



St Bernard's College

Level 3 2026 Programmes Booklet

We stand on life-giving ground

GUIDANCE FOR COURSE SELECTION 2026

REMEMBER

Some subjects have recommendations that are a guide for you and your whānau so that you can pick subjects that give you the best chance of being successful. If you don't meet the recommendations, don't worry, you can still get into the course.

We want to give you the best chance of being successful. If we are concerned about your choices, we will be in touch to support you.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| Step 1 | Read the 2026 Programmes Booklet |
| Step 2 | Write down the subjects you are interested in
Write down the subjects you would achieve in
Write down the subjects that can lead you onto career paths you are interested in |
| Step 3 | Talk to your current teachers, Tutor Teacher, Deans and Careers Advisor |
| Step 4 | Find out as much as you can about the subjects you are considering, especially the recommendations |
| Step 5 | Talk to your parents/caregivers about your subject choices |
| Step 6 | Select your subjects for 2026 |
| Step 7 | Make sure you select appropriate subjects
Make sure you select the required number of subjects |

Year 11 – 5 Year 12 – 5 Year 13 – 5
Religious studies (RST) is already picked for you

Do the subjects you have chosen keep career options open to you?
Do the subjects you have chosen allow you to continue on an academic pathway in future years?

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COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religious Studies (13RST)

Year 13/Level 3

DRS: Ms Haley

Pre-requisite

12 credits in Level 2 Religious Studies

Course Description

This course covers topics on: Sects and Cults, Contemporary Ethical Issues and Finding Meaning. This course consolidates the students' knowledge of their Christian responsibilities and commitments.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

ARTS

Drama (13DRA)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mr Palamo

Pre-requisite

Achieved or better in AS91512 and AS91513 or with HoD exemption.

Course Description

In Level 3 Drama you will explore ideas using a range of contexts. You must show willingness to research and develop your ideas thoroughly. You will perform in a variety of plays, both scripted and your own created works. Students in this course will be expected to show self-management and a willingness to attend out-of-class rehearsals. You will see two live performances and critique them. Classes will include in-class workshops, involvement in lessons and practical assessment of your own performances.

Music (13MUS)

Year 13/Level 3

Hod: Mr Palamo

TiC: Mr Hoyes

Pre-requisite

It is expected that students will have had instrumental tuition for 4 years prior to starting this course. If you would like to choose this subject but have not had this tuition, please see Mr Hoyes.

Course Description

Students in this course present solo and group performances, compose music and also prepare for the essential aural external. This amounts to 20 credits. Additional and optional standards include those of sound technology, score reading and music study.

Visual Art (13ART)

Year 13/Level 3

Hod: Mr Palamo

TiC: Miss Jennings

Note: Students require an art stationary pack which may be purchased from the college if required - \$60.00est

Pre-requisite

12 credits Level 2 Art

Course Description

The second year of specialisation in Visual Arts painting. The course continues to allow deeper personal development in painting and art media related to painting. The students still work within specific established practice of renowned artists in painting and illustration. In addition to the larger external portfolio, scholarship is an option for experienced Year 13 painting students subject to teacher approval.

CAREERS

Pathways (13PTH)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mrs Bull

Course Description

Year 13 Pathways is designed for learners who are planning a non-university pathway when they leave school. This course is designed to prepare them for life beyond St Bernard's. Throughout the course, students develop a range of skills that will support them to join the workforce or move on to further education. Students will have the opportunities to participate in industry visits, engage with employers and attend short courses and participate in a work experience placement through our Gateway programme. **Learning programmes are individualised and tailored to the students future pathway goals.**

For those students wanting to complete a work experience placement, an application and interview process is required. Students must maintain an 80% attendance rate and have good attitude to learning grades to be considered.

COMMERCE

Economics (13ECO)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mr Housden

Pre-requisite

8 credits in Level 2 Commerce – must have achieved in AS91222 and AS91224

Course Description

Students will emerge with economic literacy and understanding which allows them to develop a continuing interest in Economics as a Global Citizen. The Economics course balances important concepts and models with real life situations. Students learn the importance of the margin in making profit, reasons for market failure and measures that can be used to remedy these failures, recognise measures to reduce inequality and improve equity and examine the internal and external forces influencing the New Zealand Economy.

This course is dependent on student numbers and will run through Te Kura (Correspondence School). Students will require a laptop and the ability to work independently.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Digital Technologies (13DTC)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mr Housden

Pre-requisite

Successful completion of over half the standards offered in the Level 2 course.

Course Description

This course is designed for those students who intend to pursue a career in a computer-related field or for students who require software development skills. This course covers complex programming and web design/development.

For students who have not met the pre-requisites, an alternative study programme is available.

ENGLISH

English (13ENG)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mr Clarke

Pre-requisite

12 credits from Level 2 English or Level 2 Media Studies

Course Description

This course focuses on enriching the reading, writing and literacy skills necessary for effective understanding, communication and criticism in the wider community. These skills are taught through the framework of a novel/short text study, a film study and the creation of a portfolio of different genres of writing. There is a balance of internal and external achievement standards, with students being required to write formal essays as their primary assessment.

Media Studies (13MED)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mr Clarke

Pre-requisite

12 credits Level 2 Media Studies or 12 credits Level 2 English. Passing the 2.2 Visual/Oral text exam at Level 2 English is highly recommended.

Course Description

This course is an even split of academic (formal essay writing) and practical assessment (designing and shooting a film). Students will explore the construction of culture through various mediums. The course encourages both creative and critical thinking, alongside developing reading, writing, research and self-management skills. Whilst accommodations can be made, consistent access to technology will significantly help the students to succeed.

LANGUAGES

English for Speakers of Other Languages (13ESL)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mrs Corcoran

TiC: Ms Kwok

Pre-requisite

English is NOT the first language of learners, another language is spoken at home. Participation will be confirmed after consultation with HoD Learning Support.

Course Description

This course is designed for those students who need assistance with English because they speak another language/s at home or are new to Aotearoa/New Zealand. Flexibility around the actual modules taught will be available to students according to their needs. Assessment is NCEA approved but does not apply to endorsements. Important gains are increased vocabulary, greater confidence in speaking, improved reading comprehension and support for other subjects studied. Typical credits available for speaking, listening and reading portfolios.

Japanese (13JPN)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mrs Corcoran

Pre-requisite

10 credits in Level 2 Japanese and excellent independent study skills.

Course Description

This course builds on Year 12 Japanese – using Japanese in more formal situations.

This course is dependent on student numbers and may run through Te Kura (Correspondence School). Students will require a laptop and the ability to work independently.

Samoan (13SMA)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mrs Corcoran

Pre-requisite

10 credits in Level 2 Samoan, or at the discretion of HoD.

Course Description

This course builds on Level 2 Samoan. The units are contextually based on covering a variety of topics in more formal situations.

This course is dependent on student numbers and may run through Te Kura (Correspondence School). Students will require a laptop and the ability to work independently.

Te Reo Māori (13MAO)

HoD: Mrs Corcoran

TiC: Whaea Whareaitu

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite

12 credits in Level 2 Te Reo Māori or at the discretion of the HoD Languages or TiC.

Course Description

This course focuses on communicating certainty and uncertainty, developing an argument and recounting a series of events to inform, persuade or entertain. It is also about responding to selected and adapted Māori language texts in Te Reo Māori and tikanga Māori.

Students will require a laptop and the ability to work independently.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics (13MAT)

HoD: Ms Baker

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite

10 credits Level 2 Mathematics

Course Description

This course is designed for students who wish to study Mathematics at Level 3 but do not wish to specialise in Calculus or Statistics. It offers a broad range of Level 3 Mathematics and Statistic standards and is a UE accredited course.

Mathematics with Calculus (13MTC)

HoD: Ms Baker

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite

16 credits Level 2 Mathematics Achievement Standards. Achievement in 2.6 and 2.7 is suggested with one at Merit level.

Course Description

This course is designed for mathematically able students who wish to pursue tertiary studies at University or Polytechnics in Engineering, Commerce, Architecture, Science, Computing and Design. This course emphasises Algebraic Methods, Trigonometry and Calculus.

Mathematics with Statistics (13MTS)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Ms Baker

Pre-requisite

14 credits Level 2 Mathematics Achievement Standards including 2.9. Achievement in 2.12 is suggested.

Course Description

This course is designed for mathematically able students who wish to pursue tertiary studies at University or Polytechnic in Engineering, Commerce, Architecture, Science, Computing and Design. The course emphasises Statistical techniques and processes.

Senior Numeracy (13LSN)

Year 13/Level 1

HoD: Ms Baker

TiC: Mr Adip

Pre-requisite

Participation in the course is for students who are yet to pass the Numeracy co-requisite assessment.

Course Description

Numeracy is the bridge between mathematics and daily life. It includes the knowledge and skills needed to apply mathematics to everyday family and financial matters, learning, work and community tasks, social and leisure activities.

Students will be working to complete a combination of co-requisite Numeracy online tests, financial unit standards and internal Mathematic Achievement standards throughout the year.

This is based at Level 4 and Level 5 of the curriculum.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education (13PED)

Year 13/Level 3

Hod: Mr Hewson

Note

\$400.00 optional extra-curricular trip

Must supply and wear active clothing

Pre-requisite

12+ credits at NCEA Level 2 Physical Education, Completion of Year 12 Physical Education course or at discretion of HoD.

Course Description

This course extends from the Level 2 Physical Education Course. It covers Personal Analysis of Physical Activity, Leadership Strategies, Sport Performance, Strategical Planning and Risk Management in the outdoors. All of the topics covered have both theory and practical elements.

Level 3 Physical Education is predominantly theory based with practical elements.

Sports Studies (13SPT)

Year 13/Level 3

Hod: Mr Hewson

Pre-requisite

An interest in sports and personal development, participation in Year 12 Sport preferential or entry at discretion of HoD.

Must supply and wear active clothing

Course Description

This course covers elements of Physical Education and Sports Studies, while considering the holistic development of a well-rounded athlete. It is targeted at those who are wanting to develop their ability as an athlete or pursue a career in sport. It covers Training Programmes, Sports Performance, Skill Learning and Interpersonal Skills. All of the topics covered have both **theory and practical elements**. This leads to entry into Sports Industry or Tertiary Sports Studies.

SCIENCE

Biology (13BIO)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mr Andic

Pre-requisite

12 credits in Level 2 Biology or 12 credits in other Level 2 Science subjects or at discretion of HoD Science.

Course Description

This course continues to build on the learning of the living world done in Level 2 Biology, however it is designed to allow entry to academic students who demonstrated confidence in other Level 2 subjects (Chemistry, Physics and Earth and space Science) without having done Level 2 Biology. The internal standards will challenge students to manage their time and demonstrate research and essay writing skills. The external standards will require organised note taking and revision. Level 3 Biology is a University Entrance course and as such is best suited to students who are serious about an academic pathway into Tertiary Education. Topics covered are: animal behaviour and plant responses, human body function (homeostasis), genetic manipulation and human evolution.

Note that students looking towards a University Pathway in Biology are strongly encouraged to pair this course with Level 3 Chemistry.

Chemistry (13CHE)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mr Andic

Pre-requisite

13 credits at Level 2 Chemistry and gained achievement in Mathematics 2.6 (Algebra) or at the discretion of the HoD Science.

Course Description

Year 13 Chemistry is closely aligned to Year 12 Chemistry with the topics being covered in greater depth. Topics covered are: Organic Chemistry, Atomic Structure, Oxidation/Reduction, Inorganic Chemistry, Energy Changes and Spectroscopy.

Physics (13PHY)

HoD: Mr Andic

TiC: Mr Housden

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite

17 Level 2 credits in Physics. Achievement in Mathematics 2.6 (Algebra) is also suggested.

Course Description

Year 13 Physics involves students investigating physical phenomena and developing concepts, principles and models in order to explain those phenomena. Topics covered include: Rotation, Kinematics, AC Electricity, Electric Fields, DC Electricity, Electromagnetism, Atomic and Nuclear Physics, and waves.

General Science (13SCI)

HoD: Mr Andic

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite

12 credits in Level 2 Science or at discretion of HoD Science.

Course Description

This is a practical based science course, primarily consisting of internal standards.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Geography (13GEO)

HoD: Mr West

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite:

8 credits in Level 2 Geography or at the HoD's discretion.

Course Description

Level 3 Geography is an in-depth examination of local, national and global geographic issues. Topics include a study of coastal processes on the Kāpiti Coast (with accompanying field trip), the impact of Palm Oil production and an examination of a local geographic issue (such as the impact of new roads or cycleways). This course prepares students for future tertiary study in Geography and other related Social Sciences.

History (13HIS)

HoD: Mr West

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite

9 credits Level 2 History or at the discretion of the HoD.

Course Description

Level 3 History will prepare students for the demands of university study. Contexts include the History of Aotearoa New Zealand and the world. Topics include: the Rise and Fall of the British Empire (for example piracy in the Caribbean, trade with and then control of India and the Industrial Revolution) followed by an in-depth study of the New Zealand Wars and other acts of historical resistance against colonialism. Key skills include conducting an independent historical inquiry, historiography, and interpreting complex primary source material.

Humanities (13HUM)

HoD: Mr West

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite

NCEA Level 2 or at the discretion of the Hod.

Course Description

Year 13 Humanities is designed for learners who are planning a non-university pathway when they leave school. This course focuses on kaitiaki a iwi – local citizenship. Topics include: learning about a great leader, communicating with people from other cultures and taking social action to give back to our communities. Key skills include writing and numeracy, as well as planning and then carrying out a community project.

TECHNOLOGY

Design and Visual Communication (13DVC)

HoD: Mr Cassidy

TiC: Ms Hatton

Year 13/Level 3

Note: Students require a graphics stationary pack which can be purchased from the college - \$40.00

Pre-requisite

Achieved 14 credits in Level 2 Design and Visual Communication. Six credits must be from either AS91341 (2.34) or AS91342 (2.35).

Course Description

The emphasis is on the communication and presentation of design ideas through the application of the Graphics principles and techniques. The course is directed towards specialised study in the major fields of Spatial and Product Design. Students need to demonstrate in Year 12 Design and Visual Communication the ability to work and study independently. Students will focus on three main fields of interest from Spatial, Product Design and Graphic Presentation Design.

Technology Construction (13TCC)

HoD: Mr Cassidy

Year 13/Level 3

Pre-requisite

Students will have gained 12 credits in Level 2 Construction.

Course Description

This is a Gateway course designed to support student's transition into the trades industry and have opportunities to secure apprenticeships. Students will complete health and safety unit standards and practical building and carpentry Level 3 BCITO unit standards. Their work will be presented as a portfolio for assessment. Students will have the opportunity to participate in work experience throughout the year, meet with industry training organisations and potential employers.

An application and interview process is required and students must maintain an 80% attendance rate to be considered for work experience.

Technology Hospitality and Catering (13HSP)

Year 13/Level 3

HoD: Mr Cassidy

TiC: Mr Connell-Smith

Pre-requisite

Must have Level 2 – US167 – Practise food safety measures in a food business under supervision.

Course Description

This is a course for students interested in the hospitality industry and who wish to pursue further training and employment in this field. This is a theory-based course with an optional practical component. Students will also be expected to cater for school events, be required to engage in class work independently and be dedicated to succeed.

VOCATIONAL PATHWAYS

The Vocational Pathways provide a framework for students to see how learning and achievement is valued in the workplace by aligning learning to skills needed. They also suggest the types of study options and job opportunities available.

Use the Vocational Pathways to plan your studies.

The Vocational Pathways offer lots of choice across industries

Use the online Profile Builder to explore study options and start building your Vocational Pathways at:

www.youthguarantee.net.nz/start-your-journey-now/

For Careers advice and tips visit

www.careers.govt.nz

You can also access this information by visiting the school portal

Log into the school student portal: (<http://portal.sbc.school.nz>)

Select - Pathways

Then - Year Level

Then either - Construction and Infrastructure
Creative Industries
Manufacturing and Technology
Primary Industries
Service Industries
Social and Community Services



On each of the six sector tabs are the various Vocational Pathways currently available.

Listed in each of the tabs are links to possible career options this pathways provides

COURSE STRUCTURE FOR 2026

YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	RELIGIOUS STUDIES ↳ Health	RELIGIOUS STUDIES
ARTS ↳ Drama ↳ Music ↳ Te Ao Haka ↳ Visual Art	↳ Drama ↳ Music ↳ Te Ao Haka ↳ Visual Art	↳ Drama ↳ Music ↳ Visual Art
CAREERS	↳ Pathways	↳ Pathways
COMMERCE ↳ Commerce	↳ Commerce	↳ Economics
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY ↳ Digital Technologies	↳ Digital Technologies	↳ Digital Technologies
ENGLISH ↳ English ↳ Literacy ↳ Media Studies	↳ English ↳ Communication Skills ↳ Media Studies	↳ English ↳ Media Studies
LANGUAGES ↳ English for speakers of another Language ↳ Japanese ↳ Samoan ↳ Te Reo Māori	↳ English for speakers of another Language ↳ Japanese ↳ Samoan ↳ Te Reo Māori	↳ English for speakers of another Language ↳ Japanese ↳ Samoan ↳ Te Reo Māori
MATHEMATICS ↳ Mathematics ↳ Numeracy	↳ Mathematics ↳ Mathematics with statistics ↳ Practical Mathematics ↳ Senior Numeracy	↳ Mathematics ↳ Mathematics with Statistics ↳ Mathematics with Calculus ↳ Senior Numeracy
PHYSICAL EDUCATION ↳ Physical Education	↳ Physical Education ↳ Sport Studies	↳ Physical Education ↳ Sports Studies
SCIENCE ↳ Applied Science ↳ Science	↳ Earth and Space Science ↳ Biology ↳ Chemistry ↳ Physics	↳ General Science ↳ Biology ↳ Chemistry ↳ Physics
SOCIAL SCIENCES ↳ Geography ↳ History	↳ Geography ↳ History ↳ Humanities	↳ Geography ↳ History ↳ Humanities
TECHNOLOGY ↳ Construction ↳ Design & Visual Communication ↳ Hospitality & Catering	↳ Construction ↳ Design & Visual Communication ↳ Hospitality & Catering	↳ Construction ↳ Design & Visual Communication ↳ Hospitality & Catering

SUBJECT PLANNING SHEET

Use the space below to plan the subjects you wish to take in Years 11 to 13.
Be mindful of the following

- subject recommendations
- your future aspirations - the courses / tertiary institutions you wish to attend when you leave St Bernard's College.

You should refer to information provided in this book, such as Qualifications Pathways and Choosing a Course of Study, information in National Qualifications such as National Certificates, as well as relevant career information available from your subject teacher, or Mrs Bull.

Year 11	RE	ENGLISH/MEDIA /LITERACY	MATHS/ NUMERACY	SCIENCE/ APPLIED SCIENCE		
Year 12	RE					
Year 13	RE					
Tertiary						

Where I need to go to obtain more information.

①	
②	
③	
④	
⑤	

Careers listed with subjects are just a sample, for more ideas go to
www.youthguarantee.net.nz/vocational-pathways

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **To be awarded NCEA Level 1**, students must achieve 60 credits at level 1 or above. Students must also achieve the literacy and numeracy co-requisite.
- **To be awarded NCEA Level 2**, student must achieve 60 credits, at level 2 or above. The NCEA Level 1 literacy and numeracy requirement must be met to gain NCEA Level 2.
- **To be awarded NCEA Level 3**, student must achieve 60 credits, which must be at level 3 or above. The NCEA Level 1 literacy and numeracy requirement must be met to gain NCEA Level 3.

Certificate and Course Endorsement – to qualify for a certificate endorsement with Excellence for NCEA, students require 50 credits at Excellence level. An endorsement with Merit requires 50 credits at Merit (or Merit and Excellence). Course endorsement at Achieved, Merit and Excellence level is also possible. To qualify for either of these, a student must gain 14 credits or more at the level of the endorsement. This must include a minimum of 3 internally assessed credits and 3 externally assessed credits. However, Physical Education, Religious Studies and Level 3 Visual Arts course endorsements can be gained without external standards.

Entrance to New Zealand Universities Requirements:

- NCEA Level 3
- Three approved subjects – minimum 14 credits in each
- **Literacy** – 5 reading and 5 writing credits Level 2 or above
- **Numeracy** – 10 credits Level 1