



Te Awamutu College Newsletter – August 2022

Dear Parents/Caregivers and Students of Te Awamutu College

A return to Terms 1 & 2 Orange Setting

At the end of the school holidays the Ministry of Education strongly recommended schools to have a requirement for students and staff to wear face masks whilst at school for the first four weeks of Term Three. This was in response to the rising levels of COVID and winter flu throughout New Zealand at the end of Term Two. As you will be aware the last several weeks of Term Two saw high rates of students and staff away with illness and we did extremely well to remain open for instruction, without having to roster levels home or close the school (as many other schools had to do).

The current situation indicates that nation-wide, fewer COVID and flu numbers are being reported. We are still tracking student and staff COVID related information, and it seems that in our school community COVID and flu numbers have declined and are low (attendance is the highest it has been all year). It was always our intention to review the mask requirement in Week Four and based upon illness, absence/attendance data for our school, the decision has been made to **lift the mask requirement from Wednesday 17 August**. This means that students are no longer *required* to wear face masks at school.

However, New Zealand remains at COVID Orange Setting and the health and safety requirements and measures that we have in place will remain. Students are still strongly encouraged to wear face masks (but are not required to); classrooms will be well ventilated; unwell students are to remain at home; appropriate hand washing and coughing/sneezing practices are encouraged. As with requirements for public transport, **face masks are required to be worn on school transport**.

The remaining weeks are critical, especially for our Senior Students as they work hard to prepare for exams and NCEA internal assessments. Regular attendance is vital for all year levels for academic achievement and progress, but also for mental and general well-being. Therefore, we encourage students to be proactive in taking steps to remain healthy and well.



Changes to NCEA Requirements for 2022

NZQA have announced changes to NCEA for 2022 to recognise the impact student and teacher absences due to COVID-19 and winter illnesses have had on teaching, learning and assessment.

In 2022, students will be entitled to **1 Learning Recognition Credit (LRC)** for every 5 credits **earned through assessment**, up to a **maximum of:**

Level 1	10 LRCs
Level 2	8 LRCs
Level 3	8 LRCs

To receive a **Certificate Endorsement**, students will need 46 Credits at Merit or Excellence level, instead of the usual 50.

To be **awarded University Entrance**, students will need 14 in each of two UE approved subjects, and **12 credits in a third UE approved subject** (and also must attain NCEA Level 3 and meet UE Literacy and Numeracy requirements).

Congratulations to:

- Rebecca Petch, former student, gold medallist at Birmingham Commonwealth Games (cycling) – Women's Team Sprint.
- Vanessa (Hazel) Ouwehand, former student, for her efforts at the Games in swimming.

Reminders

- **Assessment Week** for Years 11-13 starts on Friday 19 August and finishes on Friday 26 August.
- **Teacher Only Day** – Tuesday 23 August (assessments still run for seniors)

Kia Kaha.

J. Membery

Tony Membery
Principal

