



# WELLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Te Kura Tuarua o Taraika ki Pukeahu

PRINCIPAL: Nigel Hanton *BTchLng, Dip Ed Man, AdvDipTch*

20 October 2015

Dear Parents / Caregivers

All students in year 10 will be sitting end of year examinations this year in English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Science and Physical Education & Health (PEH). The exams will be on two separate dates:

- Thursday 12 November – Physical Education, Science, Mathematics
- Friday 13 November – English, Social Studies

The timetable for these days is as follows.

Thursday 12 November	Friday 13 November
9.00 – 10.00 – PEH Exam	9.00 – 11.00 – English Exam
10.00 – 10.30 - Break	11.00 – 11.30 - Break
10.30 – 11.30 – Science Exam	11.30 – 12.30 – Social Studies Exam
11.30 – 12.30 – Normal period 3 class	12.30 – 1.30 - Lunch
12.30 – 1.30 - Lunch	1.30 – 2.25 - Normal period 4 class
1.30 – 2.30 – Mathematics Exam	2.25 – 3.20 - Normal period 5 class
2.30 - End of Day	3.20 – End of Day

On the following page I have included some information on:

- the content of each exam,
- some information on how and what to study for each subject to help your student as they prepare for these exams.

You will receive results from these examinations on the portal and at junior prizegiving on Thursday 10 December.

Good luck!

Regards

Dominic Killalea

**Deputy Principal**

Ph: 04-385-8911 #898

Email: [dominic.killalea@whs.school.nz](mailto:dominic.killalea@whs.school.nz)

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

### English

The English exam is 2 hours.

There are two parts to this examination. In the first part, students will be required to write an essay about a text that they have studied. In the second part students will complete a comprehension task about an unfamiliar text.

### Mathematics

The exam is 1 hour and will be appropriate to the student's chosen Mathematics course in 2016. Please note – phones, ipads etc are NOT ALLOWED as calculators.

**MAA112:** These students will do an algebra exam. It will involve knowing algebra techniques and using them to solve problems in context. It will be a **non-calculator** paper and will be practice for the external 1.2 MCAT which these students will sit next year.

**MAS112:** There will be two tasks: a Number task and a Statistics task. **Students will need a calculator.** The exam is designed to test a student's ability to use their number skills to solve a real-life problem and to draw graphs and calculate statistics in order to analyse data. These papers will be practices for 1.1 Number and 1.10 Multivariate Data, which are 2 of the internals in the MAS course next year.

**NUM111** and **ATM112** (Arotahi): These students will sit an exam with portfolio type questions on Number, Measurement and Statistics.

**Students will need a calculator.**

### Science

The Science exam is 1 hour. Students will complete 50 multiple choice questions online. They will then write two longer written answers. The topics students need to revise for are Acids and Bases, Plant Reproduction, Body Bits and Galapagos. Students will need to bring charged up laptops to the exam.

### Social Studies

The Social Studies exam is 1 hour. Students will complete short answer questions and paragraphs that relate to an issue that has been in the news, and the perspectives held by people about that issue. Some examples are the flag debate or same sex marriage.

### Physical Education and Health

The PEH exam is 1 hour. Students will be asked to write short answers on the following topics: sexuality education, nutrition, decision making, interpersonal skills and life-long physical activity.

## HINTS & TIPS

### What should I be studying?

#### English

Revise texts studied. Be prepared to write about significant incidents and details from texts (including quotes), poetic language techniques and language features.

#### Science

Students need to use the SOLO learning log issued at the start of each new topic as a guide on what to revise. The word lists in each Sparkler are also a handy revision tool. Students are also advised to look over each of the end of topic tests they have completed and the mark schemes.

#### Mathematics

The best way to revise for any Maths exam is by **doing questions**. The more you practise, the greater your chance of being able to answer problems successfully. It is also useful to make yourself revision cards. These should contain a method and an example e.g.

**Expanding a bracket**  
multiply what's outside by  
everything inside  
e.g.  $3y(2y - 5) = 3y \times 2y - 3y \times 5$   
 $= 6y^2 - 15y$

**Finding a percentage of a value**  
**% + 100 x value**  
e.g. Find 28% of \$345  
 $28 + 100 \times 345 = 96.6$   
Interpreting answer in context:  
\$96.60

**MAA:** Those doing the algebra paper should revise simplifying, indices, solving equations, expanding brackets and factorising.

**MAS:** Those doing number and statistics should revise fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, estimation, box and whisker plots and calculating statistics.

**NUM/ATM:** These students should revise fractions, decimals, percentages, area, perimeter, volume and calculating statistics.

Teachers will revise these topics with students in class and will give them sheets of questions to practise. They can also get help from the following sources:

- Mathletics
- [www.mathsisfun.com](http://www.mathsisfun.com)
- Khan Academy

#### Social Studies

Be aware of what has been happening in New Zealand or around the world, especially the perspectives that may be held by different groups, the reasons why these views are held and how their actions may support their viewpoint. In 2014 the issue was the debate on student appearance.

#### Physical Education and Health

You will receive exam help sheets from your teacher.