

Ormiston Senior College: Future Focused Learning Changes to Year 11 from 2019

Rationale:

- New Zealand is one of the only countries in the world to have three years of national exams. Years 11 - 13 is crowded out by assessment. Continual measurement does not leave enough time for in depth learning.
- The present government has signalled a complete review of NCEA and has indicated that they are looking at a different approach to NCEA Level 1. Our thinking at Ormiston is in line with this.
- The continual stress of over-assessment is having an effect on the mental health of our teenagers.
- We want to provide time and opportunities to develop the skills employers are looking for in the 21st century workplace - resilience, collaboration, creativity, problem solving, caring.
- We want to provide time for students to be able to follow their passions and interests at school.
- NCEA Level 1 is not a qualification that gains you entry into many tertiary courses and in attaining NCEA Level 2 you automatically get NCEA Level 1. Level 2 is seen as the minimum qualification to aim for before leaving school.

What:

- In 2019 we will be offering a two year pathway to NCEA Level 2 beginning in Year 11
- Year 11 students will aim to get 20 NCEA Level 1 Numeracy and Literacy standards and a small number of extra credits ideally at NCEA Level 2. Student will not be aiming for the 80 credits needed to attain NCEA Level 1. If students have gained Level 2 standards in their first year it means they will have fewer credits to gain in their second year thus lessening the pressure at Year 12 as well. It also provides the opportunity to work towards NCEA Level 3 in Year 12.

How:

- All Year 11 students will do a full year of English and Maths.
- All other subjects will be offered in semesters. The year will be comprised of two semesters.
- Apart from English and Maths students will have 8 choices of courses
- General Science will be divided into Biology, Chemistry and Physics and students will be able to do a semester of each and a double semester of one if they choose.
- Within each semester course students will be offered one NCEA assessment.
- Time will be provided for in depth learning and choice will enable students to follow an interest or passion. They may also be able to work across their courses for a project thus connecting their learning.