

Senior College Information Handbook

2026



MIDDLETON
GRANGE SCHOOL



Introduction

Kia ora and welcome to the Senior College,

It is our pleasure and passion to host you during your time with us. Our prayer is that this will be a time of success, growth, and encouragement for you as you embark on this chapter of your life.

As Deputy Principal of the Senior College, I am committed to seeing the best outcomes for the students in my care. We want to see our students thrive and flourish, not only academically, but in all areas of life. God has given each of us unique gifts and talents, and I want to see these nurtured and developed while students are in Senior College.

The Senior College is a place of serious academic pursuit; a place where young men and women qualify for the various pathways that suit the gifts and abilities God has built into their uniqueness; a place where their character continues to be refined in the disciplines of hard work, service and decision-making; and a place where God deepens their personal commitment to Him as they find their place in His plan and purpose for creation.

I look forward to getting to know you, as you undertake this exciting journey with us at Middleton Grange School.

Ngā mihi nui,

Shane McConnell

Deputy Principal ~ Head of Senior College

MGS Vision Statement:

Middleton Grange School assists families in the education of their children by providing an environment in which Biblical truths in Jesus Christ are taught and lived.

MGS Mission Statement:

At Middleton Grange School we are committed to a rigorous learning culture based on an understanding of truth as revealed in the whole counsel of Scripture. We equip students with the knowledge and skills to understand their heritage and their place in it; and to critique and engage contemporary society. We work with parents to encourage students in their gifts and abilities to serve God and others.

School Verse:

In Thy Light shall we see Light - Psalm 36:9

School Moto:

Character, Excellence, Service for the Glory of God



Overview

What is the Senior College?

The Senior College at Middleton Grange School is comprised of Years 11, 12 and 13.

It is a place where:

- the God given talents and gifts of students are nurtured and shaped
- students are taught the skills and knowledge required to enter tertiary study or the work force
- teachers will encourage students to grow in independence and faith
- students will develop the life skills required to become an effective member of society

Whānau Groups:

Each Senior College student is placed into a Whānau class, based on the House system. Students from the same year level are placed with a staff member who becomes their “familiar adult” care provider throughout their Senior College years.

Over this time, close relationships develop between the students in Whānau class, as well as with their Whānau teacher, as they participate in devotions, academic encouragement, house activities and social occasions together. A culture of care and mutual support is established within each Whānau class and encourages a family atmosphere throughout the school community.

Courses:

In Year 11, we offer the Middleton Grange School Certificate. This certificate is described on pages 5-8.

In Year 12 we offer NCEA Level 2, and in Year 13 we offer NCEA Level 3. An outline of these qualifications is provided on pages 9-10.



Senior College Staff

Senior College Leadership:

Mr Shane McConnell

Deputy Principal: Head of Senior College



Mr Isaac Stanton

Assistant Head of Senior College

Miss Ashley Wallace

Assistant Head of Senior College

Mrs Janet Dixon

Principal's Nominee

For contact details, please refer to the school website - www.middleton.school.nz/contact-us/

Senior College Support Staff:

Learning Centre:

Mrs Leslie Barnes

Learning Support Co-ordinator:

Miss Anne Mackechnie

Librarian:

Mrs Becky Ross

Counselling:

Mrs Wendy Bowen Graham

Communications & Admin:

Mrs Melissa Broughton

Deans - Pastoral Care:

Year 11 Boys from Shackleton & Wilson Houses

Year 12 Boys

Mr Andrew O'Neill

Year 11 Girls

Year 12 Girls

Ms Andrea Gort

Year 11 Boys from Bowen & Scott Houses

Year 13 Boys

Mr Chris Murray

Year 13 Girls

Mrs Yvette Hodge



Year 11 Certificate

Introduction:

The Middleton Grange School Mission Statement reads that we are committed to a rigorous learning culture based on an understanding of truth as revealed in the whole counsel of Scripture. The Year 11 Middleton Grange Certificate allows us to explore this mission statement with integrity and depth.

The focus of our Year 11 programme is to cultivate teaching and learning experiences that enrich our ākonga, guided by Christian values. Our aim is to help students discover the joy that learning holds for each one as they grow in wisdom, faith, and understanding of God's creation. Each curriculum area has designed engaging and relevant courses that prepare students thoroughly for NCEA Levels 2 and 3.

While there is an expectation to complete the Certificate, the focus is on the learning; the assessment is an outcome of the learning and not the priority of it.

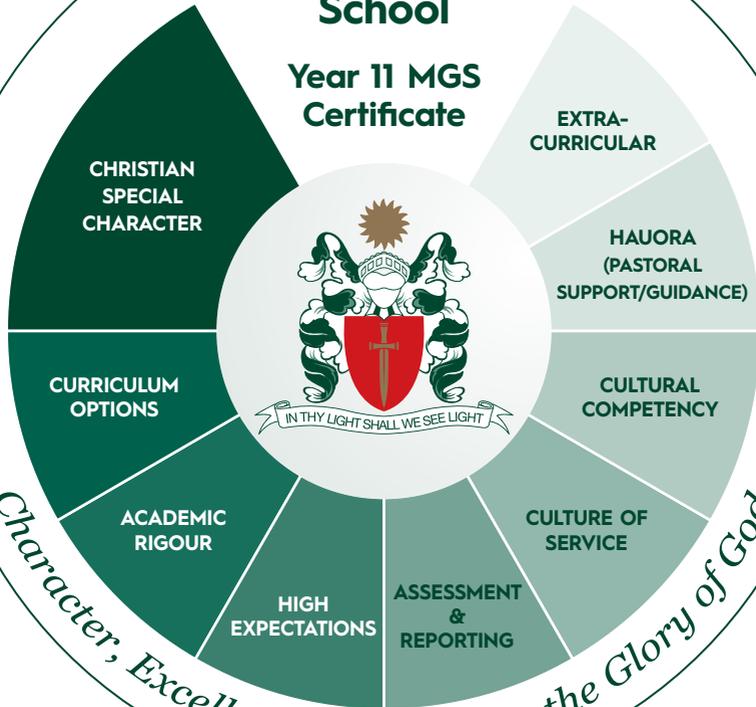
The Certificate will help ākonga recognise that learning extends beyond the classroom. Students will have opportunities to experience growth in a variety of settings; including sport, cultural activities, service, the arts, and wider school activities.

The Year 11 qualification will include:

- Rigorous teaching and learning that will prepare students for the academic demands of Level 2 in 2027.
- Opportunities for formal assessment and recognition of achievement.
- The ability to complete NCEA literacy and numeracy requirements, through the co-requisites, if these have not already been achieved.
- Service and extra-curricular components.

Middleton Grange School

Year 11 MGS Certificate



Character, Excellence, Service for the Glory of God



MGS Certificate Requirements

Graduation Requirements:

To successfully complete the Middleton Grange School Certificate, students must:

- Earn a minimum of 60 credits across all their subjects.
- Complete at least 20 hours of service in areas of their choice.
- Participate in at least 20 hours of co-curricular activities in areas of their interest.
- Maintain an attendance rate of 90% or higher.

Course Assessment:

Students will be graded as Excellent, Merit, Achieved, or Not Achieved based on specific assessment criteria. Consistent high achievement in each graded assessment may mean a student is recognised with a Distinction or High Distinction endorsement for that subject. Those who consistently achieve high grades across all subjects (meeting an 85% Grade Point Average or higher) will qualify for a prestigious Middleton Grange School Scholars' Award. This award, along with other honours, will be presented during the Year 11 Prizegiving ceremony.



Dimensions of the Year 11 Programme

Christian Special Character

Middleton Grange School assists families in the education of their children by providing an environment in which the Biblical truths of Jesus Christ are taught and lived. Our special character plays an integral part across the whole Year 11 programme including in lesson content and preparation. We seek to develop and nurture a biblical worldview through all aspects of school life. We work with parents to encourage students in their gifts and abilities to serve God and others.

Curriculum Options

Alongside the compulsory subjects of Christian Studies, English, Mathematics, and Science, students are offered the opportunity to select from a wide range of option subjects. Students will be encouraged to cultivate their talents and embrace challenges with confidence and resilience.

Culture of Service

Middleton Grange School aims to create meaningful opportunities for students to engage in service, following the example of Jesus' servant-hearted leadership. We encourage students to embrace His calling by actively responding to the needs of others. Through practical experience they will be inspired to live out the compassion and dedication exemplified in Jesus' life and ministry.

Extra-curricular

Learning is a holistic journey, and students are encouraged to engage with life beyond the classroom. Extra-curricular opportunities allow them to thrive in many areas, developing strengths, talents, and skills that empower them to flourish.

Academic Rigour

We are dedicated to delivering a high-quality teaching and learning programme grounded in a rigorous academic culture and guided by the truth revealed in the entirety of Scripture. Our Year 11 qualification will elevate students' academic achievement and fully prepare them, in line with the NZ Curriculum, for the challenges of Year 12 and 13 NCEA.

Hauora (Pastoral Support/Guidance)

Teachers, Deans, and the Counselling team are there to offer well-being support.

Assessment and Reporting

Year 11 teachers will provide regular feedback on progress and achievement. Students and parents can expect timely and valuable reporting.

High Expectations

Middleton Grange School upholds high expectations for both staff and students. The Year 11 programme is designed to challenge and inspire students, fostering growth and excellence through perseverance and diligence. Our commitment is to see every student progress and succeed.

Cultural Competency

Middleton Grange School is committed to honouring the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and foster a vibrant, diverse community. We aim for our Year 11 students to build meaningful connections within this community, equipping them to serve and engage with others respectfully and effectively.



NCEA - Years 12/13

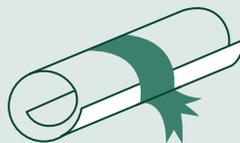
NCEA stands for the **National Certificate of Educational Achievement**. It's the main qualification for senior secondary school students, and it's available at Levels 2 and 3 at MGS. NCEA is internationally recognised.

Levels 2 and 3



NCEA Level 2

is the minimum qualification you will need for some jobs and tertiary programmes.



NCEA Level 3

is needed for entry to university, along with University Entrance.

Standards:

Every subject that you take is assessed by standards.

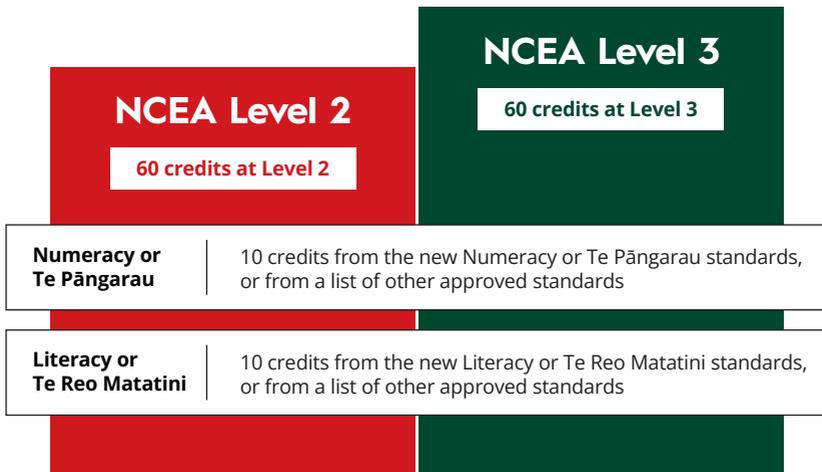
Standards describe different areas of knowledge and skills. There are specific standards that recognise mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge). Each Head of Faculty will decide which standards are offered in each subject and how/when they will be assessed.

You can also achieve standards through some activities away from the classroom. For example, you may achieve standards by getting your driver licence, performing at a regional kapa haka or polyfest, or completing approved work or study programmes.

Credits:

Each standard is worth credits. When you achieve a standard, you earn the total number of credits that standard is worth, and it's these credits that build towards NCEA. There are usually around 4 or 5 standards in each subject giving a total of 20 credits available per subject (small variations apply).

What you need for NCEA:



The Principal's Nominee:

The Principal's Nominee is Mrs Janet Dixon for 2026. She is responsible for overseeing NCEA systems and processes within the school. You should talk to her if you:

- Will miss an assessment and need a derived grade or extension
- Need Special Assessment Conditions
- Wish to appeal a grade for an assessment and have already spoken to the Head of Faculty



Student Behaviour

Code of Conduct:

The Code of Conduct identifies the principle by which we should conduct ourselves. This principle is best summarised by Jesus' words in Matthew 22:39 where He instructs us to:

"Love your neighbour as yourself"

Through the Code of Conduct our intentions are:

To provide for students and staff a safe, ordered, secure and caring environment which is conducive to working and learning.

The ultimate aims of discipline are to:

1. Develop self-discipline in students
2. Develop biblical virtues
3. Promote academic excellence
4. Promote a suitable environment for learning

Learning Culture:

Our expectation of student behaviour is based on Matthew 22:39 and encourages us to '... put the needs of others before our own, make wise choices, accept responsibility for any wrongdoing and its consequences and demonstrate repentance through attitude and action.'

No student has the right to interfere with the teacher's ability to deliver the lesson or other students' ability to learn, and may be referred out of the classroom in order to reflect on their error, then return to the classroom teacher at the end of that period to discuss further. Caregivers will be emailed home to advise if this occurs.

Bullying:

Please talk with your Dean if you need support in how to address bullying you are either experiencing yourself, or witnessing. This is a safe school where any bullying must be talked about immediately. It will not be tolerated or ignored.

Detentions:

Lunchtime detentions are given out for:

- General misbehaviour, both within and out of class
- Repeated lateness to class or school
- Not completing an attendance sheet
- Eating or chewing gum in class time

After-School Detentions are given out for:

- Disobedience
- Verbal abuse
- Fighting
- Truancy
- Bullying
- Dishonesty
- Theft
- Missed lunchtime detentions

or other serious offences.

An email is sent home to the student and caregiver(s) informing of the date and time of the after school detention. Failure to attend without adequate reason will result in further discipline.

Note: Detentions take precedence over all other school or work activities. If there is a problem, see your Head of School *before* the day of the detention.

Behaviour Level System:

This is a period-by-period tracking sheet that is used to monitor student behaviour and to assist in its correction. A student may be placed on a level for attendance, punctuality, work ethic, uniform or anything that a Dean believes would be beneficial for a student.

There are three levels:

Level 1: The Whānau teacher will be responsible for monitoring students on Level 1. It is normally the Dean who places the student on the level.

Level 2: The Dean will be responsible for placing and supervising of students on Level 2.

Level 3: The Head of School will be responsible for placing and supervising of students on Level 3.

For students placed on a level, parents will be informed by phone or email of the decision to have them on a level.



Attendance

Attendance at school for all children is expected. However, there may be the occasion when students may need to be absent for a variety of family reasons. If this is so, please let Student Services know following the steps below, preferably well before the day(s) of absence.

Ministry of Education policy is "An absence explained by a parent is not necessarily a **'justified'** absence. Parents do not have the right to excuse their child from school without just cause, for example – last day of school, sports day at school, meeting someone at the airport, dirty uniform, caring for a sick family member, birthday, taking advantage of cheap flights etc".

Daily Absentees:

Middleton Grange School has a dedicated mobile app for our school community. You can download it by clicking this link: <https://middletongrange.apps.school.nz/install/>. If you click on **'Absentee'** you have the option of **'Call office'** or **'Email'**. The email option allows you to save details for your child. Then, you give a detailed explanation why they are absent and send. It would assist us greatly if messages were left prior to 8.30am.

Teachers of each class will mark student attendance. If a student remains unmarked in the morning, the caregiver will be sent a txt message to ascertain the student's whereabouts. We have to account for all absences, so we appreciate clear communication about why your child is away from school.

Absence for Holiday, Tangi etc:

Absences for holidays during school term can be very detrimental to a student's learning and we cannot approve these as **'justified'** absence. Please consider this when planning family holidays.

For absence/leave 2 days or longer, please provide an email to our attendance officer at attendance@middleton.school.nz explaining why your child will be absent, with dates. We require notification for our records. For coding purposes, we also ask that you submit an absence notification following the steps above.

Absence for Sickness:

If a student is unwell, please keep them at home and inform the school following the steps above.

For more information on illness please visit:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/early-learning/health-safety-and-wellbeing/illness-and-injuries>

Absence for Appointments:

Appointments should be scheduled out of school hours. Where this proves impossible, a parent/guardian or caregiver are to email **absences@middleton.school.nz** at the start of the day, alternatively students are to bring a signed note to Student Services.

The email/signed note must include the following details:

- Student name
- Whānau class
- Date and time of the appointment
- Relevant details of the appointment e.g. Doctor, Physiotherapist, Dentist etc)

Students will be given a green slip to use later. When it is time to leave school, the student presents the green slip to the classroom teacher, then goes to Student Services, and also shows them the green slip in order to sign out. All students **must** sign back in at Student Services when they return from the appointment.

Weekly Off-site Appointments:

For regular external appointments, a request must be made in writing in advance to the Head of Senior College at **dpseniorcollege@middleton.school.nz**. Students granted approval **must sign in/out** at Student Services.

Medical:

If your child injures themselves at school or become unwell Student Services will contact a parent/guardian or caregiver directly. Should your child require further treatment or need to be taken home, please collect your child from Student Services.

Unexplained Absence:

At the beginning of each week, every student who has an unexplained absence is sent an email from the Attendance Officer. This contains an "attendance sheet", showing which period(s) they were absent the week before. The student has until interval on Thursday to return it to Student Services. They must print it out, and have the relevant teacher correct and sign it, to verify their whereabouts. If this is not possible, they should speak with their Dean for advice as soon as possible.

If it is not handed in, they will be sent a physical note to class, as a final reminder. After interval on Friday, Deans will be emailed any students with an outstanding attendance sheet, and they will issue that student a detention (often via email).



Day-To-Day

Leaving School at Lunchtime:	<p>Year 11 students may not leave the school grounds unless for an appointment and follow procedure as detailed.</p> <p>Year 12 students may only leave school at lunchtime without signing out if they have a Study class for Period 5.</p> <p>Year 13 students may leave school at lunchtime without signing out.</p>
Lateness:	<p>Punctuality is valued at our school. Students are expected to be at school by 8.40am and to be in class by 8.45am.</p> <p>Students who are not in class by 8.45am must have had their parent/caregiver notify Student Services (or bring a signed note), before proceeding to class. (NB International Students need to bring this to International College Office).</p>
Driving to School:	<p>Fill in the form on mgs.nz → Student Links → Student Sign-ups → Vehicle permission form. This process is required by the School Bylaws and must be completed before driving to school. Vehicles are not to be parked on the school premises.</p>
Extra-curricular activities:	<p>Sports, performing arts and other extra-curricular activities can be signed up for using the online forms at mgs.nz → Student Links</p>
Computers & Internet:	<p>Students are required to sign the ICT user agreement or access may be revoked. This will be available at mgs.nz → Student Links</p>
Relationships:	<p>There is to be no physical contact between students. Where a natural interest develops it must be conducted so as not to be conspicuous or exclusive.</p>
Smoking & Vaping:	<p>Smoking and vaping is not permitted on the school premises at any time. Cigarettes and vapes are not allowed on school premises at any time and are not to be used while a student is wearing school uniform.</p>



Day-To-Day

Alcohol & Drugs:	<p>Alcoholic liquor, solvents and illegal/dangerous drugs are not permitted on the school premises at any time. The possession or consumption of alcohol/drugs/solvents is also forbidden on school sports trips and all other outside school trips and activities.</p> <p>Students are not permitted to consume alcohol/drugs/solvents prior to coming to school functions such as dinners and dances, or at any organised functions following school events.</p>
Cell Phones & Electronic Devices:	<p>The school does not encourage students to bring any of these items to school but if they do, they must be turned off and in your bag during school hours. If any of these items are seen or heard, they will be confiscated and taken to the Student Services office.</p> <p>Consequences for student phones being visible or used during the day are:</p> <p>1st time cell phone confiscated by staff member and returned to the student at the end of the school day, after 3pm from the Student Services office.</p> <p>2nd time cell phone confiscated, and caregiver is required to collect it.</p> <p>3rd time meeting with student and caregiver(s) regarding continual disobedience.</p>
Food:	<p>Food may not be eaten in class. Only water may be consumed in class. Chewing gum is not permitted at school at any time.</p>
Canteen:	<p>Lunches can also be ordered online using the “Kindo” app, or purchased at the window using cash or card (no PayWave available). Please visit www.middleton.school.nz/canteen/ for information.</p>
Lost Property:	<p>It is essential that student’s clothing and other possessions are clearly named. If property is lost, these are often brought to Student Services. For all unnamed and unclaimed items, these will be donated out at the end of each term.</p>
School App:	<p>Middleton Grange School has a dedicated mobile app for our school community. The app centralises all school communication, making it easier for you to stay connected and informed. You can download it by clicking this link: https://middletongrange.apps.school.nz/install/</p>



Uniform Code

We expect *all* students to wear our uniform in an honourable way, at all times. We expect students dress tidily and show respect and care for their uniform. Please do not send your child with additional items of clothing that are not part of the uniform.

Uniform for Boys/Girls:

All uniform items should be clearly and securely named.

For all uniform code please visit our school website under 'Life at MGS' → 'Uniform'.
www.middleton.school.nz/uniform-code/

Physical Education Uniform:

PE uniform is compulsory for all students taking part in Physical Education.

Rainwear:

Raincoat – plain dark colour, to be worn over uniform. These are not to be worn in the classroom.

Uniform Shop:

Up to date information can be found at www.middleton.school.nz/uniform-shop/ and includes:

- Uniform Shop Hours
- Online Orders (Kindo)
- Booking Appointments



Get Involved

In the Senior College we enjoy a great deal of parent support in a wide variety of ways. Here are some ways you might like to get involved.

- ✓ **Middleton Grange Board**
- ✓ **Sports Coaching**
- ✓ **Helping with Major Activities / Units of work**
- ✓ **Reader/Writers**
- ✓ **Help at Canteen/Uniform Shop**
- ✓ **Help with Senior College Formal**
- ✓ **Sponsor events like Graduation & Mission Trips**
- ✓ **Host an International Student**

There are many ways to get involved. If you are keen or have a skill you can share with staff and students, please let your child's dean know. Parents and Caregivers can assist us greatly by upholding the school, students and staff in prayer.

Prayer Group:

Come and pray God's cover over our school community. All welcome! Please make enquiries at Student Services for further information.

Coffee @ The Grange:

If you have any barista skills & would like to help in the school cafe, we would be very grateful. Please make enquiries at Student Services for further information.

Special Assemblies/Events:

Supporting and encouraging your child to attend these events that celebrate our student achievement.



Contact Us:

30 Acacia Avenue, Christchurch 8041

Phone: 03 348 9826

www.middleton.school.nz

Term Dates:

Term 1: Wednesday 28 January - Thursday 2 April

Term 2: Monday 20 April - Friday 3 July

Term 3: Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September

Term 4: Monday 12 October - Friday 11 December

For all key dates and holidays please visit: www.middleton.school.nz/calendar