



2 September 2021

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER RE NCEA CHANGES ANNOUNCED TODAY

Kia ora students and parents/whaanau

This afternoon the Secretary for Education, Iona Holsted, and the Chief Executive of NZQA, Grant Klinkum, announced some potential changes for NCEA requirements in 2021 due to the challenges presented for students' off-site learning under the current COVID-19 lockdown situation. In a similar response to what happened last year, NZQA has signalled that there **may be** some changes ahead for the credit targets for NCEA Levels 1-3 and University Entrance. These are outlined in the NZQA announcement below.

It is important to understand that these changes will **only occur if a school has been at Alert Levels 4 or 3 for at least 20 school days**. This will almost certainly happen for schools in the Auckland region. For our school and the rest of New Zealand, by next Tuesday 7 September we will have been in lockdown for 15 school days, which means that these changes will only apply to our students if we remain at Alert Level 3 for at least one more week beyond next Tuesday. For clarity, this means that if we remain in Level 3 (or 4) lockdown until **Tuesday 14 September**, our students will meet the requirements for changed credit targets. **It is therefore important that our students do not now rely on this happening and count on gaining the Learning Recognition Credits that will be available for students in lockdown for at least 20 school days, and that they continue to work hard in the meantime in case they do not become eligible.**

I applaud NZQA for announcing this information early as there is no doubt that this lockdown occurring late in the academic year will be having an impact on the academic achievement of a number of our students. We know that many of our students are feeling the added pressure of this situation and we hope that this announcement will provide some reassurance for our senior students if the return to school is further delayed.

Scott Jenkins
Deputy Principal

Changes to NCEA for 2021 as announced by NZQA today

Because being in COVID-19 lockdown has affected learning and assessment, changes have been made to NCEA, NZ Scholarship and University Entrance. These changes help give students a fair opportunity to gain the qualification that they are aiming for.

These changes will take effect if your school is in Alert Level 3 or 4 for a total of 20 or more school days this year.

What does this mean for students?

The more credits you achieve the more you are entitled to.

- For every 5 credits you achieve through internal or external assessment, you are entitled to 1 extra credit. These extra credits are called Learning Recognition Credits (LRCs)
 - Up to 10 of your LRCs earned this year can be used towards the 80 you need for NCEA Level 1.
 - Up to 8 LRCs earned this year can be used towards the 60 you need at NCEA Level 2 and Level 3.

Endorsements are still achievable.

- To get a certificate endorsement you will need 46 credits at Merit or Excellence level, instead of the usual 50.
- To get a course endorsement you will need 12 credits at Achieved or Merit or Excellence level in a course, rather than 14. You still need to achieve at least 3 credits in externals and 3 in internals.
- Your LRCs don't come with Merit or Excellence, so they can't count towards an endorsement.

University Entrance has been adjusted.

- For 2021 the UE requirements have been adjusted from 14 down to 12 credits in three [UE-approved subjects](#). You still need to have NCEA Level 3 and the usual [literacy and numeracy standards](#).

You've got more time to study.

- Most portfolio due dates and exams for NCEA and Scholarship have been moved later, to give more time for students to learn and prepare.

What do you need to do?

Keep working to make sure that you achieve as many standards as you can. Your teachers will help you to track your progress.

You don't need to do anything else to get your LRCs. NZQA will do the calculations before you get your results.

Make sure that you know when your portfolios are due, and double check the [new exam timetable](#).

If you need any more information, talk to your Learning Coach, your Dean or Mr Jenkins, or phone NZQA on 0800 697 296.