



## **2016 Principal's Report**

**Excellence in learning**

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**Christianity in living**

## Principal's Report on 2016

*"In your relationships with each other, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."*

*Philippians 2: 5*

2016 was a year of continued growth in our ability to identify students' needs, adapt our programmes, analyse and use data, and accelerate learning. We saw evidence of this in our student achievement, especially in improved National Standards results and continued NCEA success.

Our year, again, started with a powhiri for new students and families. Some highlights for our students during 2016 included: student-led learning conferences, Y11 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, Y7-9 production, Excel assembly concert, 40hr Famine, Yr 1/2 Three Little Pigs performance, SPRINGS Challenge, cross country, successful sports tournaments, senior leavers dinner, and Science Fair. The majority of our students were also able to attend a school camp during 2016.





Early in the year we received a very favourable report from ERO, which saw us return to a three-year review cycle. They were particularly positive about our improved curriculum design to further respond to individual student learning requirements, development of shared leadership approaches and robust performance management, strengthened teaching to accelerate student learning and promote success for Māori as Māori, and implementation of robust and timely self-review practices. They noted that:

*The school is well placed to sustain and improve performance.*

*The school has demonstrated:*

- *effective leadership in implementing systems to provide the conditions for students to be successful*
- *high expectations for accelerated student achievement*
- *positive responses to students' learning strengths and needs*
- *more stable governance structures, including plans for succession, to continue to strengthen the stewardship of the school*
- *greater student focused decision-making, using student contributions*
- *use of effective self-review processes to set future priorities and monitor school performance.*

*(RO Review, April 2016)*

During the year we continued to focus on improving classroom practice. This was achieved with the support of a Ministry PLD contract: New Zealand Curriculum, and a Cognition Education contract focused on Relationship-based Learning. With our Student Graduate Profile now in place we are developing an Excellere Teacher Profile which will outline the expectations we have for staff, in order to achieve student success.

In term one we were blessed to have the portable swimming pool on site. This allowed our students to be taught by a Sport Northland instructor and consolidate their water safety skills with their teachers. We also had Holyn Jacobson, from the United States, teaching in Room Two. Holyn was on her final practicum, and made a real connection with students, staff and her host family.

During term two a group of our Year 10 students experienced a noho Marae at Motuti, in North Hokianga. This was a wonderful opportunity to connect with their VC Te Reo teacher and the students from Panguru. Once again Excel Performing Arts School visited and had our students praising their gifts. The Digital Horizons Conference gave our staff an opportunity to upskill in the digital world and make connections across schools.



Term three saw us hosting the annual Northland Christian Schools' Cross Country. One of our students, Daniel Whitehead, went on to win the Northland 12yrs+ Cross Country Championship. Our Middle College performed a wonderful musical drama, whilst our NCEA music students presented an evening soiree of their performances. We hosted the Life Education classroom, and our Year 13's hit the slopes on their annual Snow Camp.

During term four our junior students contributed to the Kids 4 Kids concert, whilst our Year 7 to 10 students finished the year with camps. Our NCEA students prepared for, and sat, external exams. We ended the year with another successful Awards evening where achievements were acknowledged and items presented by our students.



We farewelled a number of teachers in 2016. Andrea Remkes and John Boer left Whangarei to teach elsewhere, Gordon Steel retired, and Jess Talbot moved to South Africa. Louise Herald and Lara Grace, teacher aides, also left us to pursue other endeavours.

Our Parent Support Group had another successful year supporting the school. Their continued provision of canteen on Fridays is a highlight for our students is a successful fundraising activity. It was also great to see the Fitness trail they had fundraised for make an appearance around the school. We thank the group for their continued support of our College, not only through fundraising, but also as a valuable connection for our parents.

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 in the future.

Our Board of Trustees, led by Don Birkett, has continued to provide strong and stable governance for Excellere College, as a good employer. This has laid a solid foundation for school leadership to pursue initiatives which have had a positive impact on student learning.

Academically we had another excellent year, with an improvement in our National Standards results for maths and reading, and improvement overall for our Maori students.

### Overall National Standards Results 2016, Year 1 – 8 (at/above expectation)

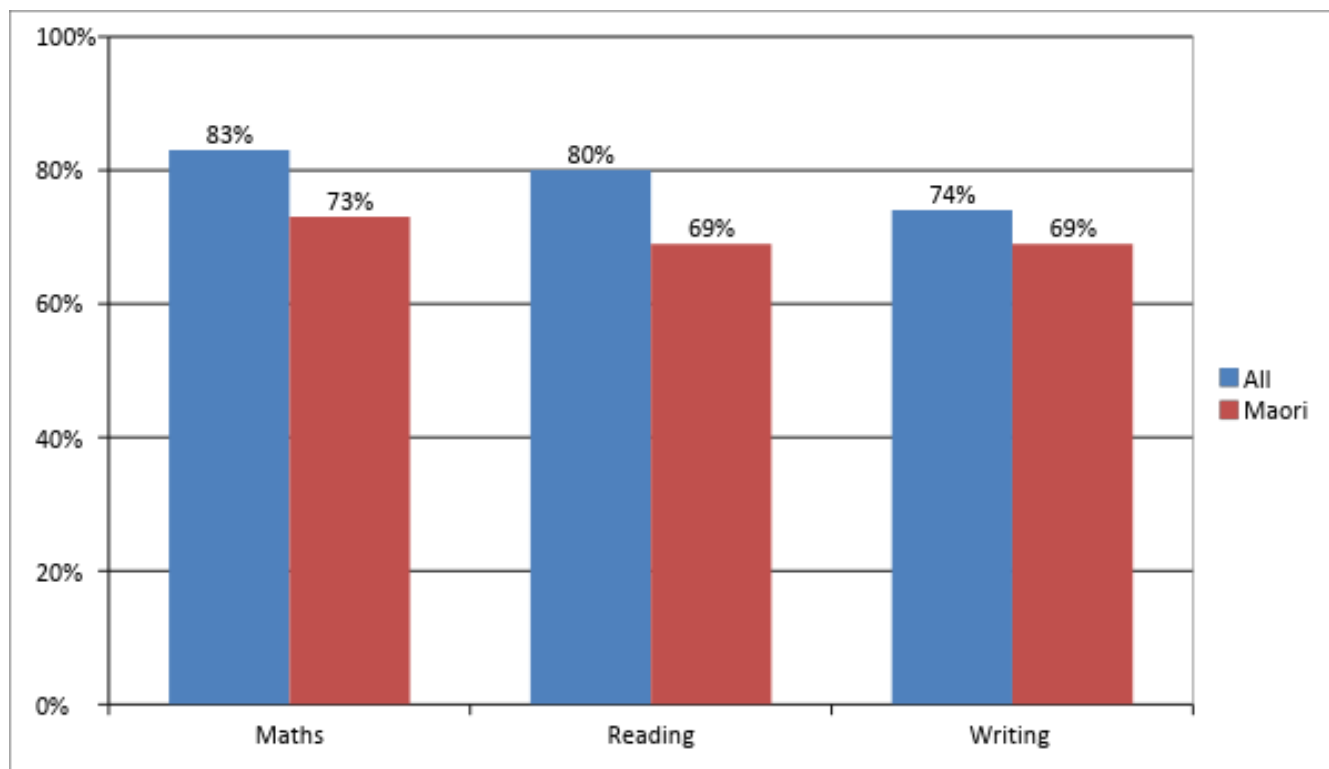


Figure 1 National Standards Year 1 – 8

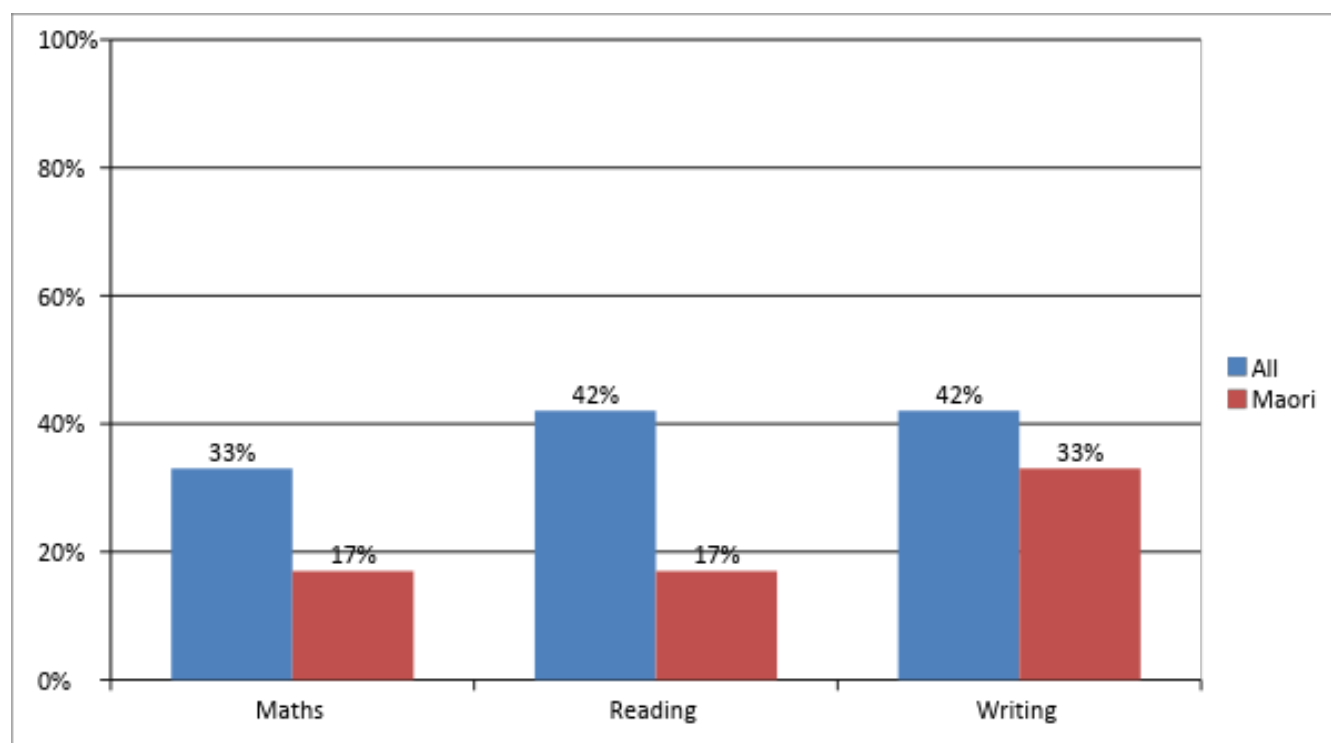
Our Maths improved from 79% to 83%, with Maori moving from 67% to 73%.

Our Reading improved from 73% to 80%, with Maori moving from 63% to 69%.

Our Writing remained at 74%, with Maori moving from 67% to 69%.

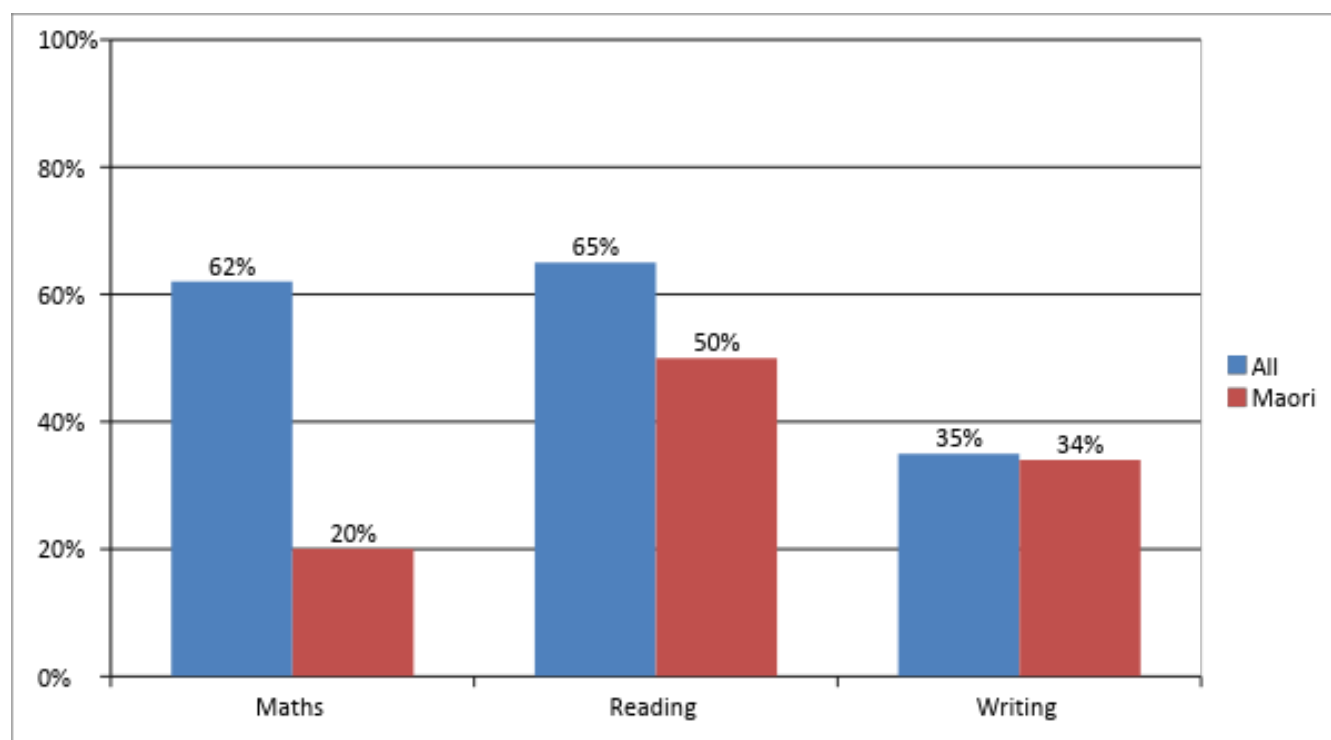
These results continue the progress begun in 2015 on accelerating targeted groups of students. Our collaborative culture means staff are working closely together to identify challenges, analyse formative data, develop strategies to accelerate learning, and include students, and families, in the learning process.

### Overall Year 9 Results 2016 (at/above expectation)



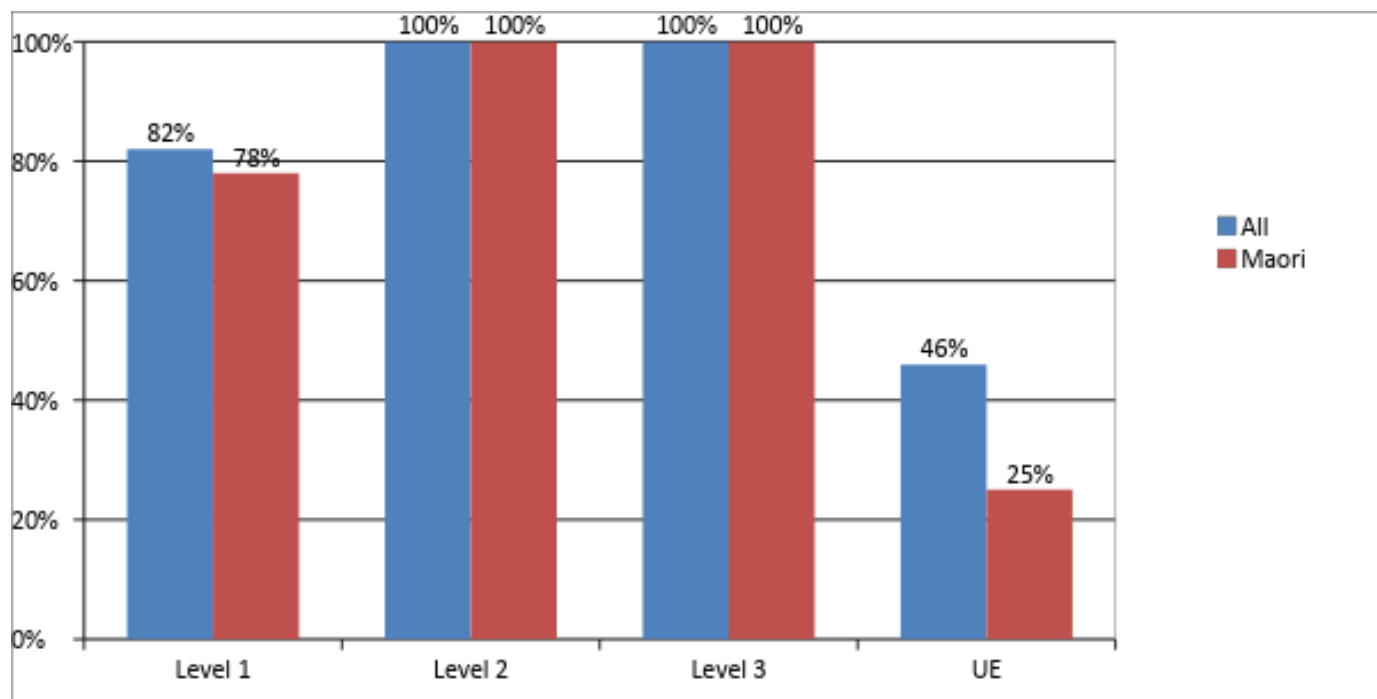
Our Year 9 results were disappointing and indicate the need for a focus on this cohort next year.

### Overall Year 10 Results 2016 (at/above expectation)



Our Year 10 results showed an improvement in reading and maths, however writing results were below our expectations.

### Overall NCEA Results 2016 (passed)



Our results in NCEA remain very pleasing. At Level 2 we continue to maintain a 100% pass rate. This year we also achieved 100% at Level 3, and all those students requiring UE were successful.

## 2017

We welcome Phil Buchanan, Julie Hale, Denise Bucknell, and Gary Beath to our teaching staff in 2017. Raewyn Garland, Rachel Yung, Heidi McKenzie, and Jennie Clarke also join us as Teacher Aides. Dwayne Tainui is our new Sports co-ordinator.

2017 will see us continue to develop our understanding of relationship-based learning, develop a school-wide learning to learn model, focus on boys' writing and grow Christian character which is the foundation of our school.

Graeme Whitehead  
Principal  
March 2017

*'So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only son.'*

*John 1: 14 (NLT)*

