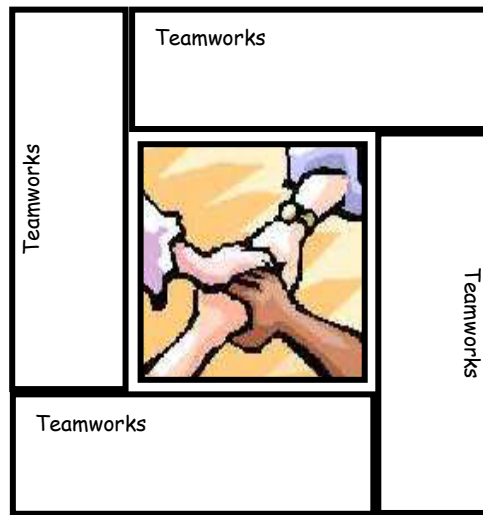


# HUTT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL



## Advanced Organiser for Teamworks information

<b>TOPIC:</b>	<b>TEAMWORKS</b>
<b>SUB-TOPIC:</b>	<b>Frequently Asked Questions</b>
<b>VOCAB:</b>	Cooperative, integrated, social skills, thinking skills
<b>ORGANISATION:</b>	<b>Brief overview</b> <b>F.A.Q.s</b> <b>Contact information</b>
<b>LEARNING OUTCOME:</b>	Be more informed about the Teamworks department at Hutt Valley High School

**Teamworks overview:** The Teamworks department operates at HVHS in Years 9, 10 and 11. Teamworks was created at HVHS over 10 years ago to trial a style of teaching and learning that was more suited to today's educational and vocational aims and objectives, as well as making the transition from middle to senior school more fluid. Cooperative teaching and learning has now become a major focus around the country as it has been recognised and proven to be highly effective in engaging today's learners, teaching our children how to work with one another in a collaborative and collegial manner, whilst taking responsibility for their own learning and behaviour.

Whilst flexible in many areas, Teamworks classes are all based around a common structure that helps focus the students in each and every lesson, creating positive routines, such as using an Advanced Organiser. Most Year 9 Teamworks classes have one teacher for two of the core subject areas of Maths, English, Science and Social Studies. This allows teachers to get to know their students really well as learners and as individuals and aids in forming good relationships between students and teachers, which recent educational research has shown to be one of the top influences in students' engagement and success at school. Teamworks also teaches students techniques to reflect on their learning in order to improve and consequently become experts in how they best learn.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: *Is Teamworks 'Special Needs'?***

**A:** No. Teamworks has the same range of learning abilities and needs as all other junior classes at HVHS. We have the same distribution of gender, ethnicity and abilities as all other classes in that year group.

**Q: *How many Teamworks classes are there?***

**A:** Usually three or four per year level, depending on the number of students in that year group. Year 9 Teamworks pupils automatically remain in Teamworks unless requested otherwise.

**Q: *Do Teamworks pupils get better grades?***

**A:** As yet no statistical analysis has been conducted to compare the academic results of Teamworks students to non-Teamworks students. However, it has been apparent that the non-academic skills learnt by Teamworks students assist greatly in producing well-rounded individuals as several senior students that hold positions of responsibility within the school, receive awards at Year 13 Prize giving and obtain scholarships are ex-Teamworks students. The social skills taught intrinsically to Teamworks students are those often held in high esteem by Universities and employers.

**Q: *Does Teamworks teaching and learning suit certain styles of learning?***

**A:** The Teamworks department teaches to all learning styles, educating and encouraging its students to identify predominantly which type of learner they are. We then support students to develop their other less prevalent learning styles in order to become more rounded individuals.

**Q: *My child is very shy and I'm worried they'll get 'lost' at HVHS, will Teamworks be good for them?***

**A:** Year 9 students are very well supported throughout the school, so no new pupil at HVHS should feel 'lost'. However, some students do benefit from having two teachers for the four core subjects as a more gradual transition from Intermediate school, getting to know those teachers and students well and vice versa. This also helps the teachers to spend more time on learning, than behaviour management.

**Q: *If I tick the Teamworks box is it guaranteed that my child will be in Teamworks?***

**A:** We endeavour to place all students who request it in to a Teamworks class. We work on a first come first served basis as well as ensuring Teamworks classes have a distribution of gender, ethnicity and ability that matches the other Year 9 classes. Numbers do change right up to the first few days of school and so we compile a waiting list of students who expressed a desire to be in Teamworks, who will be contacted should places become available. Those students who are initially placed in Teamworks classes will be notified by letter before the beginning of term.

### **Contact information**

If you would like more information regarding Teamworks then please feel free to contact the HoD Integrated Studies:

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