



# 2017 Principal's Report

**Excellence in learning**

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**Christianity in living**

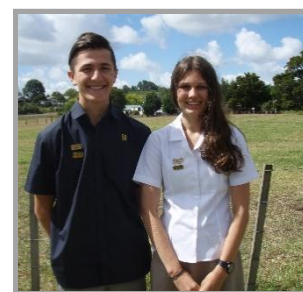
## Principal's Report on 2017

*"This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

*Psalms 118: 24 NASB*

2017 was a year in which we completed a number of projects to strengthen our learning culture, and continued to improve our teaching practice and accelerate learning. We, again, saw 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 2017 included: student-led learning conferences, 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 dinner fundraiser, Excel assembly concert, 40hr Famine, SPRINGS Challenge, cross country, successful sports tournaments, senior leavers dinner, and a wonderful Awards praise-giving to end the year. The majority of our students were also able to attend a school camp during 2017.



During the year we continued to focus on improving classroom practice. This was achieved with the support of a Ministry PLD contract focused on Relationship-based Learning. We continued to develop the capacity of our Impact coaches, with them ending the year ready to visit staff and provide feedback on specific learning practices.



We joined the Te Tai Raki Whangarei Community of Learning, and worked through developing the Achievement Challenges, setting up the Governance group and selecting a Lead Principal.

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 involved Years 3-6, Year 11, and Year 12. They all had a great time experiencing God's creation. Our Year 7-13 athletics day, again, saw great participation and some outstanding results. A group of our senior students attended the World Vision Leadership Conference in Auckland, listening to inspirational speakers and learning about the 40hr Famine later in the year.



During term two 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. Once again Excel Performing Arts School visited and had our students praising their gifts. We 'Ran for Bibles' during our school cross-country, and students were involved in local Winter tournaments. Our Senior Ball was, again, very successful with CRS students joining us this year. We had a Special Character review at the end of the term, which acknowledged our strengths and provided next steps in our growth. A group of our senior students attended the Equip Student Conference at Kingsway School, meeting students from other schools and growing their leadership skills. Our staff attended the Christian Schools' Conference during the holidays, and got a taste of the broader Christian education fellowship in New Zealand.



Term three saw us hosting student Learning Conferences, where efforts were acknowledged and next steps discussed. One of our students, Ryan Whitehead, won the Northland 12yrs+ Cross Country Championship. We hosted the Life Education classroom, and our Year 13's hit the slopes on their annual Snow Camp. A visit by Kaikohe Christian School Kapa Haka group was a highlight of the term. A group of Year 10 students attended the OPC Great Barrier camp. We ended the term with a successful NZQA MNA review, which was positive about our NCEA procedures.

During term four our junior students contributed to the Kids 4 Kids concert, whilst our Year 7 to 9 students finished the year with a trip to Wellington. We had another leavers' dinner and our Year 10's went on camp. 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 Gary Beath, and Les Gribbon in 2017. Les retired with nearly 50 years in education under his belt. Rachel Yung, Ali Leslie, and Jennie Clarke, teacher aides, also left us to pursue other endeavours.

We started the year with a new colour scheme inside and outside the gym and surrounding classrooms. Our PE gear got two painted containers to live in, and we added more Fitness trail stations.

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. 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 in the future. Mid-year they were successful in purchasing the property, which now enables us to grow the school.

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 Writing and Reading, and improvement overall for our Maori students.

### Overall National Standards Results 2017, Year 1 – 8 (at/above expectation)

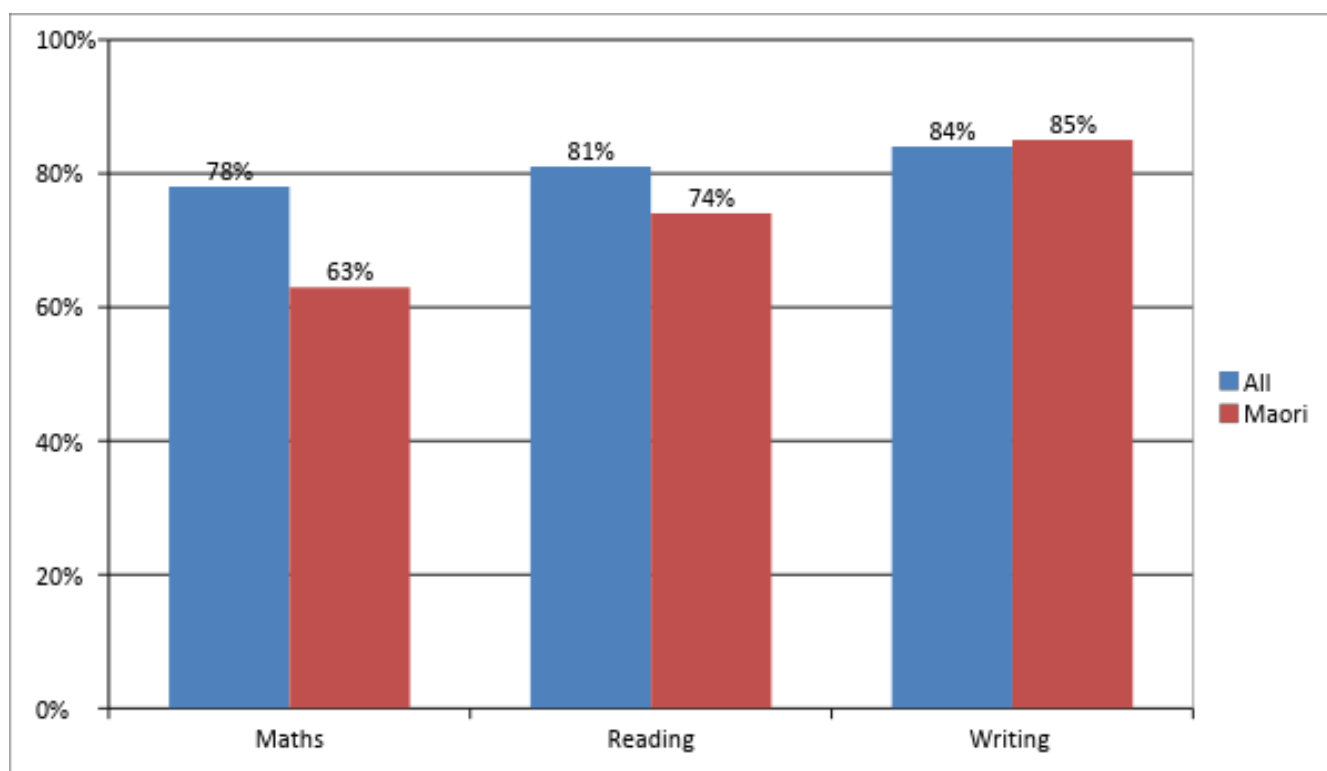


Figure 1 National Standards Year 1 – 8

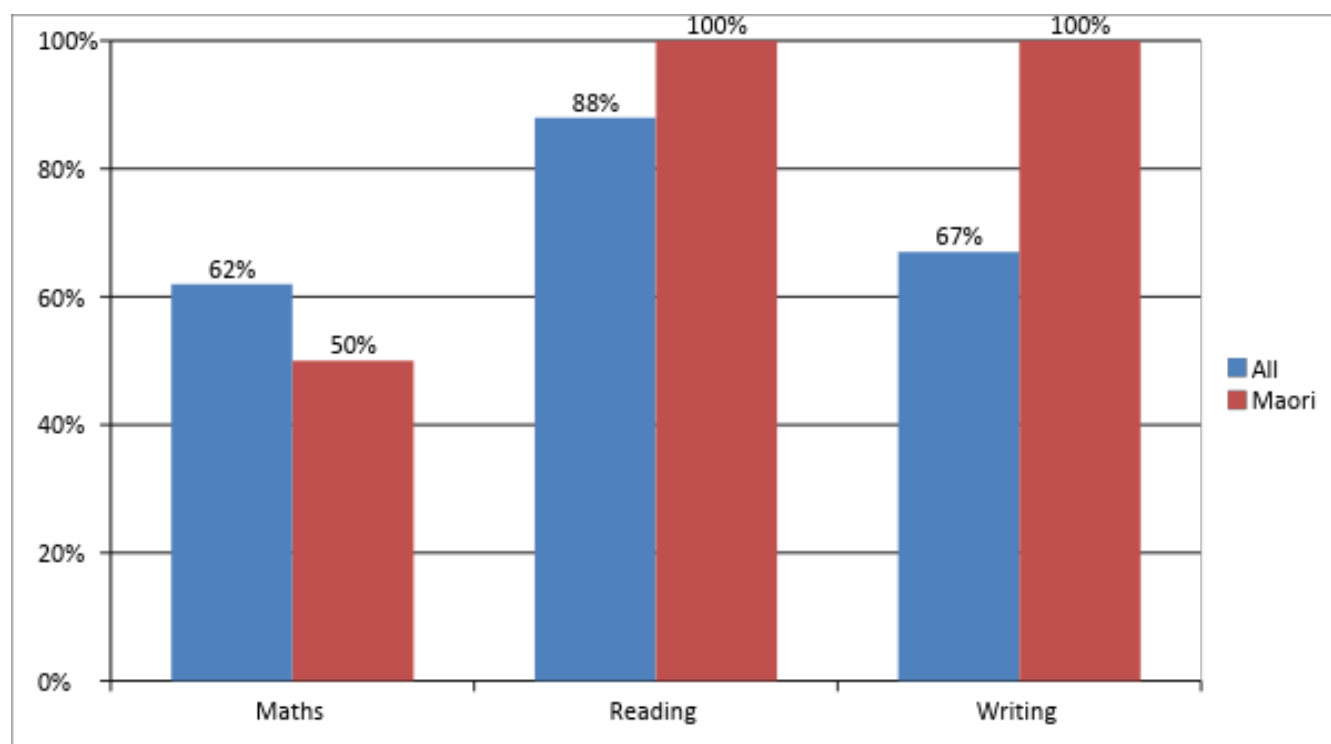
Our Writing improved from 74% to 84%, with Maori moving from 69% to 85%.

Our Reading improved from 80% to 81%, with Maori moving from 69% to 74%.

Our Maths decreased from 83% to 78%, with Maori moving from 73% to 63%.

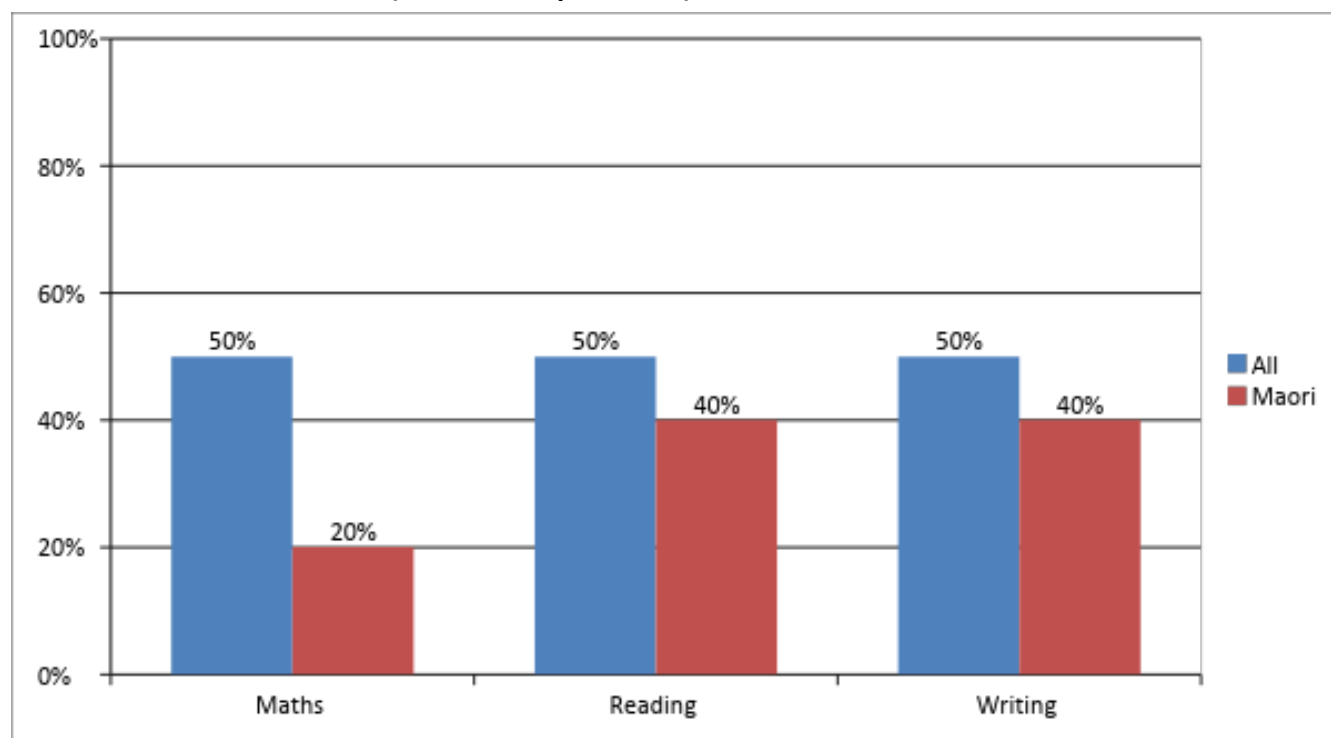
These results continue the progress on accelerating targeted groups of students. Our Writing results were especially pleasing, after a number of years of focus. Our collaborative culture means staff are working closely together to identify challenges, analyse formative data, develop strategies to accelerate learning, and include students, and families, in the learning process. The decrease in Maths achievement means that this will be a focus for 2018, identifying possible reasons, cohorts and individuals that require support.

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



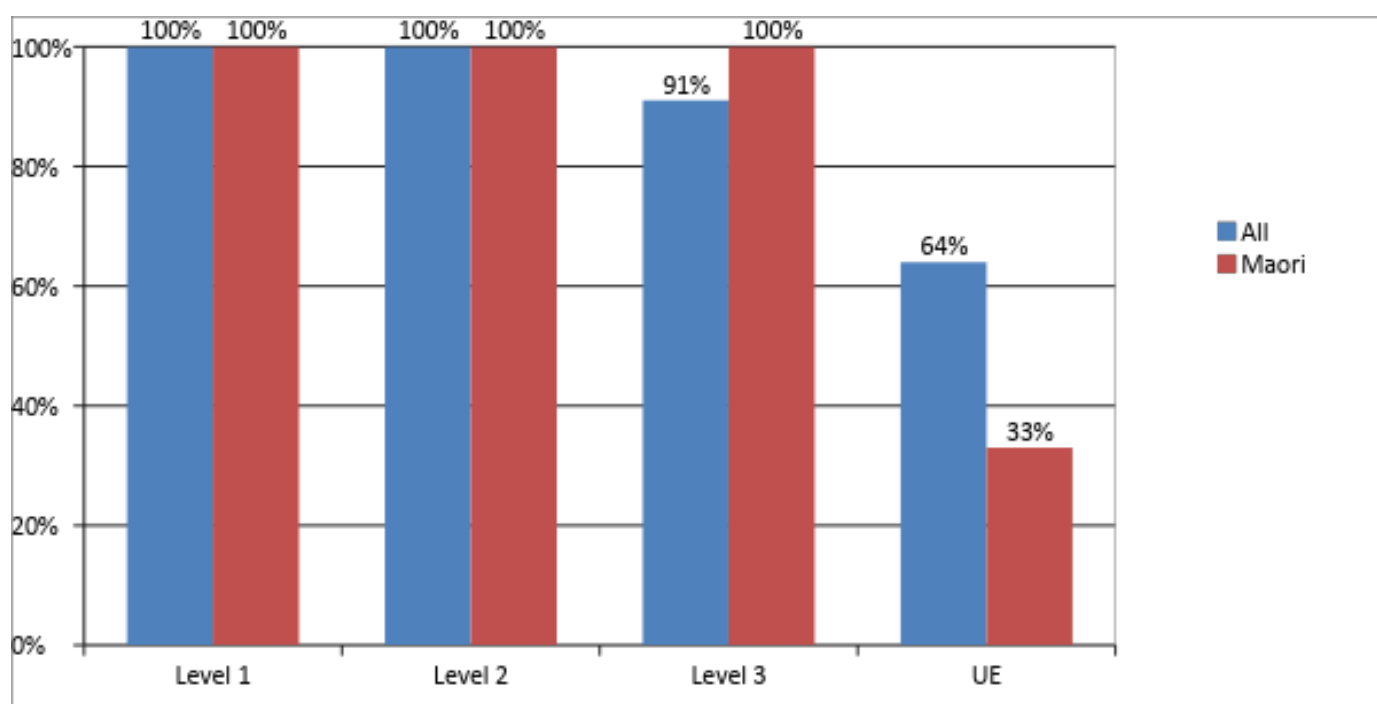
Our Year 9 results showed an improvement, however we will be looking to support and extend students where appropriate in 2018.

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



Our Year 10 results showed some improvement however we will continue to focus on this cohort as they enter NCEA Level One.

### Overall NCEA Results 2017 (passed)



Our results in NCEA remain very pleasing. At Level 2 we continue to maintain a 100% pass rate, with 44% gaining Merit endorsement. This year we also achieved 100% at Level 1 with 25% Excellence and 25% Merit endorsement, and 91% at level 3, with 15% Excellence endorsement, whilst 70% gained Merit endorsement. Results for our Maori students continue to be excellent with a 100% pass rate. 86% of those students requiring UE were successful.

## 2018

We welcome Sam Keating, Melanie Osborne, Christian Reynolds and Jeanette Rummery to our teaching staff in 2018. Cheryl Ripia, Megan Buckley and Anna Underwood are also joining us as Teacher Aides.

We are having the exterior, and roof, of the Whare painted over the holidays, and a cover put in over our entrance.

2018 will see us continue to develop our understanding of relationship-based learning, roll out our school-wide learning to learn model and learner qualities, focus on maths, and strengthen our Christian character which is the foundation of our school. We are entering a season of refinement, embedding the learning we have done over the last few years, and reflecting on our Special Character, and its importance in our school culture.

Graeme Whitehead  
Principal  
February 2018

*"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*

*Philippians 4: 13 NASB*