

Matarau School's Year 7 & 8 Programme offers:

- ◆ Class numbers substantially lower than in most urban schools.
- ◆ More individualized instruction and better access to learning resources.
- ◆ Specialist teaching in Science, Technology (off site) and digital technologies (on site).
- ◆ Instruction in goal setting, time management, study skills and test technique
- ◆ Participation in leadership and community services programmes
- ◆ Excellent classroom discipline
- ◆ Specific programmes tailored for children ages 11 to 13 including study skills, thinking skills and career guidance.
- ◆ Cambridge pathway option in English and Math.
- ◆ Numerous opportunities for extension including Science Fair, Otago Maths Challenge and Australian Schools English and Maths Competitions
- ◆ Opportunities for individualised monitoring and instruction in areas of need
- ◆ Excellent outdoor education and sports programmes
- ◆ Options programme to extend learning in areas of personal skill or interest.
- ◆ Senior Study Hour 3 afternoons a week
- ◆ Secondary school bridging programmes
- ◆ Staff who are highly accessible and committed to working in close partnership with parents
- ◆ A firm commitment to teaching core basic skills in English & Maths
- ◆ Opportunities to develop skills in areas of interest

The Step to Secondary School

We undertake an extensive programme of preparation for secondary school entry tests, and have consistently achieved grade averages well above average overall entry levels.

Significant Achievements of our Year 7 and 8s

- ◆ Excellent year 9 class placements
- ◆ Exceptional achievement in their respective secondary schools
- ◆ Exceptional achievements in regional and national science fairs including two national winners and more individual prizes proportionate to our size than any other school
- ◆ Exceptional achievement in Australian Schools English and Mathematics Competitions

Senior Options programme

Our year 7 and 8 students also participate in an "Options Programme"

Options currently include ...

- ... Spanish
- ... Korean
- ... TeReo
- ... Coding and digital technologies
- ... Sports science
- ... Experimental (lab based) science

The options programme extends learning into areas of personal skill or interest and exposes students to material they might encounter at (and beyond) secondary school.

Senior Study Hour

The school provides supervised study (and support) time (year 7 and 8 students only) from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM on 2 to 3 afternoons a week. This service is provided free to parents.



MATARAU SCHOOL

YEAR 7 & 8 PROGRAMME



CONTACT INFORMATION

Further information about our Year 7 & 8 programme can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MatarauSchool/>

<http://www.matarau.school.nz/>

Or alternatively email the school: admin@matarau.school.nz



Our Senior School

While fully a part of the school we also recognize that the needs of year 7 and 8 children are in some respects unique. We make specific provision for those needs within specially targeted and academically rigorous programmes.

This prospectus endeavours to highlight some of the many advantages of year 7 and 8 education at Matarau School. It is by no means exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with the schools website.

Year 7 and 8 Programme Offers ...

- ◆ Education within a safe rural environment less than 10 minutes from Kamo
- ◆ Opportunities to develop leadership attributes as school seniors
- ◆ Education in a school where most children are already well known by staff thus allowing for quick transfer of essential information.
- ◆ Education within a peer group which is the optimal size for learning and friendship

Cambridge Pathway

In 2016, Matarau School implemented the world renowned Cambridge English and Mathematics Programmes in our senior school. This was especially good news for parents contemplating Cambridge as an option at secondary school, for those considering private schools for their child (at some stage), and for those keen to give their child a very thorough academic preparation for year 9. Our Secondary 1 programme will take students to within one year of the international Secondary 1 checkpoint exam.

And the wider curriculum?

The NZ Curriculum and the Cambridge Programme have been carefully mapped onto each other to ensure there are no gaps. Social Studies, Technology, Physical Education, Art, Music, ICT and Outdoor Education are integrated within the Cambridge Programme where possible, or taught as they are traditionally taught. Programmes include opportunities to self-manage, think critically, set goals, work in teams, support others and negotiate elements of personal enquiry.

Pathways

Students exit their homeroom programmes into the appropriate Cambridge pathway each day. They then return to their homeroom for other subjects.

Children and parents are involved in determining the best Cambridge pathway for each child.

Personalised Learning

Where possible, students are given authentic opportunities to develop their potential as self-directed learners. They set goals, develop plans, think critically and make their own choices along the way.

In summary, our Cambridge programme allows us to combine the best of both worlds.

How many schools offer Cambridge?

Cambridge is the world's most popular international programme, now offered in over 100 countries in over 2,000 schools. Matarau would be the first state school in Northland to offer the Cambridge Lower Secondary programme, and at no extra cost to parents!

How different is Cambridge from the usual programme offered for intermediate age students around NZ?

This is a complex question, but basically the Cambridge programme is more content heavy than the regular curriculum and children are introduced to concepts a little earlier. The NZ Curriculum certainly has its strengths (one of them being its open-endedness and flexibility) and so we will combine the best elements of both.

Isn't Cambridge better suited to more academic learners?

It does suit these students well, but it can be adapted to all learners and all levels of ability. One thing we have consistently heard is that even children who have struggled with Cambridge have found themselves achieving well above average when they have returned to a non-Cambridge classroom.

What factors might influence a student's chosen pathway?

Factors considered could include a student's academic history, preferred subjects, general aptitude to learning, their individual learning style, existing familial or extramural commitments likely to place demands on their time etc.

Who might be especially interested in / likely to benefit from this programme?

- ◆ Those seeking the best possible foundation in English and Mathematics,
- ◆ Those seeking good year 9 class placements at their chosen secondary,
- ◆ Those considering a private school education for their child at some future point – but wanting to test the “Cambridge waters” first,
- ◆ Those considering Huanui College or Whangarei Boys' High School where Cambridge is offered (upper stream classes at WBHS years 9 to 13)
- ◆ Those wanting the best possible start for their child at secondary school.