

# Frequently Asked Questions

## How Many Subjects Can I Study?

The policy of the school is that all boys in years 11, 12 and 13 enter for 5 subjects each year for external exams. In exceptional circumstances boys may be allowed to take 6 subjects provided that their work in the previous year is of an **exceptionally** high standard **across all subjects** and they prove to be a **committed and conscientious worker**. A person taking six subjects is fully extended and needs to be well motivated.

The boys should be focussing on Quality rather than Quantity. It is important for good academic students to aim for Merit or Excellence endorsements on their NCEA certificate. Top marks in 5 subjects are better than average marks in 6 subjects.

Life at Dilworth School is very full and very busy and we are cautious about overloading students. A boy will only be allowed to take 6 subjects after consultation with his Dean.

Each year the question of dropping a subject is raised. Current school policy is to disallow that, except in circumstances where the teaching staff feel that it is in the interests of the student to do so. Such decisions are not made lightly and only later in the year.

## Should I study a subject in year 12 that doesn't follow through to year 13?

Year 11 students are recommended to plan what subjects they are likely to take in Year 12 and likewise Year 12 students are recommended to plan the subjects they are likely to take in Year 13.

Caution should be exercised in taking **more than one** Year 12 subject that is not offered for NCEA Level 3 if it is likely to affect the long term goals of the student.

## Will I get to study the subjects that I choose?

It is inevitable that the option structure will not satisfy every student's needs. The subject groupings are based on the requirements of the majority.

Wherever possible we will meet the wishes of the student.

It is not possible to take subjects out of their option structure or by Correspondence School.

Teachers will also be involved in the option process. They will be asked about the suitability for each boy to move on to the next level of study in their subject.

**When selecting options, every boy is asked to choose back up option subjects in case the timetable does not allow them to study their preferred option subjects.**

## How important are Parent Teacher Interviews?

There are two parent teacher interviews in the school year.

**All parents are expected to attend.**

If they are unable to be there for some special reason the school is always willing to make arrangements for alternative interviews, particularly for country parents.

Parents are encouraged to maintain contact and should feel comfortable about making enquiries about their son's progress at any time during the year. The best arrangement is to make contact with the Dean for your son's year group, who will then advise on the best course of action to take.