



**Elim
Christian
College**
Botany

1st September 2026

Good morning, Parents and Caregivers,

As we come towards the end of the school year, senior students face an important challenge: that of finishing well. For some, exams may feel like the final hurdle after a busy year of schooling. For parents, it can be tempting to focus on the results—grades, university entrance, scholarships, or what comes next. But the Bible gives us a bigger perspective.

Paul writes in **2 Timothy 4:7**:

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Paul doesn't say, "*I achieved the highest score.*" He says, "I finished".

There is something deeply Christian about finishing well. It means that when something is difficult, we don't simply give up. We remain faithful to the task God has placed before us. For students, your exams are an opportunity to practise **faithfulness, discipline and perseverance**. Preparing well is not about being anxious about your results. It is about doing what you can with what God has given you.

Colossians 3:23 says:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

That means studying when you would rather be doing something else. It means asking for help when you don't understand something. It means putting your phone away, getting enough sleep, preparing properly and giving your best effort. Your exam results do not determine your worth. But the way you approach the challenge can help shape your character.

NZQA Examination Window and Study Leave

You will have noticed that the examination period has shifted this year from previous years to be one week later. I have had some queries about the study leave arrangements and we have heard those and considered them in our plans. **This year Years 12 and 13 will have their final day on Friday 30th October and then will be released on study leave.** This allows them a week's time to revise and arrange their own revision schedules. During this time we will have spaces available for those who would like to be onsite and teachers will be available to support students as needed. If students decide to come into school for support they need to be in full uniform. The dates of our Prizegivings remain as previously advertised. All Year 11 - 13 will be expected to come to our senior prizegiving as usual to celebrate their achievements as a group. **Year 11 students will continue through week 4 and will have their last day on Friday 6th November** to allow them more time with their teachers in normal lessons.

Exam and Prizegiving Season - Key Dates

Senior Derived Grade Exams and Study Leave - (7th - 16th September) - These examinations are the opportunity for students to sit practice NCEA examinations in all of their subjects under formal exam conditions. The results of these examinations are used in the case where a student is not able to sit their examinations in November, and they really matter. During this time, students need only be onsite if they have an examination. At other times, they may be at home on study leave to help in their preparations. However, we will make quiet spaces available at school for those who would prefer to be onsite, and to have easier access to teachers for support. As usual, any student onsite must be in school uniform.

Sports Awards and Celebration - (Thursday 29th October 6 pm) - Please keep this date free in your calendar for our annual Sports celebration. This is the night when we acknowledge all of our sporting success and award our sports prizes and cups.

Senior Prizegiving - (Thursday 5th November 6:30 pm) - This is our premier awards evening for our senior students. At this formal event we acknowledge the top students in a range of areas and all students from Year 11-13 are expected to attend. We invite all parents and whanau to this event to help us celebrate the efforts and achievements of our seniors as they pause before heading off to sit their end-of-year examinations.

Last day for senior students (Year 12-13) and study leave begins - (Friday 30th October) - This is the last day for our senior students before they head off on study leave for their end-of-year examinations. There are a range of activities planned for this day to mark the leaving of our graduating class of 2026. From this point, Year 12 and 13 students are released for study leave and need only attend when they have examinations. As for the Derived grade examinations, quiet spaces will be made available for those who prefer to continue to be onsite to prepare for examinations with more direct access to teachers. Year 11 students will continue in normal timetable until Friday 6th November. Year 10 students will continue with their learning as normal until school finishes in December.

NZQA Examination Period - (10th November - 4th December) - This is the formal examination period for senior students. All examinations are held in our school gymnasium under the supervision of an NZQA-appointed examination manager.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage students to make the most of the remaining four weeks of this term. This is the ideal time to speak with teachers about the methods of revision that will help them prepare well for examinations. Our teachers are on your side and want you to do well. Make the most of this time to get helpful tips and techniques to prepare. We will continue to pray for peace and focus over this period, and I personally would like to wish you all blessings for this time.

Thank you for your support of our school,



Mr Julian Adamson
Principal