

## Support for our Year 11-13 learners with their NCEA

Kia ora whanau

I'd like to share with you ways in which we are going to support our Year 11-13 learners with their NCEA, including changes to practice exams, changes to NCEA requirements for learners in Auckland and requirements for entry into Universities.

### **Kaupapa** (overarching plan and purpose)

- To ensure that all learners have the opportunity to be successful in their academic journey and to acknowledge that some learners and some curriculum areas have been more severely affected by the various hurdles and barriers of 2020.
- To be learner centred, allowing accurate academic counselling to take place and for successful mechanisms to be put in place to support this academic counselling.

### **Level 1**

- This year is a foundation year focused on ensuring learners are ready for success at Level 2 & 3 of our NCEA qualification. We will be expecting learners to have 20 credits (cumulative credits) which will include their numeracy requirements. We will also expect learners to participate in one external exam and two school practice exams in the year.
- School practice exams will take place over 2 days (15 & 16 October) and will be preceded by a study day for our Year 11 learners on Wednesday 14 October (learners will be expected to be at home and studying for their exams). These exams will be supervised by NZQA accredited supervisors and run under NZQA format. This is to allow our Year 11 learners to have a practice at sitting exams under formal conditions and to be able to manage their time over this period.

### **Level 2**

- We are expecting the vast majority of our Year 12 learners to achieve an NCEA Level 2 certificate.
- Learners who do not achieve Level 2 by the end of the teaching and learning program (Thursday 12 November) and who may not be able to achieve it via external exams, will be expected to participate in a support program (starting Monday 16 November). They will be given a chance to complete standards and have reassessment opportunities. This will ensure they will start their Level 3 journey with a completed Level 2 certificate.

### **Level 3**

- We will be expecting Level 3 learners to leave with a quality qualification and/or pathway.
- Learners who do not achieve Level 3 by the end of the teaching and learning program (Thursday 12 November) and who may not be able to achieve it via external exams, will be expected to participate in a support program (starting Monday 16 November). They will be given a chance to complete standards and have reassessment opportunities. This will ensure they will start their post Whangaparaoa College pathway with all options available.

## Changes re School Practice Examinations

### **Level 1**

- School practice exams for Year 11 learners will take place in Week 1 Term 4.
- The exams will run over two days (Thursday 15 and Friday 16 October).
- There will be a single study day (Wednesday 14 October) to allow learners the opportunity to continue with their structured study program at home.

### **Level 2 and 3**

- The way we are giving learners practice examination opportunities has changed because of Covid-19, and the need to maximise class time over the few weeks that remain.
- The Level 2 and 3 School Practice Examination slot (14-21 October) has been removed.
- It will be replaced by 2 cycles of extra time for every subject that Year 12 & 13 learners have in their timetable
  - Cycle 1: 15-22 September
  - Cycle 2: 21-29 October
- These two cycles will allow opportunities for Level 2 & 3 learners to have an extended period of time to work on teaching and learning, assessments, practical projects and/or practice examinations.
- The period will go from the beginning of period 4 until the end of the day (12.30 pm – 3.15 pm) including the lunch break.
- Learners will work with their classroom teacher and their Kaiarahi to facilitate a good program that supports academic success.

## Changes to 2020 NCEA Requirements

Last week the Minister of Education announced further changes to what Auckland learners require to gain NCEA Certificates this year. In short, our Year 12 & 13 learners need to have passed 48 credits this year at the appropriate level to achieve their NCEA Level 2 or 3 respectively. There's also a slight easing – from 46 to 44 credits – for an endorsement to their NCEA qualification. University Entrance still requires 12 credits in three approved subjects.

### **Requirements to enter University**

I want to remind people that our New Zealand Universities are very keen to have enrolments in 2021 and have relaxed the entrance requirement for most courses. Of course, the standards expected to be successful in the courses will not change. Contact our Careers Department or check out the appropriate university website if you have questions.

Nga mihi nui, ka kite ano  
*(thank you, see you later)*  
James