

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is designed to give parents and students an overview of the courses offered in the senior Secondary School at Scots College so that they are in a position to make wise course selections in the students' final three years at Secondary School.

It gives general details about courses and careers, and then outlines details of each individual subject.

The actual combinations of subjects available in years 11-13 in any one year depend on the constraints imposed by the timetable and the numbers of students opting to do particular subjects. Subjects will only be available if there is a sufficient number of students wishing to take them.

Early Term 3, parents and students are asked to make choices, and at this stage we do our best to satisfy all these choices, though we cannot guarantee that any particular combination of subjects will be available. Once the structure of the timetable is established, and a decision made about which subjects are timetabled at the same time as other subjects, then this structure cannot be changed. This means that if at a later date the student wishes to change his course he can only do so within that established structure.

If you have any questions concerning your own particular situation as far as course selection is concerned, please don't hesitate to contact the Deputy Principal, Matthew Bertram, on 803 0597 or your son's House Dean.

NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (NCEA)

NCEA has three levels, Level 1 (replacing School Certificate), Level 2 (replacing Sixth form Certificate), Level 3 (replacing University Bursary) and there is also NZ Scholarship for the most able Level 3 students.

At least 50% of the year's work in most subjects will be externally assessed, in general by means of a 3 hour examination, while up to 50% (depending on the subject) will be internally assessed. This external assessment will take place in all three of years 11, 12 and 13. Scholarship is assessed purely by means of a three hour examination (or a folio of work in the case of Graphics and Visual Art).

WHY THE CHANGE?

Many more students are staying on at school and in education beyond school. The old examination system didn't cater for all those students and the new system is designed to bring under one umbrella the normal school subjects (such as those taught at Scots College) as well as a much wider diversity of areas of learning (such as food technology or car maintenance).

It is also felt that a global mark (for example "Maths 63%") says very little about **what** the student actually knows. Possibly he could be very good at algebra and very weak at geometry, or vice versa, and yet still achieve the same mark of 63%.

HOW DOES IT WORK IN PRACTICE?

The curriculum content of each subject at each level is divided up into about five to eight 'topics' and each of these topics is either internally or externally assessed.

For each topic there will be an **Achievement Standard** (AS) which specifies exactly what the students have to do in order to 'pass', earning credits towards the NCEA. For each standard there are three levels of achievement: **achieved** (for the average student), **achieved with merit** (for the better students) and **achieved with excellence** (for the top students).

Some of the subjects at Scots College will be assessed by **Unit Standards** (US) which have been around for many years and which are similar to achievement standards except that there is no division into achieved, merit, excellence, and they are always internally assessed. Credits achieved via units standards have the same status as those from achievement standards as far as NCEA is concerned.

To achieve the NCEA students will have to accumulate a certain number of credits (see below). So each student's official annual results (issued in May of the following year) will show:

- credits gained from the standards (both external and internal)
- grades (achieved, merit or excellence) for each standard
- examination results for the externally assessed standards
- the level of NCEA completed including any applicable endorsements.

After students have left school, they will be able to complete or upgrade their NCEA level. NCEA credits can be gained in most courses at polytechnics and colleges of education, and in accredited private and government training establishments and on-job training programmes.

NCEA results are recognised by tertiary institutions (both NZ and overseas) and employers. For some purposes, internal results may be more relevant; for others, examination results may be more relevant. But for most purposes a combination of all results will give a clear picture of a student's achievements.

LEARNING V ASSESSMENT

It should be noted that all the above refer to the way in which the courses are **assessed**. What is being taught remains largely unchanged; that is, the subject being taught will continue to follow the New Zealand Curriculum which has now been in place for several years.

NCEA LEVEL 1

To achieve NCEA Level 1, a student needs to gain 80 credits from all his subjects. With each subject being on average 20 credits, a student taking six subjects will need 80 out of a likely maximum of 120 credits. A student must gain a minimum of ten credits which contribute towards literacy (English and many other subjects contribute here) and a further 10 credits for numeracy (largely maths).

To qualify for a full NCEA Level 2 course, a student needs to have achieved NCEA Level 1. For individual subjects, a student needs to gain 16 credits at Level 1 (plus any stated prerequisites) to **guarantee** entry into the same subject at Level 2, but as always, individual circumstances will be taken into account.

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GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION – NCEA

YEAR 11 COURSES:

Students take six NCEA Level 1 subjects. In addition all students will have 2 periods per fortnight of Religious Education and 2 periods per fortnight of Physical Fitness and 2 periods per fortnight of Leadership.

English and Mathematics are compulsory and the remaining four subjects must be chosen from the following list:

Biology/Chemistry	French	Accounting	Drama	Graphics
Physics Chemistry	Japanese	Economics	Music	Workshop Technology
	Spanish	Geography	Visual Art	Physical Education
		History		

Parents and students should consider the following:

- At Year 11 we offer two science courses (**Biology/Chemistry and Physics/Chemistry**). The College policy is that all students at Year 11 are strongly advised to study at least one science subject.

Those students who intend to study Physics, Chemistry or Biology in Year 12 must study those subjects in Year 11. Those wishing to study Chemistry at Year 12 should take both courses.
- The course is expected to lead somewhere in terms of career choices, and so should not be too fragmented; for advice on this please see the Deputy Principal or the Careers Advisor.
- The structure of the timetable might not permit certain combinations of subjects to be offered, though it would only be fragmented courses that would run into difficulty.
- Students are likely to do better in subjects in which they are interested and also subjects in which in the past they have had success.
- The Physical Education course being offered is a full course including theory and is not the same as the compulsory physical fitness (see the summary of this course on page 28).
- Some subjects (such as sciences, languages, music, visual art) depend on a cumulative knowledge and are difficult for the average student to pick up at higher levels.

YEAR 12 COURSES:

Students take six subjects at NCEA Level 2 as well as 2 periods per fortnight of Religious Education and 2 periods per fortnight of Physical Fitness and 2 periods per fortnight of Leadership. A few students find it is more appropriate to do five subjects, in which case they also have some supervised study periods.

English is compulsory and it is expected that most students will study Mathematics. The remaining subjects must be chosen from the following list:

Biology	Accounting	Drama	Physical Education
Chemistry	Classical Studies	Music	Workshop Technology
Physics	Economics	Visual Art	
	Geography	French	Digital Technology
	History	Japanese	Graphics

Parents and students should consider the following:

- Courses selected should be less general than in Year 11 and should be more career oriented.
- Particular attention should be given to selecting courses which are prerequisites for tertiary courses – the Careers Adviser can help here.
- Care should be taken to ensure that a Year 13 course for the following year is compatible with the current course you are choosing.
- Notes b) and d) of Year 11 courses also apply.
- Many of the courses can possibly be picked up without having done them in Year 11 – Drama, Economics, Geography, History, Classical Studies, Computer Studies, Physical Education and Workshop Technology.
- The Music course is largely a practical course (see the summary on page 26).

YEAR 13 COURSES:

Students are expected to take five subjects at NCEA Level 3. No subjects are compulsory and the five subjects must be chosen from the list below:

Biology	Accounting	Drama	English	Art History	PE
Chemistry	Economics	Music	French	Geography	Technology
Physics	Digital Technology	Photography	Japanese	Classical St.	Graphics
Calculus		Painting		History	
Statistics		Design			

Parents and students should consider the following:

- Particular attention should be given to selecting courses which are prerequisites for tertiary courses – the Careers Adviser can help here.
- Notes b) and d) of Year 11 courses also apply.
- Most subjects follow on from Year 12 subjects and a student is expected to have studied them in Year 12 already. There are exceptions particularly for more able students – economics, classical studies and physical education.
- Students may study **both** Mathematics courses (see the note on page 25). Students may study three sciences.
- Visual Art can be taken either as a single subject or it can be counted as a double subject (see the course summary on page 30). However for scholarship, only one Visual Art subject can be counted for a student
- A subject having very small numbers wishing to do it will either not be offered, or it may have fewer teacher-contact periods per week than usual or it may be combined with a small Level 2 class.
- Students need to be aware of University Entrance requirements in terms of the necessary English and maths credits (see page 4).

MIXED LEVEL COURSES:

There is nothing to prevent a student studying at two or three different levels. For example a student who failed to achieve many credits in Mathematics in Year 11 might repeat Mathematics at NCEA Level 1 but do his other four subjects at Year 12 level. Or a student doing five NCEA Level 2 subjects might choose a Year 11 subject as a sixth subject. There are possible timetable constraints on the facility for doing this. If an individual achievement standard has been missed at Level 1, for example, it could possibly be done from within the Level 2 class in that subject.

COURSE PLANNING FOR CAREERS

When choosing a course it is best to keep your subjects as broad as possible for as long as possible. Entry into many careers is not as dependent on course choice as it is on achievement levels. Below are a list of careers that students at Scots often enquire about and the subjects required. Some are compulsory (subjects in bold) and others are just recommended.

CAREER AREAS	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Apprenticeships Many including chefs, electricians and carpenters	English Maths Science		
Armed Forces – Trades – Officer Training – Degree programmes	English Maths Science		80 -100 credits at Level three
Architecture	Maths Art and/or Graphics		<u>Auckland University</u> Combination of arts/sciences/maths. Portfolio of art work required. High Level 3 <u>Victoria University</u> Selects from intermediate year. Must have 2 subjects out of Calculus, statistics or physics. No portfolio required <u>Unitec</u> Portfolio required
Commerce Degree Students are able to commence accounting and economics at university without any subject knowledge.			Statistics Calculus (if majoring in economics) Accounting Economics <u>English rich subject is recommended</u>
Commerce/Business certificates and diplomas	Maths		
Computing/IT degree (computer studies useful but not required)		Maths Comp studies	Calculus and physics recommended
Dentistry (no intake direct from school) All applicants must complete the first year Bachelor of Health Science at Otago		Maths Biology Chemistry Physics	Biology, Chemistry, Physics Statistics or Calculus English or an <u>English rich subject</u>

CAREER AREAS	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Design, Fine Arts and Visual Arts Elam (Auckland University) Ilam (Canterbury University) Massey University (Design)			2 Practical Art subjects History of Art recommended. Portfolio required Portfolio required. Min 2 art subjects <u>English or History of Art or History recommended</u> Portfolio required <u>Art or Design (with drawing).</u> <u>Other subjects recommended English, Classical Studies, History, Economics, Sciences, or Mathematics</u>
Engineering Degree			<u>Canterbury University</u> Calculus, Chemistry, Physics <u>Auckland University</u> Calculus, Physics <u>Victoria University</u> <u>Open entry although Calculus strongly recommended</u> <u>Massey University</u> Calculus, Physics & some courses require Chemistry
Food Science/Technology		Mathematics Chemistry Biology Physics	Physics Calculus Biology Chemistry
Forestry			English, Chemistry, Biology, Economics, Geography, Statistics are recommended
Education/Teaching		Maths, a science	English, "arts" subjects and/or maths/science
Law		English History Classics	English, History, Classics or other English rich subjects are recommended.

CAREER AREAS	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Medicine (no intake direct from school) All applicants must complete the first year B. Health Science or Biomedical Science at either Otago or Auckland University		English Chemistry Biology Maths Physics	English (or English rich eg classics, history) is compulsory at Auckland University Chemistry , Physics, Biology, Statistics or <u>Calculus</u> <u>Otago University</u> <u>Strongly recommend above subjects</u>
Music NZ School of Music, Auckland University Entry by audition <u>NZ School of Music, Victoria University</u>	Music Recommended: English, History	Music Recommended: English, History, Classical Studies	Music Recommended: English, History, Classical Studies Jazz, Performance & Popular Music an audition is required <u>Music</u> Jazz, Performance & Classical Music an audition is required
Optometry		English Chemistry Biology Maths Physics	English Chemistry Biology Statistics Physics
Performing Arts Auckland University Entry by audition	English Drama	English Drama	English Drama
Pharmacy/physiotherapy – see Medicine			
Physical education degree		Biology English	English, Biology, Phys Ed highly recommended Chemistry useful
Pilot		Maths Physics Chemistry	Statistics, Physics Calculus, English
Police	Any	English	Any

CAREER AREAS	LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3
Radiotherapy		English Physics Maths	<u>English Rich subject</u> <u>Physics or Biology</u> <u>Statistics or Calculus</u>
Resource and environmental planning		English Maths Biology Geography	English Statistics Biology Geography
Surveying		Maths A science	<u>Calculus, English</u> are strongly recommended with <u>Statistics, Physics & Geography</u> recommended
Sports Degree	English Maths PE Science	English Maths PE A science	English PE A science
Technology Degree including majors in: biotechnology, chemical, food, industrial bioscience, industrial maths, info tech, optoelectronics, product development	English Maths Science	English Maths Biology Chemistry Physics	English Calculus Statistics Biology (depending on major) Chemistry Physics
Tourism There are no formal prerequisites. However the following subjects are recommended	English Maths Science Accounting Economics Geography Languages	English Maths Science Accounting Economics Geography Languages	English Maths Science Accounting Economics Geography Languages
Veterinary Science			Chemistry Biology Physics Statistics preferred

SOME USEFUL WEBSITES

Career Resource Centre	http://www.careers.org
CV writing	www.jobstar.org
Job Hunting	http://www.seek.co.nz
Monster Site	http://www.monster.com
Parachute Guide	http://www.jobhuntersbible.com/
Qualifications	www.nzqa.govt.nz
Riley Guide	http://www.rileyguide.com
Yahoo!	http://www.yahoo.com/business_and_economy/employment_and_work
Career services	www.careers.govt.nz
Australian Universities	www.esa.edu.au
UK study	www.educationuk.org or www.britishcouncil.org.nz
US study	www.fulbright.org.nz and www.collegeboard.com
US University database	www.utexas.edu/world/univ/alpha/

Please feel free to visit the careers room at anytime or make an appointment to see Mr de Graaff after school or at lunchtime.