



A NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS OF MORRINSVILLE COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL – MR S JENKINS
B.A (HONS), PGDIPEDLD, DIP.TCHG

FROM THE PRINCIPAL – MR SCOTT JENKINS



A welcome back to all of our students to what is promising to be quite an intense but very exciting Term 4. Over the next four weeks we will have our three formal prizegivings (the dates and times of these will be included below), and our seniors will leave on their study leave for their NCEA external exams. This year our Senior Academic Prizegiving has been brought forward for the seniors' final day. At this

prizegiving, we will announce a number of important academic prizes such as our academic dux, our top all-round student and our premier service awards. This year, as part of a new tradition, we will also be announcing the 2024 head students.

While all of these events are quite exciting in terms of our wider school life, the emphasis for Term 4 is squarely on academic achievement. Many of our students are handing in their final internal assessments and should be now preparing for their external exams. Parents can help in this regard by working alongside their students to prepare a study timetable that is based around the external exam dates. These are all available on the study hub section of the NZQA website. This will no doubt be a stressful period for a number of our students. At the end of the day their achievement results will directly reflect the amount of effort and preparation that each student has put in.

This term, our Year 10 students will also be sitting the NCEA Literacy and Numeracy prerequisite Common Assessment Activities. As part of the NCEA review there are new Literacy and Numeracy requirements. The information for these have been sent to all Year 10 parents and students on Monday this week. Over the coming newsletters I will be including information around different aspects of the new NCEA system that will be introduced in 2024 across the country at Level 1 to help our parents understand the changes. This will be at the end of this newsletter. This will not impact Year 12 or Year 13 students next year.

Upcoming Prizegivings

Cultural Prizegiving: Wednesday 18 October, in the PAC, 7pm
Sports Prizegiving: Tuesday 24 October, in the PAC, 7pm
Senior Academic Prizegiving: Wednesday 1 November, PAC, 7pm.
Junior Prizegiving, Tuesday 12 December, PAC, 10.30am.

Enrolment Zone Information Update

Our formal enrolment application advertisement was in yesterday's *Your Morrinsville News*. The advertisement reminds people that all applications for the ballot for out-of-zone places need to be into the school Office by **Thursday 19 October**. To assist us, we ask that as many of our in zone applications for Year 9 students in 2024 should also be handed into the Office or through the online portal on our website by this date also. We realise that some may still be making decisions around where they send their child to school, however after this point we will be starting to work alongside our contributing schools to place students in their various core and option classes. Those enrolment forms that come later may see some students miss out on their first option class choices. It is interesting that we have had a significant number of enrolments from students at other year levels and from other schools with families wishing to enrol before our enrolment zone formally kicks in.

Yearbook

This year, we will be producing a digital version of the traditional Yearbook. A number of schools have done away with this tradition due to the ridiculous costs required to print them. We will however, print a yearbook for each of our Year 13 leavers free of charge. Any other student who wishes to purchase a yearbook can order one through the school Office. A date these will be available will be advised at the time.

Matamata Cultural Exchange

On the last day of Term 3 we hosted the Matamata Cultural Exchange. This was a highly successful day and was a culmination of a full term's planning from all those involved. While the sporting highlights were evenly shared with Matamata taking out the basketball honours and Morrinsville the netball, our debating team

also had a strong performance. The highlight of the event, as it always is, was the performance of both kapa haka roopu. Morrinsville was judged to have performed the best on the day, however this could have gone either way. It was great to see large numbers of our community attending.

Shave for a Cure

On Wednesday after the prospective head student speeches, our Spirit Leaders organised the ‘Shave for a Cure’ fundraiser for youth cancer sufferers that has become a senior tradition at Morrinsville College. It saw a number of students cutting their hair or waxing their legs as part of this fundraiser. Some of the hair was collected to be turned into wigs for those who have lost their hair through their cancer treatments. As of writing, the amount raised has yet to be confirmed.



**FROM THE BOARD PRESIDING MEMBER – MRS NGAIRE TE AHU
Farewell to Board Member**



At our October meeting we farewelled long-serving Board member, **Mrs Margaret Wilton** who has been a trustee since 2015. During that time she has attended many meetings and been part of most Board committees. The Board thanked Margaret for her dedicated service to the school over this time and presented her with a gift of thanks.

Welcome to new Student Representative

At our October Board meeting we farewelled outgoing Student Rep, **Olivia Harris**, who has done a fantastic job in her role this year and we welcomed new Student Rep, **Polina Mzhachikh**.



Board of Trustees’ Mid-Term Elections

The mid-term Board of Trustee elections have now concluded with two nominations received for the two vacant positions. Mr Matthew Judge and myself have been returned to the Board for a further three years.

Music Success

During the holidays, Year 9 student, **Anessa Ginever**, was the Principal trombone player for the NSSBB at the National Secondary Schools’ Brass Band Course. There were 70 students at the course from across New Zealand. She led her team exceptionally well and represented Morrinsville College with pride.



Anessa also recently attended the Waikato Bay of Plenty Brass Band

Championship. Her placings were: 1st U16 Air & Variation; 2nd U16 Slow Melody; 1st Open Intermediate Duet; 1st D Grade Bands and 3rd Open Quartet. Well done Anessa.

Thank You

A huge thank you to **Mr Nick Robinson**, Senior Survey Technician at Survey Services, for the time, effort and expertise he has given to designing and implementing a full 400m track in conjunction with our groundsman Mr Brendan Waters. Nick is also the Club Captain for the Morrinsville Amateur Athletics Club who hold their weekly clubnights on our grounds.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 18 October	Cultural Prizegiving
Monday 23 October	Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 24 October	Sports Prizegiving
Fri 27 – Sat 28 October	DOE Bronze Trip
Wednesday 1 November	Last Day for Seniors
Wednesday 1 November	Senior Prizegiving
Monday 6 November	NCEA Exams begin
Wednesday 8 November	BOT Meeting, 7pm
Mon 13 – Fri 17 November	POET Year 9 Camps
Tuesday 28 November	Year 13 Graduation Dinner
Fri 1 – Tue 5 December	DOE Gold Trip
Thu 7 – Fri 8 December	Electives
Tuesday 12 December	Junior Prizegiving
Wednesday 13 December	Teacher-Only Day
Wednesday 13 December	BOT Meeting 6pm

Morrinsville-College

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If-you-would-like-to-advertise-on-the-Morrinsville-College-Skool-Loop-App-please-! email:Content@skoolloop.com!

NCEA CHANGE UPDATE No. 1

Pilot Common Assessment Activity for Literacy and Numeracy in Year 10

The NCEA changes that next year's Year 11 cohort will be introduced to are quite significant. The first aspect to note is that all levels will require 60 credits to pass, which is different to the current 80 credits requirement at each level. However, there will be less standards and less credits offered at each year level with a maximum of 20 credits available from two internal achievement standards and two externally-assessed achievement standards for each subject. They are much larger standards and will cover far more content. These have significant implications for how we carry out assessment and these will be highlighted in the coming updates. **The most important aspect to note is that the emphasis has returned to learning rather than credit gathering.** This has been a very important and welcome aspect driving the new changes.

Next to this has been the changes to how Numeracy and Literacy will be assessed under NCEA. Previously, this was assessed across a number of subjects including Mathematics and English. From 2024 this will be assessed through three externally-assessed standards that include one Mathematics standard, one Reading standard and one Writing standard that will add up to 20 credits. This will not make up part of the 60 credits to get Level 1. It sits alongside the Level 1 credits, and like it currently does, is a requirement to achieve any NCEA level. The new Literacy and Numeracy standards are pitched at a Year 10 foundational level where most schools will be attempting them with two potential national windows for assessment each year. If a student does not achieve any of the three standards, they are able to attempt them the following year as well.

Our current Year 10 cohort will be undertaking the trial external common assessment activities in Week 4 (Monday 30 – Friday 3 November). Some schools are selecting the students they put forward, and other schools, like ours, are encouraging all of our Year 10 cohort to attempt the activities as part of a learning process which will allow our students to become familiar with the online assessment tool. This first trial attempt at the Common Assessment Activities is very much about allowing our students to become comfortable with the process rather than putting pressure on them in what is a high-stakes setting. In saying this, any standards that are passed, and credits that are achieved, will go onto their record of learning and be carried forward into the next year. For this reason we encourage our Year 10 parents to support the revision required to sit these external exams.

The Mathematics and English Learning Areas have been working with all of the Year 10 classes to prepare for the Common Assessment Activities (CAA). These are some revision activities that parents can be supporting students with at home. This week we will include some Literacy strategies from our LAL English Mrs Helen Hyde-Hills. The Numeracy strategies come from Mr Nick Smith our LAL Mathematics.

Literacy Revision

1. Students can practise logging into their NCEA website accounts via <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/login/>. Students will have to log in on the day of their assessments to begin each standard. It will be important that each student brings their laptop to school.
2. Students can prepare by using Education Perfect – NCEA US32403 reading and NCEA32405 writing – these have the skills and practice tests aligned with the CAA.
3. The following is a link to a digital copy of the Year 10 skills booklet. Students will have completed most of this in class, but it is still a useful revision tool. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1tSdQb2uPhyDIHDfn4uB6UH-wJ-ecbSTtzp0BqU1kQk/edit>
4. Students should also practice reading short texts. Parents can provide valuable contribution by asking their students questions about what they have read in order to prepare for the Reading standard.

Numeracy Revision

1. The following is a link to the Numeracy and Literacy tests that were trialled in June of this year. When the website page opens, the trial activities and marking schedules can be seen on the right-hand side of the page.

<https://ncea.education.govt.nz/literacy-and-numeracy/numeracy/unit-standard>

2. The following link connects to the Mathematics Learning Area bank of Numeracy revision activities that each student can work through to help them prepare.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zht6rjHT8-51QvGFReggSwKpH23Xxm8LkkTd_KeLmDU/edit?usp=drive_link