

## NCEA AT PAKURANGA COLLEGE

While other qualifications have their strengths and purpose, we strongly believe that NCEA best suits what we are trying to achieve for the future of our students. In summary, it enables multi-leveilling so that our students can learn at the level that they find challenging; it acknowledges other meaningful aspects of learning and has equitable standards that apply to all students.



- NCEA has been fully endorsed by all Universities, the New Zealand Employers' Federation, the New Zealand Parent Teacher Association, the New Zealand Secondary Principals' Association, as well as the New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association.
- Auckland University, our most outstanding University is fully supportive of NCEA and has stated that NCEA "provides a richer profile of student achievement" than other assessment systems. Professor John Hattie from Auckland University said "NCEA was almost five times more effective than Cambridge in predicting first-year university students' grade point averages".
- NCEA is fully transferable overseas - certainly as much as the previous University Bursaries examination.
- It is already clear that to achieve "excellence" in NCEA is not at all easy. The system provides high level challenges to the most able students.
- NCEA also has the capacity to provide effective challenges for average and less able students.
- NCEA provides an assessment system which is about maximising student learning and improving motivation for all students.

### NCEA National Certificate of Educational Achievement

This qualification is offered at three levels:

- NCEA Level 1 is generally studied by students who are in year 11.
- NCEA Level 2 is generally studied by students who are in year 12.
- NCEA Level 3 is generally studied by students who are in year 13.

Some students may choose to sit scholarship examinations in year 13. New Zealand Scholarship is externally assessed and is designed to extend students and provide grants to help with tertiary study. It does not help with entrance to University and restricted entry courses. University entrance is based on NCEA Level 3 results.

### Multi Level Study and New Pathways

The NCEA qualification allows schools to design programmes specifically to meet the learning needs and interests of students. Students may well be encouraged to take some NCEA Level 1 courses in year 10. Similarly students in year 12 and 13 may wish to take Level 1 and 2 courses and this may well be appropriate for some.

### Other Qualifications

Other qualifications around the world have been developed for different purposes. Examinations like Cambridge were not designed for developed countries. Cambridge is not used in the UK – England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland. These countries do not use Cambridge as they have their own systems like us. Cambridge is predominantly used as an examination system for developing countries that do not have their own. When NZ students sit Cambridge, they are compared with students in developing, rather than OECD countries. The examinations are in December so comparisons are made with only Southern Hemisphere countries. NCEA has far more cultural, social and academic relevance for Pakuranga College students.