

Kia ora koutou

As we start our fourth week at alert level 4 in Auckland, we thought that it would be timely to send you an update, given that the last couple of days have been rather significant in terms of announcements that will affect students.

We hope you are keeping well in your bubble and if you need support have ways to access it. If not, as always, reach out to us and we will help you to get in touch with those that can create a solution for you.

Last week we held a “zoom assembly” that students could attend if they wished, and there were many quality questions asked by students. This newsletter has been prepared, essentially, from that list of questions.

Changes to NCEA for 2021

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 they are aiming for.

These changes will take effect if a school is in Alert Level 3 or 4 for a total of 20 or more school days this year, which for Papatoetoe High School means we have already met the 20 limit to activate the learning recognition credits process. Below are the details of how it will work.

- *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 LRC's earned this year can be used towards the 80 you need for NCEA Level 1.
 - Up to 8 LRC's earned this year can be used towards the 60 you need at 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.*



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- 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 students 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 Dean or Mr Claxton. Mr Claxton can be emailed @ beclaxton@papatoetoehigh.school.nz (if you really want to you can call NZQA on 0800 697 296).

Preliminary Exams

The prelims scheduled for weeks 8 & 9 of term 3 will not be taking place. Preparation for external examinations (including practice exams) will happen as they did in 2020, broken into 1-hour blocks and happening during normal timetable classes. Additionally, teachers will be looking at different ways to gather evidence should there be a need for a derived grade.

NCEA Level 1 MCAT

The MCAT has been rescheduled to Thursday 30th September, week 10 of term 3 (at least for now!).

Alert Levels and returning to school

To briefly clarify the differences in the alert levels and whether schools are open or not, here is an easy guide:

- *Alert Level 4*
Schools are closed to all students. All students must learn from home.
- *Alert Level 3*
Schools and kura will only be open for tamariki (children) in Years 1 to 10 whose parents or carers need to go to work and have no other options for childcare. Students in Y11-13 must continue learning from home.
- *Alert Level 2*
All early learning services, schools, kura and tertiary education facilities are considered safe to attend and reopen. Some restrictions still exist around large activities involving people from outside of school (i.e. interschool sport, regional music competitions, etc)
- *Alert Level 1*
All early learning services, schools, kura and tertiary education facilities are considered safe to attend and reopen fully. There are no restrictions on any events or activities. For more details about learning at alert levels click [here](#).



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Vaccinations and attending school

There is no legal requirement requiring you to be vaccinated to be able to attend school. However, the public health advice is very clear in terms of what the best course of action is for our country. For more information on vaccinations please go to:

[NZ Vaccine Facts](#)
[COVID-19 vaccine rollout groups](#)
[Vaccine development, safety and effectiveness](#)

Financial support for students

If you are an ākongā (student) who is struggling financially, you may be able to ask Studylink for help. For more information, please go to [COVID-19 information for students](#)

Student elected Board representative

The Ministry of Education are looking at providing all schools that have already commenced an election process with an extension to the election timeframe. There are implications around timing and that this will likely extend the process into or beyond the next school holidays. In the meantime, we have been asked to pause all election processes.

Term dates for the remainder of 2021

Many have asked the question around changes to the dates for the school holidays. At this point, term dates for 2021 remain completely unchanged.

Out of zone enrolment deadlines

Again, due to the current alert level 4 status, we have extended our out of zone enrolment deadline by a little over a month. The closing date for out of zone enrolments will now be Wednesday 20 October and our ballot will take place on 27 October.

Finally, as always, if you need to contact us be reminded that all staff are currently working offsite and the best way to get to anyone is via email. Addresses for all staff can be found [here](#).

‘Oua lau e kafo kae lau e lava
The team at Papatoetoe High School.

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