

BDSC Year 11 Programme (2023)

The Year 11 programme prepares students for moving to Year 12 and / or NCEA Level 2.

Year 11 students will have four compulsory subjects, students will study Active Wellbeing, one Mathematics course, one English course, and at least one Science course. Students will also select a further three optional subjects.

The main advantage of the new BDSC Year 11 Programme is the increased teaching time made available by removing excessive internal and external assessments from NCEA Level 1. Removing these assessments will provide us with at least four more weeks of teaching time to prepare students for Year 12 studies.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the benefits of having the Year 11 Diploma course?

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

2. Why is BDSC no longer delivering a full NCEA Level 1 programme?

An increasing number of schools no longer offer NCEA Level 1. We believe we can offer an alternative rigorous course of study that meets the needs of our Year 11 students. The current NCEA Level 1 assessment load reduces teaching time and places unnecessary stress on students.

An increasing number of schools have already taken a similar approach to what we are doing. We have been in communication with a number of them to learn from their experience. There are very few countries in the world that have three years of national assessment. New Zealand is possibly the only one.

3. As a state school, does BDSC have to offer Level 1 NCEA?

No. NCEA is a very flexible system and many schools have already chosen not to offer Level 1 NCEA. NCEA Levels 2 and 3 provide our 'exit' qualifications and will be offered as full NCEA programmes.

Some students for whom NCEA Level 1 is their target qualification will still have the opportunity to gain Level 1. The national NCEA review considered removing Level 1 completely. Less than 10% of students consider NCEA Level 1 as their target qualification. This figure is much lower for BDSC.

An increasing number of schools (for example Epsom Girls Grammar, Macleans College), have already taken a similar approach to what we are doing. We have been in communication with a number of schools to learn from their experience.

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

In 2023, all Year 10 students will complete the Numeracy and Literacy co-requisite package. They will complete a reading and writing unit standard with 5 credits each and a numeracy standard with 10 credits (20 credits in total).

Numeracy – Year 11 Students will complete the 10 numeracy standards from the co-requisite package along with 10 credits of the current numeracy requirements.

Literacy – Year 11 students can gain Literacy through the current NCEA Level 1 standards.

5. How will you meet the needs of accelerated students?

Students will continue to be accelerated at Year 10 in Mathematics and Statistics, and Science. This means in Year 11, accelerated students will be studying either or both courses at NCEA Level 2.

6. How will you meet the needs of students with learning challenges?

The compulsory subjects (Mathematics, English, Science) will offer a selection of courses that cater for a range of abilities. We will continue to offer a range of subjects that place students on pathways that suit their interests, needs and vocation.

7. Will the same subjects be offered in the Y11 programme?

A wide range of subjects will continue to be offered, giving students the opportunity to select a programme that prepares them well for Years 12 and 13. The 2023 subject list will be available via the Option Booklets on our website.

8. How will students be assessed in the Year 11 programme?

Each course will generate credits from one NCEA assessment (internal or external) and will also include three school-based assessments. Vocational Pathway courses, for example, Trade Skills, Food and Hospitality will offer a Unit Standard assessment programme.

A variety of assessment methods may be used, for example: written or digital tests, assignments, project work and portfolios.

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

Students will be eligible to receive a BDSC Diploma based on meeting specific criteria (academic achievement, literacy and numeracy and attendance).

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

Students who intend to leave at the end of Year 11 will have had the opportunity to gain the literacy and numeracy co-requisite package. They will receive a formal school report detailing NCEA and school-based academic achievements. All NCEA results will be uploaded to NZQA.

11. How will entry into Level 2 courses be determined?

Entry into Level 2 courses will be determined by a student's results in Year 11 and will be used to decide whether a student meets entry prerequisites for Level 2 courses. Students will be required to attend a Course Confirmation Day to check that they have met the prerequisites for NCEA Level 2 courses and to confirm any course changes requested. Some courses have open entry into Level 2.

12. Does this mean students will not gain NCEA Level 1?

Students will be able to achieve Level 1. To get Level 1, students need the numeracy and literacy package, and 60 credits at Level 1 or higher.