



MARLBOROUGH GIRLS' COLLEGE

Te Kāreti Kōhine o Wairau

21 Century Learning in Year 11 at Marlborough Girls'

Our new Year 11 is off to a great start!

The brief was to make learning more relevant, challenging and engaging for our students in Year 11 and, looking ahead, giving them a stronger basis for Year 12 and Level 2 NCEA. Challenge accepted - and more than sixty new Year 11 courses were planned in depth in 2023 by our dedicated teaching team here at MGC to be ready for 2024.

Knowledge, skills and key [capabilities](#) (such as communication, collaboration, self management...) are taught in real world contexts in the new courses. We shouldn't be hearing 'why are we learning this?'. Instead, we should be seeing students genuinely engaged in what and how they are learning at school.

How will we measure learning?

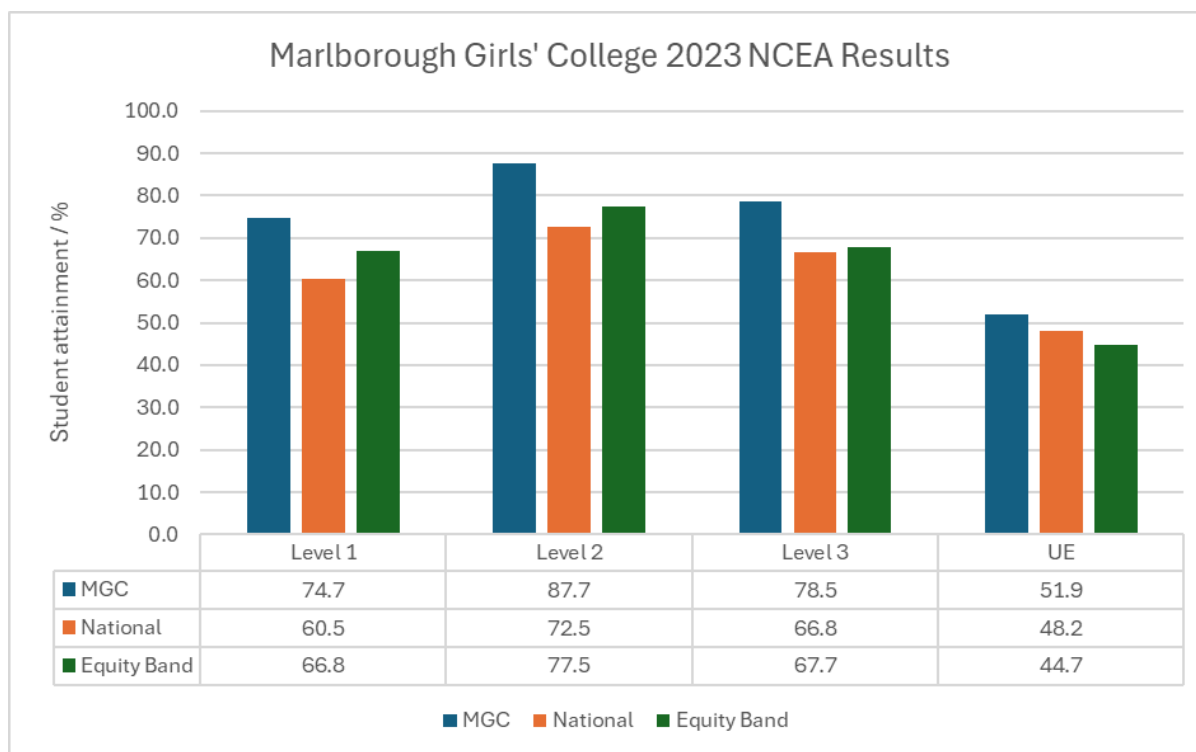
Teachers are experts at assessment. A range of tasks given to students will show evidence of their learning. Across different courses, students will complete investigations, complete reflections on their design work, give speeches, perform, write tests assessing knowledge and reasoning skills, and submit assignments requiring research and evaluation. Some courses are designed to include a 'take action' project. All Year 11's can expect to have homework focused on reading, writing and mathematics in the lead up to taking the NZQA Literacy and Numeracy digital assessments in May.

Learning conversations with course teachers are happening on Wednesday 8 May and Tuesday 14 May from 2:00 - 7:00pm. Academic reports for Year 11 students will be sent out to parents at the end of each semester. Based on the assessment of knowledge and skills, the reports will show the curriculum levels students are working at and describe their progress in developing capabilities in each course.

How well-prepared will these students be for Year 12 and Level 2 NCEA?

MGC has a 60 year long reputation for excellence in education. The NCEA results for last year showed pass rates significantly higher than national at all levels (refer to the graph below). We are also seeing that we are closing the gap in achievement between Māori and other students. Our 2023 students can be proud of the hard work they put in to achieve at this level! We have bucked the downward trend in NCEA achievement across the country.

These strong results also reflect the professionalism of our teaching staff and their understanding of how to prepare students for NCEA success. Our Year 11 cohort of 2024 can be sure that they are in good hands as learning this year has been designed to lead into Level 2 NCEA.



What are our Year 11 students saying about their learning so far this term?

- **What courses are standing out for you this year? Why?**

Taylor - Business Studies: We are doing the BP challenge and we get to collaborate with MBC, and Richmond View. This is a helpful course that can be helpful for life.

Malia - Siva mai: It's really different from what I have done before and there are often new things to learn around culture and dance. It is fun and enjoyable, learning more about my own culture. I like that we have workshops that are more intense; we learn lots.

Sophie - Cultivating our Futures: I like it because it is the only Ag-based class I have ever taken and it's different from the other sciences. You learn different things like the real world and things in Marlborough. I can see how it applies in life. The teacher actually really wants the best for us and helps

I like Mind of a Monster class: You get really in-depth with the subject, and learn things that can help you e.g. learning about people's behaviours and how it affects other people.

Koko - Sports Academy: I am learning about how to make you go further in sport; creating your own programmes and making yourself better in your chosen sport.

- **Overall, how are you finding the level of challenge in your learning this year?**

Malia - The challenge level is good. It makes me think more and I know it is not always going to be easy.

Sophie - The challenge level is good. It is challenging me enough that I do not feel like I do not understand, but I am learning.

Taylor - Most of my classes are making me think and step up from easy to hard, and I can follow along.

- **What have you been learning that is new?**

Malia - More in-depth concepts into some things we have learned about last year

Sophie - More based on the real world, and stuff we can use.

Taylor - Learning things that I actually find interesting and will help me in my future.

Michelle Tewkesbury