



November 2024

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Re: Year 11 in 2025 at Carmel College

In 2025, Year 11 students will not be assessed using NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards. The New Zealand Curriculum will be taught and assessed, however, as students will not be assessed using NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards they will not be able to gain NCEA Level 1.

This decision has been made as we are not confident that the 'new' NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards are adequately preparing our students for NCEA Level 2 across all subject areas. The rationale around this will be explained in detail below, but it is important to note that the revised new NCEA Level 2 and 3 Achievement Standards, initially due for implementation in 2026 and 2027, are now not due until 2028 and 2029. Unfortunately, this has left a significant disconnect in some learning areas between NCEA Level 1 and NCEA Levels 2 and 3.

2024 has been the first year that the 'new' NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards have been implemented. For a range of reasons, some schools decided not to implement the standards at all, some chose a hybrid approach of assessing some standards but not enough for students to gain NCEA Level 1, and others chose to implement the new standards.

To find out more about the NCEA Change programme, please see the attached document titled 'Background to NCEA Changes'.

How have Year 11 students been assessed in 2024?

- We chose to implement the new NCEA standards with most subject areas offering 15 credits.

Why won't students be assessed with NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards for 2025?

- In some of the core learning areas, there is a disconnect and therefore alignment concerns between the 'new' NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards and the current NCEA Level 2 Achievement Standards.

The 'new' NCEA Level 2 Achievement Standards are not due for implementation until 2028. Therefore we want to prepare students with programmes and skills that align and better prepare them for NCEA Level 2 which they will sit in 2026.

- During this first year of the 'new' NCEA Level 1 Achievement Standards changes have taken place to numerous standards during the year, and further changes are signalled to occur between now and 2025, particularly to the external Achievement Standards (examinations). Teachers have had short notice of these changes and received limited information about what potential changes may look like. This has impacted and will impact the planning and preparation time that our teachers need to effectively implement the changes and best meet the needs of our students.
- Due to the reduction in Achievement Standards in each learning area, there has been a loss of flexibility in how and what to assess students with NCEA Level 1.
- As noted, the 'new' Level 2 Achievement Standards will not be implemented until 2028 which is a concern as students will progress to the 'old' Level 2 Achievement Standards.

This variation and inconsistency between NCEA Level 1 and NCEA Level 2 highlights a concern around consistency and a cohesive pathway between NCEA levels. The reduced number of standards in Level 1, and the content of these standards do not connect with the number of standards, the content of standards and the workload students will experience in Year 12, sitting NCEA Level 2.

The decision to not assess NCEA Level 1 means that in Year 11 we will be able to design and assess programmes with the knowledge and skills that best prepare our students for NCEA Level 2.

How will Year 11 be assessed in 2025?

To ensure that the Year 11 programme is an academically rigorous course that best prepares our students for NCEA Level 2, students in Year 11 will complete a course more aligned to NCEA Level 2. This means that;

- Students will sit 4-5 assessments in each learning area over the year
- The marking of assessments will remain standard based in that there will be success criteria and students will be graded either Not Achieved, Achieved, Merit or Excellence
 - Note: students will not be awarded 'credits' or be required to get a certain number of credits to pass the year.
- Teachers and departments will moderate students' assessments, and students will have the opportunity to appeal grades
- There will be exams in Term 4
- Students will have to adhere to assessment conditions i.e. if they are going to miss an assessment they must complete the correct forms either for an extension or submit a request for leave
- Student's progress will be tracked and reported on termly
- There will be an academic prize giving at the end of the year with top scholars in subject areas being awarded prizes, along with diligence and distinction prizes

A further change will be that as students are not sitting NCEA external examinations at the end of the year, they will finish the academic year later, meaning they will spend more time at school learning.

What about diplomas or certificates other schools have implemented?

Some schools have developed and designed certificates or diplomas due to not assessing NCEA Level 1. The models that schools have created require students to achieve in the classroom, along with other school-related measures of engagement like maintaining a certain attendance level, completing service or participating in a school extra-curricular activity. Whilst we did consider these models, we did not think that this style of Year 11 programme was required as our students already complete service, and attendance and extra-curricular participation is high.

How will students attain NCEA Level 2 without NCEA Level 1?

Previously to gain NCEA Level 2, 20 credits from Level 1 could be carried forward, and similarly to gain NCEA Level 3, 20 credits from Level 2 could be carried forward. This requirement has been removed and now students must gain 60 credits at each level and have achieved the literacy and numeracy corequisite.

How to achieve NCEA		
Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
✔ 60 credits at any Level (1, 2 or 3)	✔ 60 credits at Level 2 or above	✔ 60 credits at Level 3 or above
Plus	Plus	Plus
✔ 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits, and	✔ 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits, and	✔ 10 Literacy or Te Reo Matatini credits, and
✔ 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits	✔ 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits.	✔ 10 Numeracy or Te Pāngarau credits.

<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about-ncea/ncea-levels-and-certificates/>

Outline of 2025

Below is a brief year planner for 2025 with key reporting and assessment dates. Each learning area is still in the planning stages for 2025 and students will receive course outlines next year with specific assessment dates.

- Term 1 (11 week term)
 - Week 11: Student Report
- Term 2 (9 week term)
 - Week 1: Parent-teacher interviews
 - Week 4/5: CAA reassessment opportunity period 19-30 May
 - Week 9: Student Report
- Term 3 (10 week term)
 - Week 8/9: CAA reassessment opportunity period 1-12 Sept
 - Level 2 and 3 NCEA Practice exams - Year 11 remain in class
 - Week 10: Student Report
- Term 4 (9 week term)
 - Week 5: NCEA External examinations begin. Year 11 remain in class

- Week 7: Year 11 Examination period. Year 11 students finish school after exams
- Week 9: Final student report.
 - Year 7-11 Academic Prize Giving

Questions?

We understand that this change to Year 11 may result in several questions, or questions may arise from the information provided.

Therefore, tomorrow we will have an assembly with Year 10 to discuss the structure of Year 11 for 2025.

On **Thursday 21 November**, there will be a **question and answer evening** that you are welcome to attend, and we encourage you to bring your daughter. This will be held in the **hall** from **6.30-7.30 pm**.

Should you not be able to attend but have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email and I will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

We thank you for your support and understanding as we strive to provide our Year 11 students with an academic programme that will best prepare them for NCEA Level 2, whilst ensuring that they are provided with opportunities to become empowered young women who through their Catholic education in the tradition of Mercy, will challenge and shape their future.

Ngā mihi nui



Sarah Kemble
Principal

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