

28 October 2021

Dear Parents / Caregivers

## **DERIVED GRADES AND EXAM ATTENDANCE**

### **Derived grade**

Following the government's announcement that external examinations will go ahead during COVID Level 3, the Minister of Education have announced that Unexpected Event Grades (Derived Grades) will be available to students.

NZQA have shared the following information:

The Derived Grade calculation will be applied automatically, **and students will receive the higher of either the grade they earn in the exam**, or the Derived Grade submitted by their school based on standard-specific evidence gathered during the year.

The Government's expectation is that students should attend NCEA exams as normal. The exceptions are those students who can't attend an exam due to COVID-specific reason, such as isolating following medical or public health advice; being at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and not fully vaccinated; experiencing significant personal or family related anxiety about exposure to COVID; or having an illness or injury which in other situations would normally require a Derived Grade.

The Government's intention is not for exams to be seen by students as optional, but to give students comfort that they will be able to receive a grade if there is a specific COVID reason that means they can't attend an exam.

### **A recap of previously announced measures for Auckland students is below:**

#### **NCEA Learning Recognition Credits**

- Auckland students will be entitled to 1 Learning Recognition Credit (LRC) for every 4 credits they achieve through assessment in the 2021 school year.
- Students will be eligible for up to 16 LRCs at NCEA Level 1, and 12 LRCs at levels 2 and 3.
- The threshold for Auckland students to be awarded a Certificate Endorsement will be 44 credits at Merit or Excellence level, rather than the usual 50.

#### **Course (Subject) Endorsement**

Auckland students will require 12 credits at Achieved, Merit or Excellence level to receive Course Endorsements, rather than 14.

#### **University Entrance (UE)**

To be awarded University Entrance, students in Auckland will need to achieve 12 – instead of 14 – credits in each of 3 University Entrance Approved Subjects, as well as attaining NCEA Level 3 and meeting the usual literacy and numeracy requirements.

For more details about the changes to NCEA and UE 2020, please visit the NZQA website

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz>.

Yours sincerely

---

**Carol Pottow MA, HDE**

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL BOTANY CAMPUS/PRINCIPAL'S NOMINEE/INTERNATIONAL**