



MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL



AgriBusiness

Established as a new course in 2017, Agribusiness studies aim to prepare our best and brightest students for careers in the Primary sector.



The CENTRE of EXCELLENCE
FOR AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE
AND BUSINESS[®]

Background

In 2015 the Primary sector generated 61% of New Zealand's merchandise exports and 7.5% of the country's GDP. By 2025, it is estimated that the sector will need an additional 50,000 employees, with a movement away from people without qualifications to those with qualifications. The Government is focused on recruiting many of New Zealand's brightest young people to continue to drive our Primary industries forward, and many of them will have to come from urban centres.



MAGS at the forefront

Located in the heart of New Zealand's biggest city, and with the 8 hectare ASB Bank MAGS Farm next door, Mount Albert Grammar is uniquely positioned to be a leader in introducing urban students to potential of careers in the Primary sector. While this academic course is classroom based, the farm provides a dynamic backdrop against which students can relate to the application of their knowledge to the Primary sector.

Mount Albert Grammar School is one of 10 lead schools involved in developing, in conjunction with the Ministry of Primary Industries and primary sector companies, an AgriBusiness programme that will prepare the best and brightest students for Primary sector careers. We are also one of the few schools in the country able to offer students the programme endorsed by the Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Science and Business[™].



Course Content

Our AgriBusiness course will address what key industry leaders believe best meets the sector's needs. It includes the study of:

- Plant science
- Soil science
- Food science
- Microbiology
- Finance
- Economics
- Digital technologies
- Innovation
- Marketing
- Agriculture
- The value chain
- International trade

This is an academic programme that will expose students to the wide range of skills and knowledge required, and the opportunities available, in the Primary sector up to and beyond the farm gate.

MAGS offers AgriBusiness at NCEA Level 2 and Level 3. The course is designed for students who excel in Science and Commerce subjects. It will be taught in four main areas:

- Science
- Marketing
- Management & Finance
- Innovation

Students involved in the Centre of Excellence for Agricultural Science and Business™ programme at NCEA Level 2, must have strong grades in science and/or commerce subjects at Level 1 and be taking English, Mathematics, a science (Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics) and/or a commerce subject (Accounting, Business Studies and/or Economics).

Students may also take AgriBusiness without being involved in the Centre of Excellence programme.

The AgriBusiness course will have a major emphasis on gaining understanding and applying examples of industry 'best practice' to learning within the classroom. We will visit a variety of businesses involved in a number of Primary industries during the year, which could include viticulture, dairy, market gardening and aquaculture.



Pathways

Fields of work that could lead from tertiary study following the AgriBusiness course include:

- Agricultural technology, including digital tech and robotics
- Primary sector marketing
- Primary sector finance and accounting
- Rural banking
- Scientific research relating to soil, pasture, plants and livestock
- International trade and economics
- Food science
- Government policy advisory (local and national)



For more information on MAGS' AgriBusiness course, or to discuss your child's options, please contact:

Ms Sarah Hayes, Deputy Principal – Curriculum

Mr Blair Gilbert, Head of Commerce

Mr Greg Frank, Head of Agricultural & Horticulture

shayes@mags.school.nz

blair.gilbert@mags.school.nz

gfrank@mags.school.nz

www.mags.school.nz