



Fairfield College

June 4 2020

Kia ora e te whaanau

The purpose of this communication is to inform you about changes that the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) have made to the qualification system for University Entrance (UE) and the National Certificate of Education (NCEA).

These changes have been made in response to the Covid-19 lockdown and the various Alert Levels which resulted in students having to engage in distance learning. The variability of the distance learning experience for students because of a myriad of factors has been recognised by NZQA and they have responded by amending their qualification system to acknowledge the challenges that students and teachers are encountering. These amendments will only apply to the 2020 NZQA assessment schedule (***please see attached document***).

- **Students working towards an NCEA qualification can gain additional credits**, based on the number of credits they achieve during the 2020 school year. These additional credits will be known as Learning Recognition credits. For every 5 credits a student achieves towards their NCEA qualification either through internal or external assessment, they are entitled to an additional 1 credit. For NCEA Level 2 and Level 3 a student can receive a maximum of 8 additional credits. This means that for 2020 although the amount of credits remains 80 for the qualification it means a student could achieve 72 credits with 8 credits being awarded as Learning Recognition Credits. This would allow the student to meet the criteria to be awarded the NCEA qualification. A reminder that 20 of the 80 credits can be at Level 1 for NCEA Level 2, and 20 of the 80 credits can be at Level 2 for NCEA Level 3. This means that the minimum amount of credits required to be achieved at least to the level of the certificate has been reduced from 60 to 52.
- Students will be awarded **a certificate endorsement if they achieve 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level**, rather than the usual 50. Students **achieving 12 credits at Merit or Excellence level in a course** – rather than 14 – will be awarded a course endorsement.
- Current UE requirements have been reduced from 14 to **12 credits in three UE-approved subjects. Students still need to attain NCEA Level 3 and meet literacy and numeracy requirements** to be awarded University Entrance.
- External NCEA examinations and NZ Scholarship **examinations will now take place from 16 November 2020 to 9 December 2020**. This will provide extra time for teaching, learning and assessment in Term 4.
- The submission date for subjects which require students to submit a portfolio (for example, Design and Visual Communications) has been extended to **12 November 2020, to give students more time to complete their portfolios**.

As was referenced in communications that were distributed during Alert Level 4 and Alert Level 3 the school was looking at ways that they could further support Year 12 and Year 13 students to achieve their NCEA or UE 2020 goals.



Be respectful
Be responsible
Be the best you can be

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Each Year 13 student has been interviewed and they have worked with their learning and achievement coach to co-construct a personalised support plan that positions the student on a pathway to achieve their specific academic goal. If you are a parent of a Year 13 student, please discuss this interview and the personalised support plan with them. It is our intention to email or mail a copy of the personalised support plan to parents/caregivers. This will be an ongoing process throughout the year.

Our Pouako through the Waananga Akotahi programme are supporting our Year 12 students with their planning to achieve the NCEA qualification that they are working to achieve. What parents can do to support students achieve their academic goals:

- Discuss with your child their qualification goal for 2020 and regularly engage with them about the progress and challenges that they are encountering in their efforts to achieve this goal.
- Discuss with your child their learning and assessment plans for 2020. Know when your child is being assessed in a particular standard and engage with them about their progress and readiness for this assessment. We encourage you to contact either their Teacher, Pouako, or Dean about learning and achievement progress. Email is the most effective contact, and this can be accessed on the school website.
- Where possible discuss with your child the need to create a specific study space (time and/or room) in your home, for your child to complete assessments and study.
- Discuss with your child, their time commitments and school work, to organise a weekly schedule - include social, personal interests e.g. fitness, hobbies.
- Inform your child's Pouako if there are other ways the school is able to provide further support for your child.

I am heartened by the responsiveness of NZQA to the challenge that our students and their teachers are encountering because of Covid-19 and we look forward to working with students and their whaanau to maximise their learning and achievement.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries about the information that has been provided in these communications. You can email Malgosia Cholewa, Deputy Principal at cholewam@faircol.school.nz or Andrea Rodgers, Learning and Achievement Advisor at rodgers@faircol.school.nz

Naaku noa, naa



Richard Crawford
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