

# Year 11 Course, 2020

## FAQs

### 1. What are the main advantages of having a Macleans College course at Year 11?

We believe there are many advantages with the main one being the increased teaching time made available by removing NCEA internal assessment and IGCSE external assessment. Moving the focus from assessment to learning will allow us to better prepare students with the knowledge and skills required for Year 12.

Other advantages are covered in FAQ 2 and 3.

### 2. Why is Macleans College no longer teaching IGCSE?

Although IGCSE provides a rigorous course of study there are some aspects of the course that are not ideal. We believe Macleans can offer a rigorous Year 11 course of study for all Year 11 students, designed by the College staff, which avoids the frustrations currently experienced with IGCSE.

The issues with IGCSE include:

- a. IGCSE does not provide an exit qualification. That is, it does not provide entry into university or further training.
- b. External examinations begin at the start of term four. This means students miss many weeks of teaching time and have a very early end to the school year.
- c. Some subjects are over-filled with subject material that must be covered in three terms of teaching. This means teaching is sometimes superficial and rushed to 'cover' course content.
- d. Grades in IGCSE are artificially high in some subjects and are therefore poor indicators of ability and poor predictors of likely success in AS. For example, a grade of 70% in IGCSE Mathematics is required to indicate possible success (a pass) in AS Mathematics.
- e. Sitting IGCSE is expensive at approximately \$600 per student.

### 3. Why is Macleans College no longer teaching NCEA Level 1?

Although NCEA Level 1 is taught in most New Zealand schools, many aspects of the course are not ideal. That is why an increasing number of schools no longer offer Level 1. We believe we can offer a rigorous course of study for all Year 11 students.

The issues with NCEA Level 1 include:

- f. NCEA Level 1 does not provide an exit qualification. That is, it does not provide entry into tertiary study or training.
- g. The large amount of internal assessment students complete. This reduces teaching time and places unnecessary stress on students.
- h. The current review of NCEA makes the role of Level 1 unclear.

### 4. Macleans College is a state school – don't we have to offer Level 1 NCEA?

No. The NCEA is a very flexible system and many schools have already chosen not to offer Level 1 NCEA. NCEA Levels 2 and 3 provide 'exit' qualifications and are much more important and will be offered by Macleans College.

5. Is Macleans College still going to offer CIE and NCEA?

Yes. Macleans College is committed to offering NCEA and Cambridge in Years 12 and 13.

We are also committed to Scholarship, the premier examination in New Zealand.

Olympiads, Mathex, Australian Maths and other academic competitions will also retain their importance.

6. How will Macleans College ensure the quality of this course?

Macleans College is fortunate to have staff with experience in course design and assessment practices used in New Zealand and overseas. The new Year 11 course is being introduced in 2020 which allows for considerable planning and refinement to occur. We are also fortunate to have a large staff which allows for the workload to be managed within some of the biggest school departments in New Zealand.

7. Will there be a financial cost for families to introduce this course?

No. The course design and all assessments will be funded through the normal operations budget of the school.

8. How will students gain numeracy and literacy requirements for NCEA and University Entrance?

The new course will include assessment for numeracy at Year 11. Literacy requirements are assessed in Year 12 so this will not be affected by the new Year 11 course.

9. What about the extension/accelerate students?

Extension and acceleration for highly capable students will remain a priority. There will be one streamed class studying an accelerated programme through each year level.

10. How will less academic students be catered for?

The core subjects (mathematics, English, science) will offer a selection of courses that cater for the full range of abilities. We will continue to offer a range of subjects that give students the opportunity to select subjects that suit their interests and needs.

11. What subjects will be available?

A wide range of subjects will be offered giving students the opportunity to select a programme that prepares them well for Years 12 and 13.

12. How will the courses be designed?

The courses will be designed by the Senior Management and Heads of Faculty at Macleans College. The courses will be designed to prepare students for NCEA Level 2 and / or Cambridge AS study the following year. In some core subjects (mathematics, English, science) more than one course of study will be available so that the different needs of students can be met. Some Year 11 courses will more naturally lead to NCEA Level 2 – for example the technology subjects that are not offered by Cambridge.

13. How will students be assessed in Year 11?

There will be a variety of assessments used. Subjects that are mainly written will have tests, assignments and examinations. Practical subjects, including the arts and technologies will use project work and portfolios in addition to tests and examinations.

14. Will there still be examinations in Year 11?

Yes. We believe that examinations are an important assessment tool for many subjects. There will be a set of major examinations in terms three and four.

15. What if my child leaves or moves school at the end of Year 11?

If a student leaves Macleans College to attend another school at the end of Year 11 they will have had the opportunity to gain numeracy credits and they will be able to enter Level 2 NCEA at their new school.

If a student leaves school to enter the workforce it will not matter whether they have Level 1 NCEA/IGCSE or not.

16. What certificate or qualification will students get at the end of Year 11?

Students will receive a full school report detailing all academic progress and extra curricular participation.

Neither NCEA Level 1 nor IGCSE provide an 'exit' qualification so students and families should not be concerned about finishing Year 11 without an external qualification. Students must earn at least NCEA Level 2 or AS to gain entry into further study or training.

17. Don't we need external exams to motivate the students?

No. New Zealand is one of the few countries in the OECD to have three years of high stakes national assessment in high school. Examinations do provide some extrinsic motivation but we believe high quality teaching, engaging courses and self-motivated students with supportive families have been the key ingredients in the success of Macleans College students for many years – and so it will continue.

18. How will entry into Year 12 subjects be determined?

Entry into Year 12 courses will be determined by a student's grades in Year 11. A student's results in the Term 4 Macleans College examinations will be used to decide whether a student is capable of studying a subject at Year 12.

Students will be required to attend a Course Confirmation Day to check that they have earned the required grades for Year 12 and to confirm any subject changes requested.

Some subjects are open entry in Year 12.

19. When do students decide whether to study NCEA or CIE?

Students will need to consider their preferred pathway when they select their Year 11 subjects. Some Year 11 subjects allow progress into NCEA Level 2 and AS, however some subjects will restrict choices the following year. Students and their families will need to seek advice at the time they select their Year 11 subjects to ensure they keep their preferred pathway open.