



16 August 2020

Dear Parents/Students Year 11-13

We are praying that all is well with each of you and your loved ones over this time.

I know that many of you are awaiting guidance about how we will navigate ahead with the continuation of lockdown. These are the planned arrangements for our Y11-13 students at BC and MAC:

1. **Subject Classes:** We are very mindful of senior student workload and well-being over this stressful time.
 - Our expectation is that senior students ensure to engage with their individual subject teachers twice a week: ie **during the first part of each double period.**
 - The afternoon single period is free from online contact (apart from Assembly, Tutor academic mentoring and Christian Living classes which will continue) to provide needed independent study time.
 - Parents, please make contact with your child's Subject teachers and/or Whanau Leaders if you have any concerns. We will follow up with parents of any students who are showing persistent non-engagement.

2. **2020 Mock/Practice examinations to be cancelled:**
 - These will be replaced with online assessments where possible and/or class assessments when students return onsite. NZQA have supported the cancellation of 2020 mock exams, as the additional teaching and learning time will be more beneficial for students. This will also give additional time for subject areas requiring extensive preparation for folio boards and project-based work such as Visual Arts, DVC and DT.
 - The signing of authenticity statements will be required where students are assessed remotely from home.
 - Revision and examination practice is always a key focus of term 4. Our students can be well assured of being well-prepared for their final externals.
 - NZQA have also advised the importance of **prioritising qualifications for our potential school leavers.** **Level 3 and Level 2** students moving into the workforce of further training or into tertiary and requiring UE (University Entrance).

NZQA have earlier advised the following modifications to 2020 NCEA and UE:

Students will be offered bonus credits in this year's senior school assessments to compensate for lost classroom time during the Covid-19 lockdown.

*Education Minister Chris Hipkins says students **will get one extra credit for every five that they earn in this year's National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) up to a maximum of 10 bonus points at Level 1 and eight at Levels 2 and 3.***

The total number of credits required for University Entrance and merit endorsements will also be reduced:

- *University Entrance will require 12 credits, reduced from 14, in each of three approved subjects at level 3.*
- *Merit endorsement for an NCEA level will be reduced from 50 credits with merit to 46.*
- *Excellence endorsement for an NCEA level will be reduced from 50 credits with excellence to 46.*
- *Merit and excellence endorsements for an individual course, or subject, will be reduced from 14 credits with merit or excellence to 12.*

Hipkins said the changes will ensure that students are not penalised for the "massive disruption" to schooling when most students had to study from home during levels 4 and 3 of the Covid alert system.

But, by basing the bonus credits on credits already achieved, he said the change "maintains the credibility and reputation of NCEA by basing additional credits on assessed learning".

"Students can be confident that an NCEA attained this year will continue to open doors to tertiary study, vocational education or employment," he said.

Further updates from NZQA are expected.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". (Jeremiah 29:11)

Kind regards
Ngā mihi
Carol

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