



Year 11 Information Evening
2026

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Westlake Girls High School

Te Kura Tuarua o ngā Taitamawāhine o Ururoto



We Belong. We Thrive.

Student Growth Profile

Westlake Girls High School
Te Kura Tuarua o ngā Taitamawhine o Unuroto

Year 9 - We Connect

- I try new things, develop resilience by persevering and celebrating mistakes as learning opportunities, and allow myself out of my comfort zone to connect with new people and situations.
- I understand and apply the rules and expectations of different environments.
- I show respect for others by embracing learning, listening actively, and communicating ideas with growing confidence.
- I build my whanaungatanga (my sense of belonging, friendships and community) via meaningful connections with people.

Year 10 - We Engage

- I show respect and fairness by being compassionate, embracing diversity, and listening to and acknowledging differing perspectives and opinions.
- I show respect for myself by acknowledging my uniqueness.
- I show kaitiakitanga (responsibility for our school and community environment).
- I accept new challenges, follow passions and interests, and participate in wide-ranging activities at school and beyond.

Adorn the bird with feathers so it can fly



Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu

Year 11 - We Explore

- I actively cultivate self-awareness, striving to recognise and celebrate my strengths while remaining open to areas where I can further develop and grow.
- I explore possibilities encouraging curiosity, engagement, and confidence in and beyond school.
- I welcome opportunities to respectfully assert myself and develop leadership skills.
- I show integrity and compassion when communicating with others.

Year 12 - We Evolve

- I grow in confidence. I take measured risks, experience leadership opportunities, embrace change, and express myself.
- I persevere and develop resilience to challenges in life and school environments.
- I develop the skills to think critically, form opinions and become more self-aware. I use my voice to take responsibility and any appropriate action.
- I build the skills to be a passionate lifelong learner committed to pursuing excellence.

Year 13 - We Lead

- I am a proud citizen of Westlake Girls High School, leading with integrity and kindness.
- I wholeheartedly embody the value of respect for self, community, and environment.
- I am future-focused, determined and motivated to explore life after school.
- I nurture my self-awareness, vision, and confidence. I soar.

At Westlake, we are deeply committed to the "whole person." While academic achievement is always in the foreground, we know that "soft skills"—such as resilience, curiosity, and leadership—are what actually future-proof our students. We see these skills being built every day: in the rehearsal rooms, on the turf, and in the often complex way they navigate their friendships. This is why we created the Student Growth Profile.

The "Swan" Progression

Our school Strategic Plan has a focus on **Inspiring Growth**. We view a student's development as a layered journey—much like the feathers of a swan. Each year, we add a new layer:

Year 9: We Connect – Finding their place.

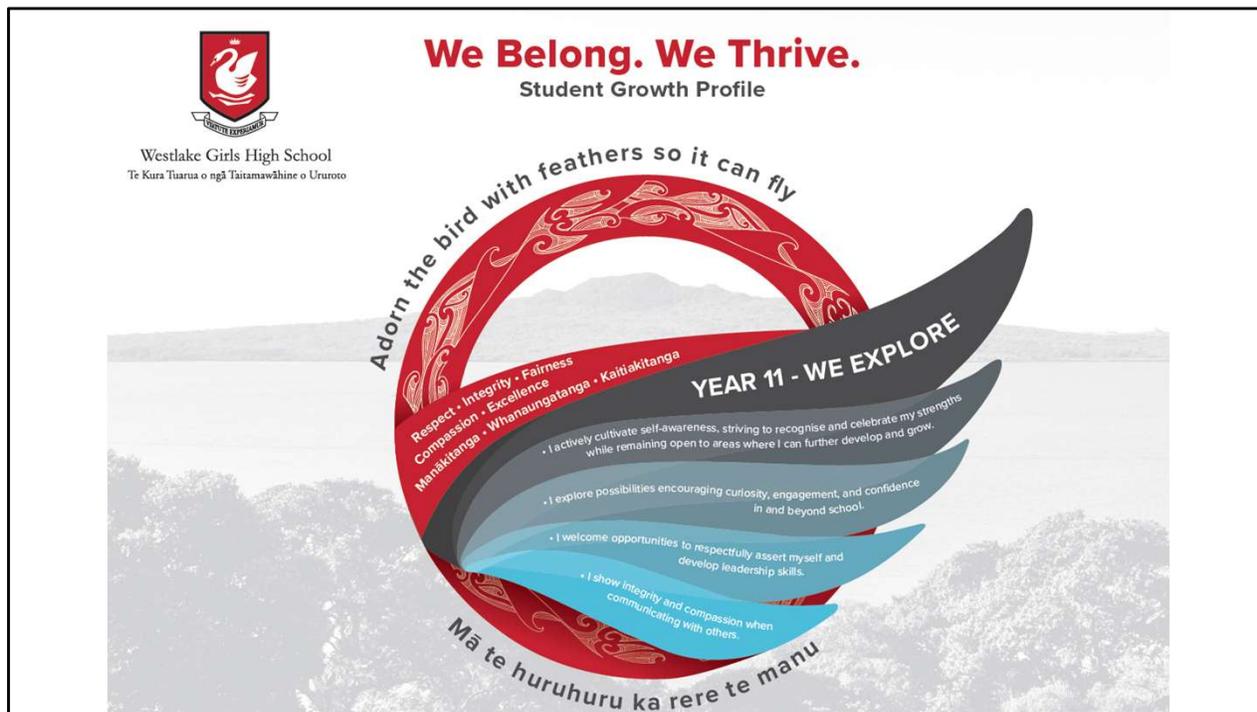
Year 10: We Engage – Getting involved.

Year 11: We Explore – Finding their way.

Year 12: We Evolve – Refining their path.

Year 13: We Lead – Ready to fly.

By the time our students graduate, those layers of growth ensure they aren't just leaving with a certificate; they are ready to spread their wings and fly - as confident, robust, optimistic students empowered for future and global success.



Year 11 is a unique season. They are no longer "juniors," yet the weight of senior life—and academic pressure—is starting to settle on their shoulders. It can be a daunting shift.

That is why our theme this year is **EXPLORE**. We want to give them the freedom to dream, the courage to fail, and the confidence to look at the world and ask: *"Where do I fit in?"* To guide them, we focus on four key milestones:

1. The Mirror: Cultivating Self-Awareness

"I actively cultivate self-awareness... celebrating strengths while remaining open to growth." You've likely seen the Year 11 seesaw: one day they feel they can conquer the world; the next, a single setback feels like a catastrophe. This milestone is about finding the middle ground. It's moving from a fixed mindset—*"I'm just bad at this"*—to a growth mindset: *"This is a challenge, but I have the tools to figure it out."* It's about being brave enough to hold up the mirror and be honest about who they are.

2. The Horizon: Exploring Possibilities

"I explore possibilities encouraging curiosity, engagement, and confidence." The "What are you doing next?" question might be starting to feel heavy. We want to take that pressure off. This isn't about having a 10-year plan; it's about looking past the school gates. It's about being curious enough to try a new subject or activity, or ask a mentor about their career. We want them to realize the world is much bigger than their current perspective.

3. The Voice: Respectful Assertiveness

"I welcome opportunities to respectfully assert myself and develop leadership skills."

Leadership in Year 11 is about **agency**. We want your daughters to move from being passive passengers to being the drivers of their own lives. This can also mean having "courageous conversations"—learning how to say "no" to a peer or "I disagree" to an adult with grace, clarity, and confidence.

4. The Compass: Integrity and Compassion

"I show integrity and compassion when communicating with others." In an age of complex digital lives, integrity means being the same person in a group chat as you are face-to-face. As the pressure of exams and social dynamics increases, we want them to choose kindness over "clout." It's about recognizing that everyone in the room is carrying their own weight, and responding with compassion.

Underpinning everything we do are our core school values: **Excellence, Compassion, Respect, Fairness, Integrity**, and the spirits of **Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga, and Kaitiakitanga**. Our teachers aren't just teaching your daughters how to pass exams; we are helping them build the character they need for life. Our school whakatauki sums up the Student Growth Profile perfectly:

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu. *Adorn the bird with feathers so it can fly.*

Thank you for being our partners in this journey. We look forward to watching your daughters grow, explore, and add those vital feathers to their wings this year.

**WGHS
Year 11
Programme**



Westlake Girls High School
Te Kura Tuarua o ngā Taitamawāhine o Ururoto

Refer to this website <https://www.westlakegirls.school.nz/student-life/academic/ncea/>

Goal for Y11 students

Numeracy
10 credits

Literacy
10 credits

For students who do not already have Numeracy & Literacy from Y10.

**Literacy
&
Numeracy**

**Co-requisites
Assessments**

Week 6, Term 2
(25th – 29th May)

Week 9, Term 3
(14th – 18th Sept)

For students who do not already have Numeracy & Literacy from Y10.
These are the weeks, exact dates TBC closer to the time.

Year 11

6 subjects
English
Maths
Science
+
3 option subjects

In Year 11, students take 6 subjects – the 3 compulsory subjects are English, Maths and Science. And then they will have 3 option subjects.

Assessment in Year 11

Senior
Academic
Assessment

School
Practice
examinations

Internal
Assessment

External
Submission

External
NCEA
Examinations

A Year 11 student can expect a variety of different types of assessments in their 6 subjects.

NCEA

Achievement Standard

Example:
91947
Demonstrate
mathematical
reasoning (1.4)

- A standard describes what a student who has achieved the standard knows and can do.
- Each standard has a level and a credit value.
- Internally assessed means that schools assess student work.
- Externally assessed means that NZQA assesses student work from either:
 - Portfolio submission
 - Examination

In NCEA, an achievement standard is like a topic or unit of work. For example, a Maths standard has a title 'Demonstrate mathematical reasoning' – this covers Number, Algebra, Measurement and Geometry.

A standard describes what a student who has achieved the standard knows and can do.

Each standard has a level and a credit value. Most standards at Level 1 are worth 5 credits each.

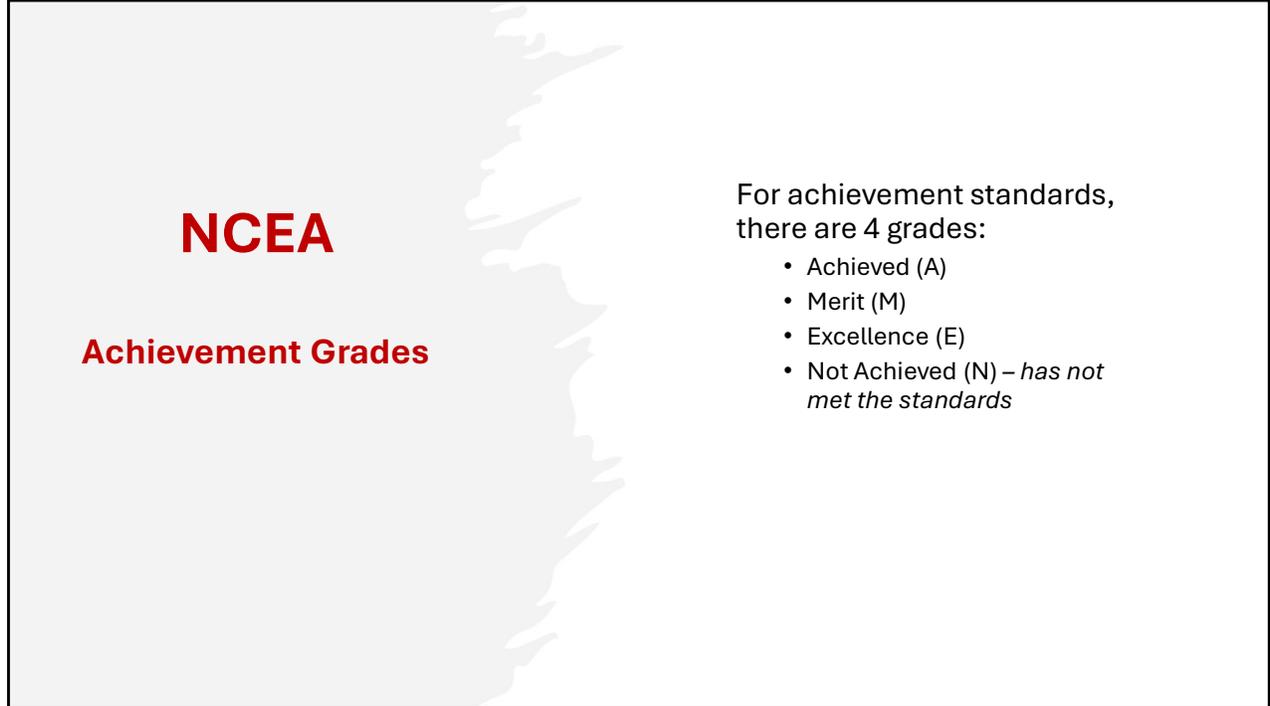
Standards can be assessed either internally or externally.

Internally assessed means that the school assesses the student work.

Externally assessed means that NZQA assesses the work – the work is submitted to NZQA in two different ways – either by a portfolio submission (e.g. Art work) or from an examination. Results come out in January the following year.

Subjects that have Internals or Portfolio submissions – Art, Technology, Music, PE, Dance, Steam

Exam – English, Maths, Science, Languages, Social Sciences, Health, Drama

A graphic with a light grey background and a white map of New Zealand on the right side. The text 'NCEA' is in large red font, and 'Achievement Grades' is in smaller red font below it. To the right of the map, there is text explaining the four achievement grades: Achieved (A), Merit (M), Excellence (E), and Not Achieved (N) – has not met the standards.

NCEA

Achievement Grades

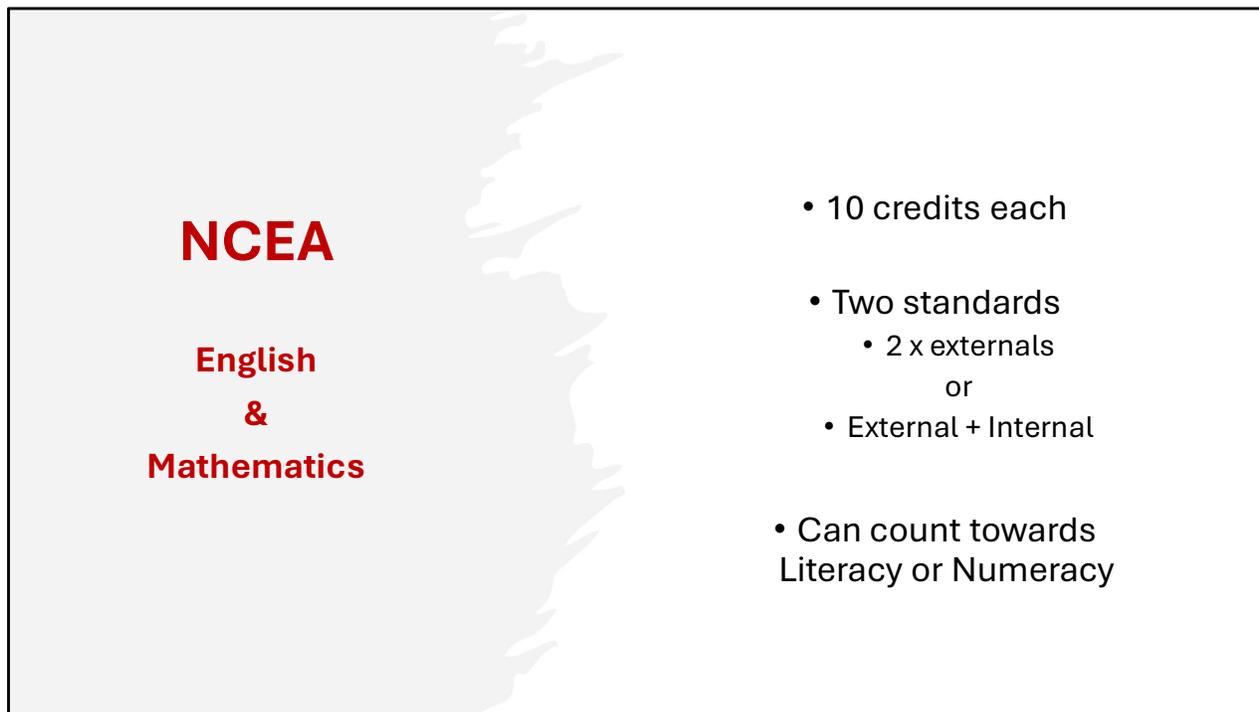
For achievement standards, there are 4 grades:

- Achieved (A)
- Merit (M)
- Excellence (E)
- Not Achieved (N) – *has not met the standards*

Achievement Standards are given a grade of Achieved, Merit or Excellence – this means the student has met the standard. You get the same number of credits regardless whether its an A, M or E.

If a student does not meet the standard, they get a Not Achieved Grade and will not gain any credits.

https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-and-standards/about-standards/#e9390_heading1



NCEA

**English
&
Mathematics**

- 10 credits each
- Two standards
 - 2 x externals
 - or
 - External + Internal
- Can count towards Literacy or Numeracy

This year in English and Maths, your daughter will be completing two achievement standards – each worth 5 credits each. Depending on which course, will depend on the combination of externals and internals. The credits in English and maths can count towards Numeracy & Literacy if they have not achieved Numeracy & Literacy through the co-requisites.

NCEA

Science

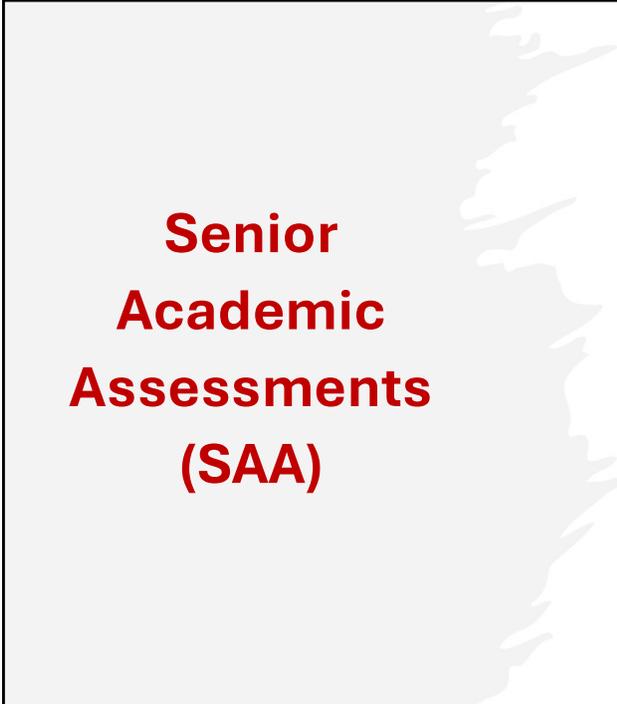
+

**3 others
subjects**

One standard per course

- Internal, or
- External submission, or
- External examination

In Science, and their 3 option subjects, they will be completing on standard – which could be an internal, a portfolio submission or an exam at the end of the year.



Senior Academic Assessments (SAA)

- Westlake's version of an assessment
- Marked using N, A, M, E
- Preparing our students for Level 2 & 3

At other times during the year, usually once a term, your child will be assessed with a Westlake version of an assessment which we are calling SAA's – A senior academic assessment. These will be marked in a similar way to NCEA and are preparing our students for success in Level 2 and 3.



So, for this term, and next, your child could be completing an internal in one term, and an SAA



In term 3, they could be working towards an SAA, completing their portfolio work, or an internal.



We also hold in term 3, our school practice exams for Year 11, 12 and 13. These are designed to prepare our students for what the end of year exam might be like. It provides useful feedback for students with regards to how they studied, what they know and don't know, and in the unlikely event that they cannot sit the actual NCEA exam in November, provide us with a derived grade. A derived grade is an evidence based grade that NZQA may award to a student when they can't attend an examination or their performance is impaired. (e.g. Sickness, bereavement).

Term 4

**External
(portfolio)
Submission due
or
NCEA External
Examination**

In term 4, all externals are completed – whether this is a portfolio to be handed in, which has a specific due date. Or there are the NCEA exams.



**End of the
2026 year**

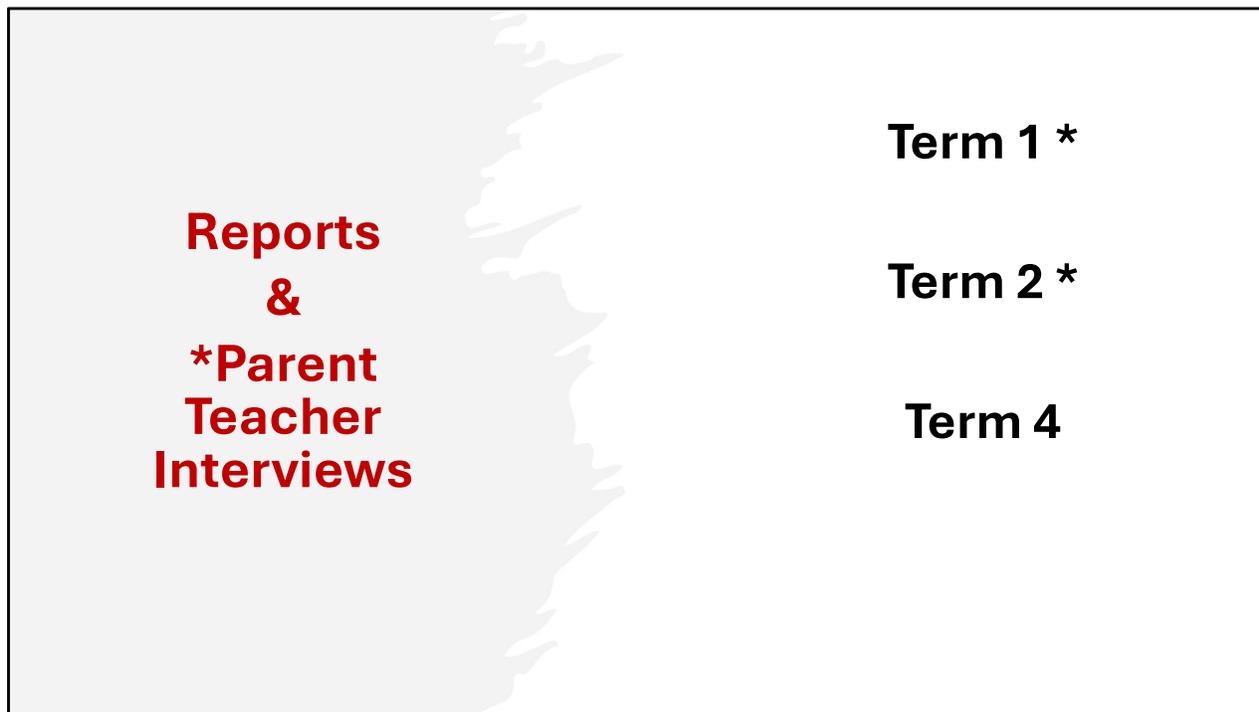
**Last day of
classes**

Wed 4th Nov

NCEA exams start

Tues 10th Nov

For Year 11 students, the last day of teaching classes will be Wednesday 4th Nov. NCEA exams start on Tuesday 10th Nov and continue until 3rd Dec for Level 1 (4th Dec for Level 2 & 3). Students are not required back at school once their exams have finished. All Year 11 students should have at least 3 exams – English, Maths and Science, and then it depends on their option subjects. The NCEA exam timetable is set by NZQA and there are no catchups or reschedules.



You can expect to get 3 academic reports this year, a progress report later this term. The mid year report towards the end of Term 2, and then the end of year report before the NCEA exams start.

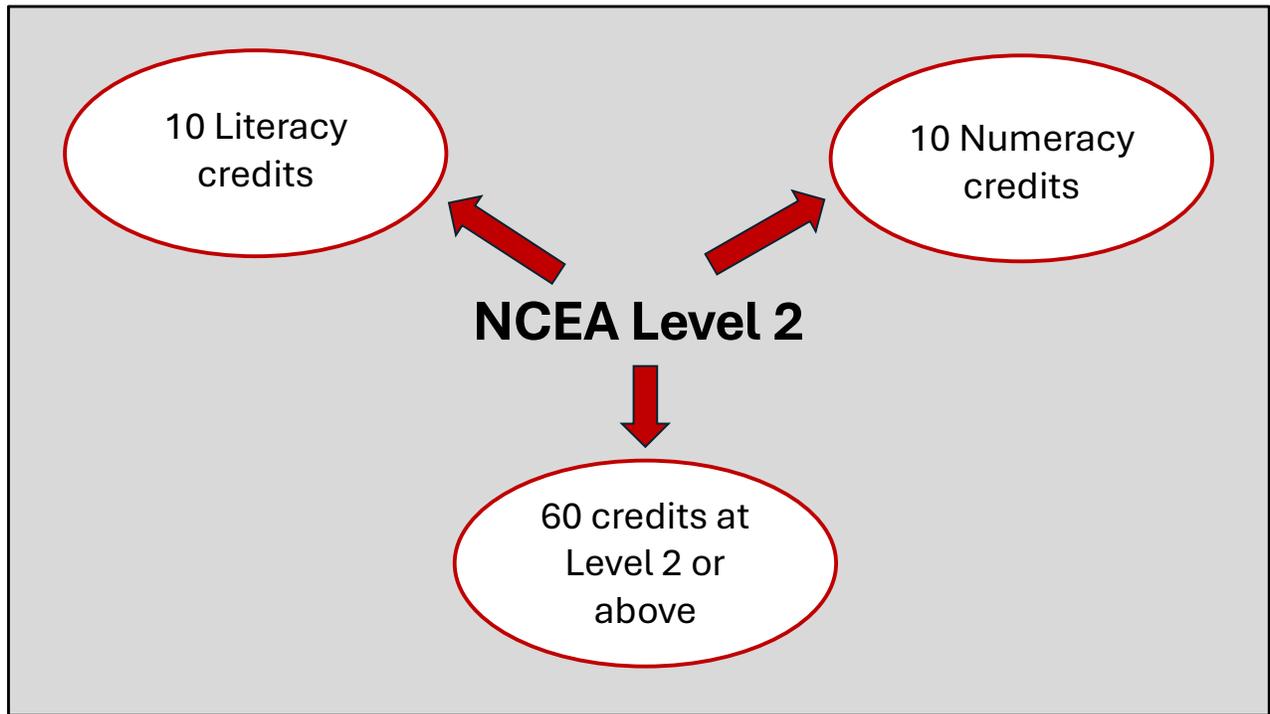
There are two opportunities to meet with the teachers – once in term 1 and again in term 2. We encourage you to come along to these to find out about each individual subject.

**Looking ahead
to
Year 12 & 13**

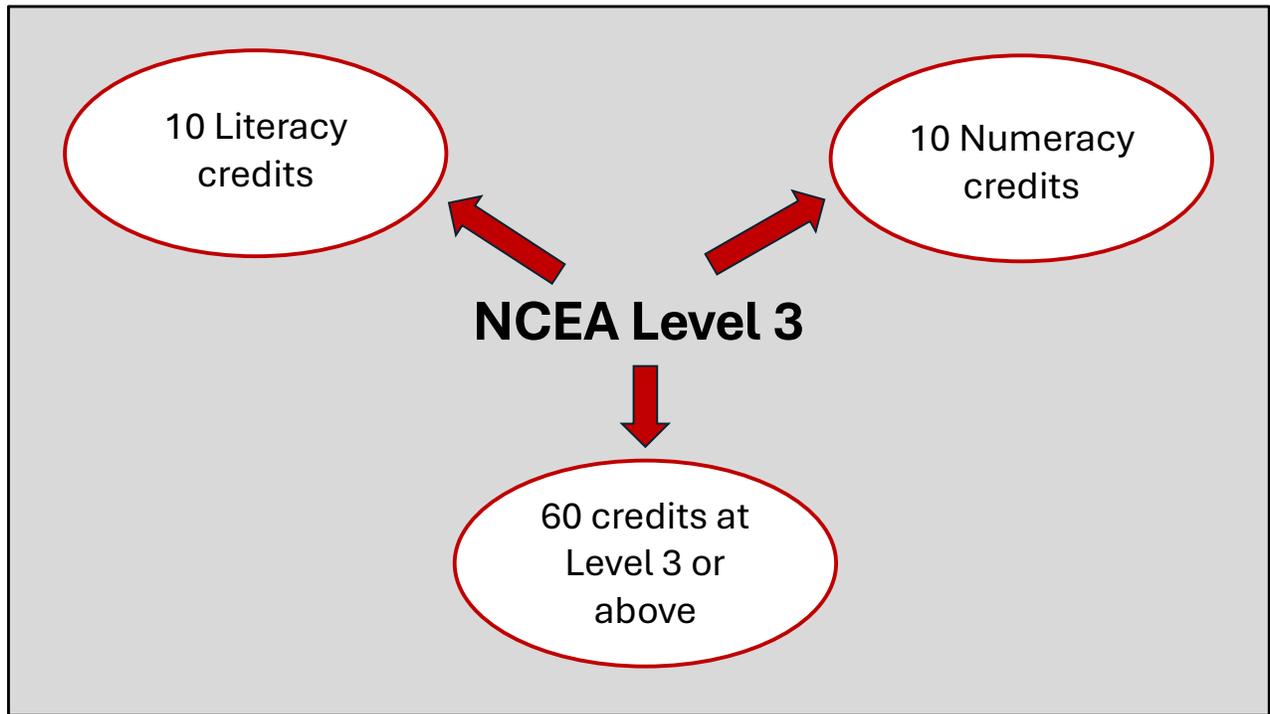


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What does Y12 & Y13 look like.

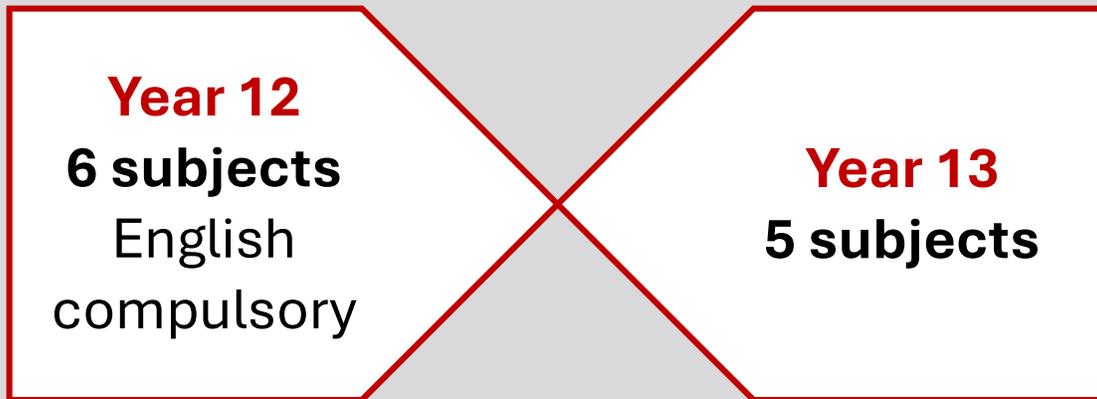


<https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/about-ncea/ncea-levels-and-certificates/>



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Subjects for Year 12 & 13



Students need to consider their pathway across the next two years when they are choosing their subjects for 2027.

**NCEA
Scholarship
for
Year 11**

- Year 11 students are welcome to apply and will be admitted on a case-by-case basis. This will be determined by the scholarship teacher + Mr Burton.
- The subjects where students are most likely to gain entry are History, Geography, Psychology, and English.
- Some students may choose to attend the tutorials to gain experience but not sit the exam. This is absolutely fine.

**NCEA
Scholarship
Information
Evening**

Thursday 5th of March
6pm
WGHS Events Centre