



# Strong Foundations for Success

## Question and Answers

### 01. Why is St Cuthbert's making this change?

The Ministry of Education has redesigned the structure and content of NCEA Level 1 from 2024 onwards. In the process, some subjects have been removed and the content is less rigorous.

We are concerned that students completing this new adapted version of NCEA Level 1 will be under prepared for the final two years of their secondary education, and for higher learning.

### 02. What is St Cuthbert's doing to address this?

St Cuthbert's has created its own bespoke Year 11 Programme. Your daughter will continue to study core curriculum subjects such as English, Mathematics and Science, but our new Year 11 St Cuthbert's Diploma will deliver a better grounding for future study with more challenge, greater depth and variety for our students, than what is being implemented by NZQA, next year.

Our senior team will take Year 9 and 10 parents through this in detail at our parent evening. We will continue to hold annual information evenings. We are also speaking to our Year 10 students about what to expect.

### 03. What are some of the major differences between the Year 11 St Cuthbert's Diploma and NCEA Level 1 2024?

Our new Year 11 programme will offer a more conceptually coherent curriculum framework, which will ensure that there are no gaps in understanding in key areas, as students move into their senior secondary years and prepare for entry into their tertiary programme of choice.

**The NCEA Level 1, 2024 offering does not offer this coherence, nor the rigour we know is essential for students, at this stage of their secondary schooling.**

Under our Year 11 Diploma, there will be less time taken up preparing for internals and external examinations and more time released to explore subjects in depth.

Testing and examinations will still take place, with the time frame and content curated by St Cuthbert's, allowing for more meaningful teaching time for your daughter. Your daughter will continue with lessons right up until the end of term 4.

She will still have robust testing and exams at the end of year, to prepare her for Year 12. There is also a stronger service component, as well as a focus on well-being, that will go hand in hand with the academic expectations.

There will be an expected 95% attendance rate to achieve the Diploma (special cases can be made for illness, and representing the College in co-curricular events, etc).

### 04. What is changing at Levels 2 and 3 NCEA?

There will likely be changes to the assessment and content of NZQA Levels 2 and 3 of NCEA, but these changes are yet to be released.

### 05. How will the new Year 11 St Cuthbert's Diploma lead to improved outcomes?

Our new Year 11 programme puts learning at the centre so that students and teachers have the time to focus on the joys of new knowledge without the undue pressure of over assessment. Furthermore, the programme has been designed to more effectively lead into Level 2 NCEA or IB so that students are better prepared for this next step in their learning. Our current Year 11 cohort is not affected by these changes as they are being well prepared for Levels 2 and 3 under the current NCEA Level 1 framework.

### 06. How will my daughter be assessed?

The new St Cuthbert's Diploma will ultimately deliver more meaningful classroom time with less time spent preparing for internal assessments and more time learning in Term 4, as girls will stay in class until December. There will be a wide range of appropriate assessment measures, including examinations.

### 07. What St Cuthbert's prizes and awards will be on offer for our Year 11 students?

Students will continue to be eligible for the usual subject prizes and Scholars' awards.

**08. Will the Year 11 Diploma be recognised by other schools? Particularly overseas?**

New Zealand is the only country in the OECD which has a national qualification in each of the final three years of schooling. Most countries only have a qualification based on the final two years. For entry into other institutions, in New Zealand or abroad, we will ensure that our College report comprehensively captures exactly what our students have achieved in Year 11.

**09. How will students take the curriculum enrichment components seriously?**

It will be explained to Year 11 students, that completion of enrichment components is required for them to receive their Year 11 Diploma, in the same way the IB Diploma has such mandatory requirements.

**10. What will happen at the end of the academic year?**

Teaching for Year 11 will continue until the end of the academic year i.e the day of prize giving and, in many cases, work will begin on preparation for Year 12 in the final term of Year 11.

**11. Will there be study leave pre-exams for Term 4?**

There will be a small amount of study leave, as there is currently, for our College examinations.

**12. Can you give a specific example of what students might have to do in the new NCEA Level 1 that does not prepare them adequately for NCEA or IB?**

There is less content and many optional topic choices which don't set students up well as they miss out on key concepts required for in-depth understanding and the next steps in their academic subjects. Time won't be spent needlessly prepping for the new NCEA Level 1 internals of doubtful rigour, which take away from key learning time in the classroom.

**13. What will happen in Year 10?**

There is no change to our Year 10 programme which includes our leading Kahunui, remote campus, experience.

**14. Why didn't we make this change before now?**

The current version of NCEA Level 1 which is being replaced, has met the needs of our students to prepare them to be very successful in NCEA Level 2 and 3, or the IB Diploma. It is the new version of NCEA Level 1 which will be implemented in 2024, which has prompted this change.

**15. How will this new programme prepare students for sitting external exams?**

We will continue to have formal 2–3-hour exams in Year 11 Term 4, which will be modelled on NCEA Level 2 or IB type exams (subject appropriate). There will also be ongoing assessment appropriate for each subject throughout the year.

**16. What counts as a co-curricular activity? Can it be an activity or hobby outside the school?**

This will be explained in more depth at our Parent Evening, but co-curricular activities include, music, sports, drama, robotics, debating etc. Students will be required to provide evidence of their involvement in these activities, much as they have to with the IB Diploma.

**17. How does this programme fit with Duke of Edinburgh?**

This is strongly encouraged. The extra components of the new Year 11 programme will lead well into a student achieving the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh.

**18. How will the 20 hours of service be organised? Can students undertake their own personal service project?**

There will be service opportunities organised by the College but students are still able to undertake their own project. All service must be signed off by a representative from the relevant organisation.

**19. How will the new programme accommodate multi-levellers?**

Students will still be able to multi-level in this new programme, as they have done before.

**20. What will be reported to parents and when?**

Parents will receive reports twice yearly, as they do currently.

**21. Numeracy and Literacy requirements**

Opportunities to sit the Numeracy and literacy requirements will be made available for those students who haven't attained them in Year 10.

**22. How will students gain Endorsement?**

Students will still gain endorsement in their Diploma by achieving highly over a number of subjects in the year.

**23. Will there be Scholars' Awards?**

Students will be awarded Scholars' Awards the following year, in the same way as we do currently.

**24. How does this affect University Entrance (UE) and Level 2/3 credits?**

This change will not impact on your daughter gaining enough credits at Level 2 and 3, course Endorsment or University Entrance, similar to the IB Diploma.