



2020 Principal's Report

Excellence in learning

Christianity in living

Principal's Report on 2020

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself."

Matthew 22: 36 - 39 (NIV)

2020 was certainly an unusual year, with Covid-19 changing our landscape. The subsequent lockdowns, distance learning, and Level requirements caused disruption, uncertainty, and anxiety. However, it also provided an opportunity to share our Christian love and values with others. We were able to witness the love of Jesus in our own community, and beyond.

Our year, again, started with a powhiri for new students and families. Some highlights for our students during 2020 included: school picnic, Poor Knights diving trip, mufti days, athletics days, senior science trips, swimming pool on-site, Senior Ball, Friday canteen, Life Education, Careers Roadshow, worship at assembly, SPRINGS Challenge, senior leavers dinner, and a wonderful Awards praise-giving to end the year.



During the year we continued to focus on improving classroom practice. This was achieved with the support of a Ministry PLD contract focused on Relationships First Learning. We continued to develop the capacity of our Impact coaches, and purchased iRIS technology to make observations more efficient.

Our participation in the Te Tai Raki Kahi Ako continued as our Within-School-Teachers began their journey highlighting the wellbeing of our students.

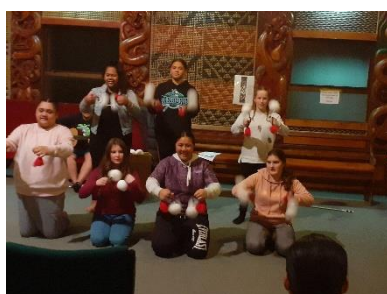
We began Term One with a school picnic, which was a wonderful opportunity for parents, students and staff to mingle in a relaxed environment. Our Term One camps provided a great time experiencing God's creation. Our Year 7-13 Athletics day, again, saw great participation and some outstanding results. We had the pool on site for our Juniors, although this ended early through Covid-19 lockdown.



During Term Two, Level One and Two requirements meant that we were unable to continue many of our usual events.

Term Three saw us hosting student Learning Conferences, where efforts were acknowledged and next steps discussed. We were able to squeeze in our Senior Ball which, again, was very successful with students from other Christian schools joining us. Our Parent Support Group also held a very successful Guys' Evening for our community. At the end of the term, the Life Education programme was also able to visit.

During Term Four we, again, focused on our internal needs, ensuring students wellbeing was looked after, and no extra pressures were experienced. We farewelled our leavers at a special assembly, and dinner. Our NCEA students prepared for, and sat, external exams. We ended the year with two successful Awards celebrations where achievements were acknowledged, and items presented by our students.



We farewelled Ian Mackay, and Karen Linton at the end of 2020. Ian taught senior English and led the Senior College for 10 years. Karen worked in our special needs area, with Reading Recovery, and classroom teaching.

Our Parent Support Group continued their provision of canteen on Fridays, and hosted a successful Guys' evening. Unfortunately the 40th Anniversary celebrations planned were cancelled due to Covid. We thank the group for their continued support of our College.

Our proprietors, New Zealand Christian Proprietors Trust and our land Trust, Whangarei Christian Education Trust, continued to work together successfully to develop the capacity of the school to grow into the future. Plans for two new classrooms for 2021 were actioned.

Our Board of Trustees, led by Mike de Vetter, continued to provide strong and stable governance for Excellere College. This laid a solid foundation for school leadership to pursue initiatives which have had a positive impact on student learning.

Academically we had another solid year, with an increase and decrease in results.

Overall Results 2020, Year 1 – 8 (at/above NZC expectation)

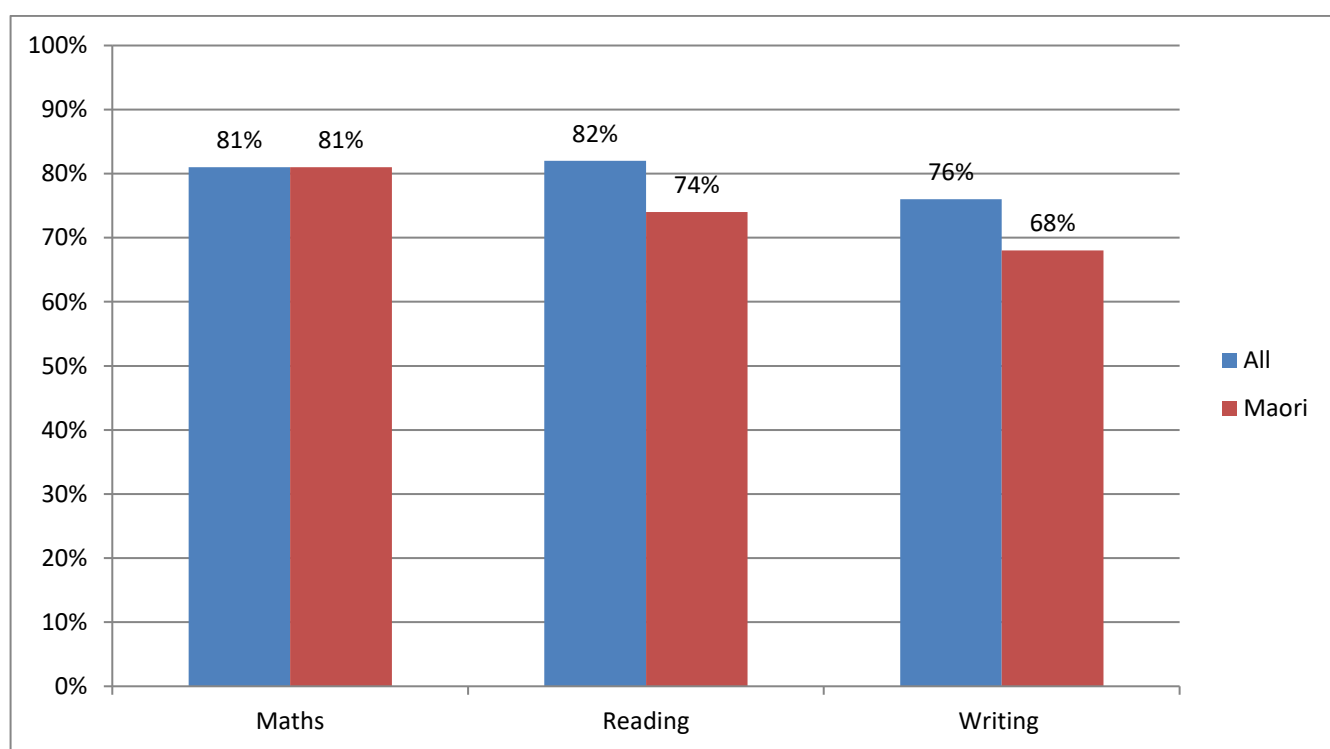


Figure 1 National Standards Year 1 – 8

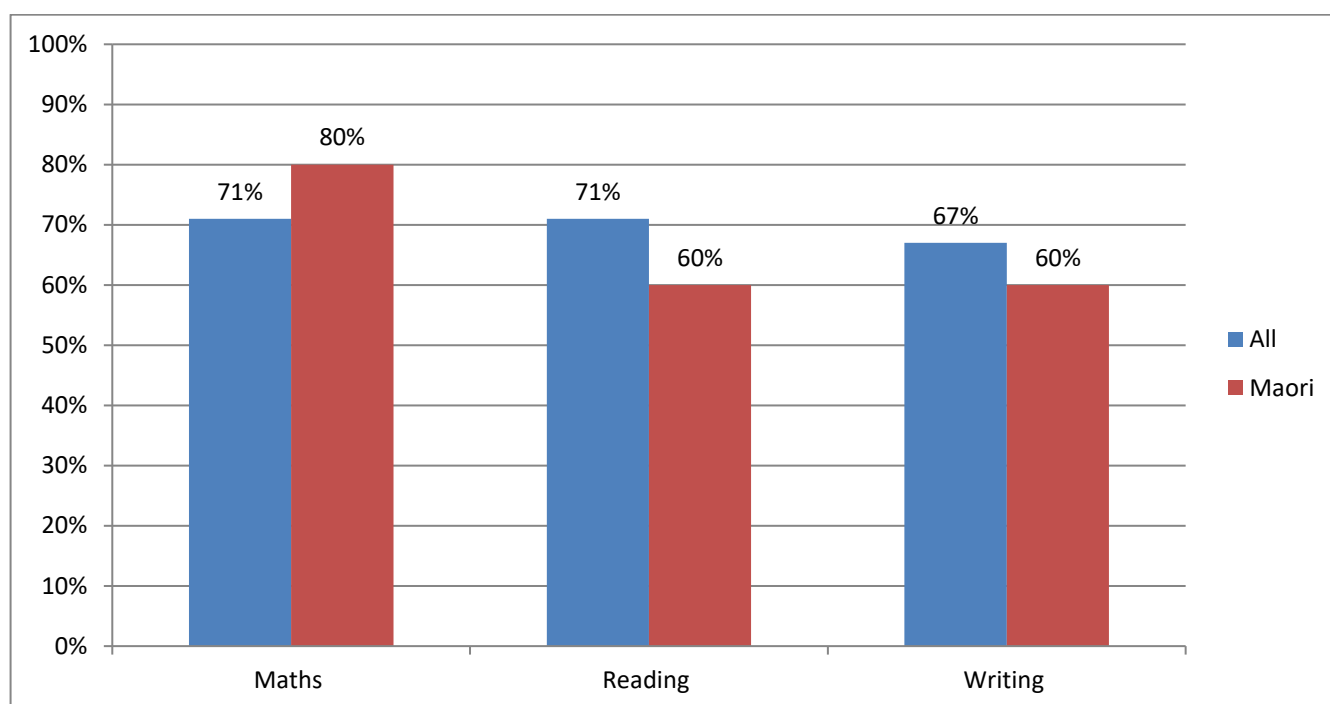
Our Reading stayed the same at 82%, with Maori also staying at 74%.

Our Maths dropped from 83% to 81%, with Maori moving up from 74% to 81%.

Our Writing dropped from 81% to 76%, with Maori moving up from 67% to 68%.

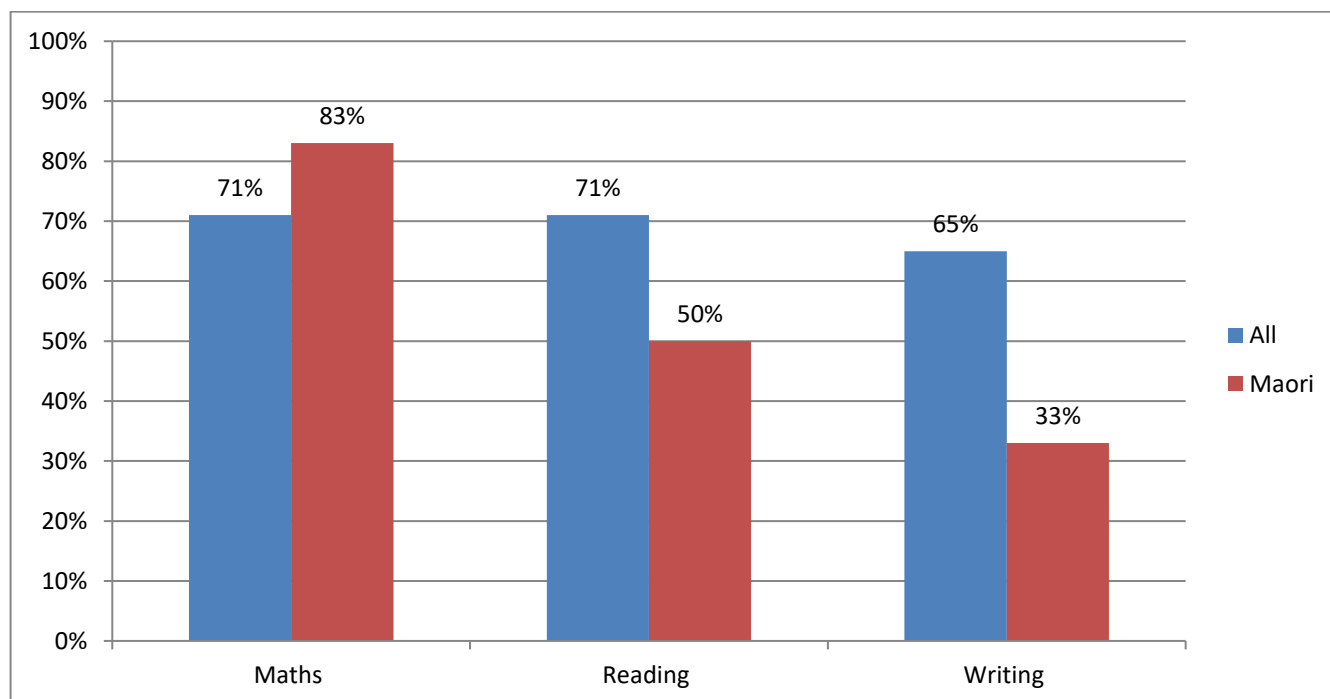
Although overall school results remained similar to 2021, however the increase in our Maori results was very pleasing. Our collaborative culture means staff are working closely together to identify challenges, analyse formative data, develop strategies to accelerate learning, and include students, and families, in the learning process.

Overall Year 9 Results 2020 (at/above expectation)



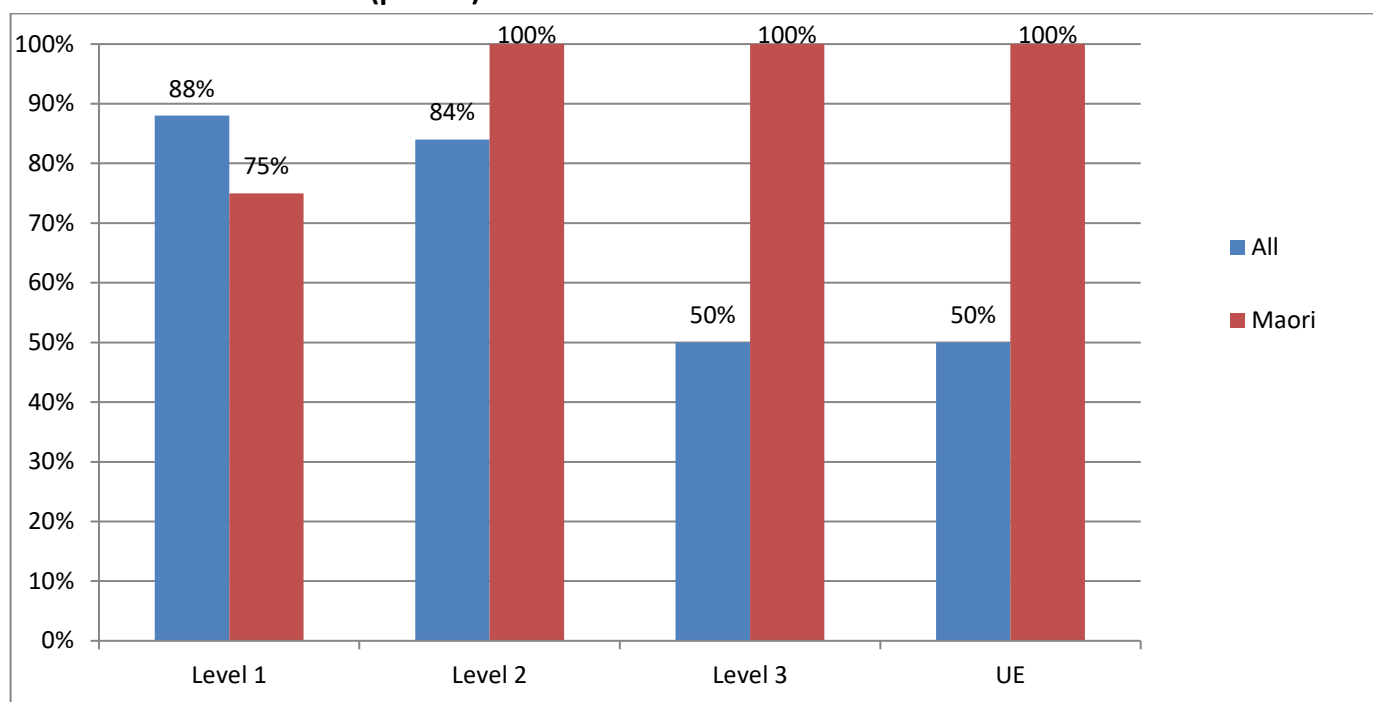
Our Year 9 results showed a decrease across the three areas, however we will be looking to monitor and support this group in 2021.

Overall Year 10 Results 2020 (at/above expectation)



Our Year 10 results saw an improvement in Maths, with a decrease in Reading and Writing. This will also be monitored and supported in 2021.

Overall NCEA Results 2020 (passed)



Our results in NCEA remain pleasing, with an over 80% pass rate at Level One and Two. At Level One we had 43% Merit endorsement, with 13% Excellence endorsement. At Level Two we had 13% Merit endorsement. Results for our Maori students continue to be excellent with a 100% pass rate at level Two and Three, and UE. 50% of our Year 13 students were successful with UE.

2021

We welcome Rebecca Pennefather to our teaching staff in 2021.

2021 will see us continue to refine our understanding of Relationships First Learning, explore the Digital Technologies curriculum, begin a Local Curriculum review using a Christian lens to update our learning programmes, and strengthen our Christian character through an emphasis on service, leadership, NCEA Biblical Studies courses, and internal PLD. We also start the year with our biggest student roll, 266.

Graeme Whitehead
Principal
March 2021

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Matthew 5: 9 (NIV)

