorough research for the course and/or university you want.

# NOT GOING TO UNI? NO PROBLEM!



## Work

Prepare your CV, apply, interview. Many industries value hands-on experience.



## Other Training Provider

Certificates, diplomas, and degrees. Practical learning that connects you to industry.



## Apprenticeships

Learn on the job with a qualified tradesperson. Earn while you learn.



## Armed Services

Multiple career pathways. Application, prerequisites, and fitness required.

Vocational Pathways: Manufacturing & Technology | Construction & Infrastructure | Creative Industries | Primary Industries | Social & Community Services | Services Industries

*Visit Career Central, [tahatu.govt.nz](http://tahatu.govt.nz) or [youthguarantee.net.nz](http://youthguarantee.net.nz) to explore your options*

# SUBJECT RESTRICTIONS: YEAR 10 & 11

## Year 10

- Cannot take both 10DRT and 10ART
- **Max 1** of: 10TEM, 10FDN, and/or 10TEF
- Cannot take both 10OED and 10PED

## Year 11

- Cannot take: 1CBA + 1CBE
- Cannot take: 1ART + 1DRT
- Cannot take: 1FAH + 1TEF
- Cannot take: 1TSS + 1TEM
- Max 1 of: 1TEM, 1FDN, 1TEF
- Max 2 of: 1HED, 1PED, 1OED
- Must take at least one Science course (1SCB, 1SCP)

# SUBJECT RESTRICTIONS: YEAR 12 & 13

## Year 12

- **Max 1** of: 2ESS, 2BSS, 2TEM
- Cannot take: 2FAH + 2TEF
- **Max 1** of: 2TEM, 2FDN, 2TEF
- **Max 2** of: 2PHO, 2DES, 2ART

## Year 13

- Cannot take : 3FAH + 3TEF
- **Max 1** of: 3TEM, 3FDN, 3TEF
- **Max 2** of: 3PHO, 3DES, 3ART
- Cannot take 3MAT with 3MAC, 3SAP, or 3SPA

Multi-Level Courses: Y12 students can see L1, L2, L3 courses. Y13 students can see L2 and L3 courses. You may choose courses at any level if you meet the entry criteria.

# SCENARIO: THINK IT THROUGH

## Y10 to Y11: Wants Bio & Chem in Y12

2026 (Y10)	2027 (Y11)
10ENG	1ENG
10MAT	1MAT
10SCI	1SCP
10ART	1TEF
10DVC	1FAH
	1FRE

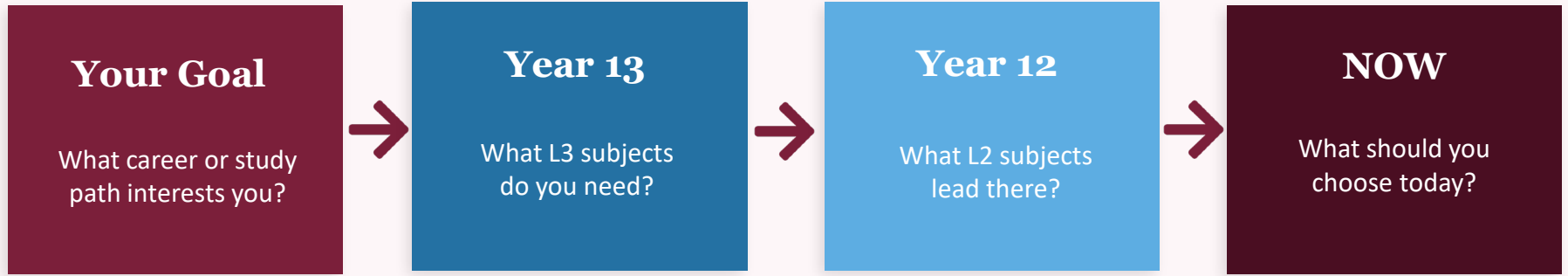
**Issues: 1TEF + 1FAH is an exclusion. If wanting Bio & Chem at L2, would be better to take 1SCB not 1SCP. Also picking up 1FRE at Y11 is not an option without Y10 French.**

## Y12 to Y13: Wants to be an Engineer

L2 (2026)	L3 (2027)
2ENG (16cr)	3CHE
2MAT (22cr)	3GEO
2GEO (14cr)	3BIO
2CHE (18cr)	3SAP
2BIO (20cr)	3DIP
2DIP (19cr)	

**Issue: Engineering needs Calculus + Physics at L3. This student has neither! Good grades, wrong subjects.**

# THINK AHEAD, WORK BACKWARDS



## Remember:

- Poor decisions now can lead to changes, disruption, and poor outcomes later
- Every student must have a full course - no gaps
- If you don't know what you want to do in the future, keep your options broad
- Read the senior option booklets and check prerequisites for future subjects
- Have a backup plan in case your first choice isn't available

# BEFORE YOU SUBMIT: CHECK YOUR CHOICES

1

## Have you met the prerequisites?

Check both current grades and previous subject knowledge requirements.

2

## Any subject exclusions?

Some subjects cannot be taken together. Check your year level restrictions.

3

## Does your course lead to NCEA / UE?

Make sure your subjects give you enough credits for the qualifications you need.

4

## Are you being realistic?

Look at your internal results and practice exam performance honestly.

5

## Do you have a backup plan?

If you can't get your first choice, what's your alternative?



# HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR OPTIONS

1

## Log In

Both student and parent logins can access Course Selection in the web portal.

2

## Choose Options

Select an option in each available column. The order doesn't matter - it will change.

3

## Check Restrictions

Blue-highlighted options have restrictions. Click to read them before selecting.

4

## Save

When finished, you **MUST** click Save. Your choices aren't submitted until you do!

**Portal opens Monday 20 July | DEADLINE: Monday 27 July**

Issues with the web portal? See Ms Pinnell in the SLT office (Learning Hub).

# QUESTIONS?

*Your future starts with the choices you make today.*

## **Tutor Teachers & Whanau Leaders**

First point of contact

## **Careers Advisor**

Book an appointment using the  
BDSC Careers Website  
[bdsc.careerwise.school](http://bdsc.careerwise.school)

## **Ms Pinnell (SLT)**

Web portal issues & special  
requests

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