

## **Craighead Diocesan School: Proposed Curriculum and Pastoral Care for 2018**

At Craighead we are currently in the final phases of a major curriculum review. This review is being undertaken by teaching staff in a response to student need, the desire to provide more choice and the recognition of assessment fatigue amongst senior students. To this end we are introducing changes to our curriculum which reflect these three aspects, allowing our students to experience a broad education, and the opportunity to develop strategies to cope in an increasingly challenging world. At Craighead, we believe that our students need to be able to make informed choices about their direction in life and consequently the subjects that they take. We also believe in ensuring that all students have the opportunity to pursue personal excellence.

**Vertical Forms (Years 7-13)** - Current research around student wellbeing (including ERO documents) indicate that vertical forms (comprised of students of all age groups) enhance relationships amongst year levels. By moving to vertical forms in 2018, we are confident that peer support amongst year levels will be enhanced, House Spirit increased and Middle School leadership opportunities improved. The form/whanau teacher will also become the academic mentor of students in their care.

### **Middle School - Years 9 and 10**

From 2018 we are moving to a semester system and we are implementing a two year programme at Years 9 and 10. 2018 will be a transition year but those Year 9's coming in to Craighead will be encouraged to think of their schooling in the Middle School as a two year, four semester programme.

Whilst the core subjects (English, Maths, Science, Social Studies, PE and RSE) remain the same, there are some significant changes planned in some Learning Areas. The Social Sciences Learning Area, for example, will see all students experiencing the senior disciplines of Economics, Geography and History under the guidance of specialist Social Science teachers.

In order to allow our students to make an informed choice with regards their option subjects, all Year 9 Students will experience a six week module in **all** the options we offer. These are:

<b>The Arts</b>	<b>Technology</b>	<b>Languages</b>
Art	Design and Fashion	French
Drama	Digital Technology	German
Music	Graphics	Te Reo Māori

In Semester Two we are introducing two new multi-level Hubs. The Creative and Performing Arts Hub and the Design and Innovation Hub will involve students from both Year 9 and 10 in a cross curricular learning environment. These Hubs will allow those students with a keen interest in either of the two Learning Areas to work together towards a common goal, a public Expo or Exhibition, driven by them and overseen by specialist teachers.

At the end of first Semester (mid-year), parents of Year 9 and 10 students will be invited to Learning Conferences with their daughter's mentor teacher where possible options for the following Semester(s) will be discussed. There will be opportunities to review these towards the end of Semester 2 in Year 9 and again midway through Year 10.

**Flexible Fridays (all students)** - Craighead will continue to operate a 10-day timetable. The 10th Day, or second Friday, has a different structure - 3 longer blocks of time. During Term One, we will move Day 10 around to replace those teaching days which are affected (or interrupted) by school-wide activities - such as Athletics and Swimming Sports Days. The teaching day affected will

then occur on the 10th day so we can minimise interruptions to regular teaching time. Students will be able to access their timetables on their devices through KAMAR. They will be expected to self-manage any changes to their daily timetable. A possible Year 9 timetable could look like this below. Assembly will remain at the same time on a Wednesday.

#### Year 9 Timetable 2018 – a possible example

	Mon 1	Tues 1	Wed 1	Thu 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tue 2	Wed 2	Thu 2	Fri 2
8:40 am	Chapel	Form time	Assembly	Chapel	Form time	Chapel	Form time	Assembly	Form time	Chapel
9:00 am	9 SCI	9 TED	9 ART	9 SOC	9 RSE	9 ENG	9 GER	9 ENG	9 PED	
10:00 am	9 MAT	9 SOC	9 ENG	9 GER	9 MAT	9 ART	9 SCI	9 RSE	9 TED	AGR
Interval										
11:20 am	9 ART	9 ENG	9 TED	9 SCI	9 TED	9 SOC	9 ART	9 PED	9 MAT	SVA
Lunch										
1:20 pm	9 RSE	9 SCI	9 PED	9 ENG	9 GER	9 MAT	9 SOC	9 SCI	9 GER	
2:20 pm	9 SOC	9 GER	9 MAT	9 MAT	9 ENG	9 SCI	9 TED	9 ART	9 SOC	PSH

- 9 GER/9 FRE/9 MAO on same timetable spot for 1/3 the first semester each.
- 9 ART/9 MUS/9 DRA on same timetable spot for 1/3 the first semester each.
- 9 GRA/9 DES/9 DIG on same timetable spot for 1/3 the year.

#### Future Focus Programme Year 7-10 Students

In line with our Curriculum review and in response to increased concern nationally around the demands of NCEA and assessment fatigue being exhibited by students, we are implementing what we call a Future Focus Programme from Term 2. This will take place on the second Friday of the ten day timetable and will allow our students time to pursue passions and learn skills not currently covered by the formal curriculum. In Term Two our Junior (Years 7-8) and Middle (Years 9-10) School students will opt into different activities designed to build skills for life. These programmes will be implemented and supervised by specialist teachers and our student leaders. We have a number of activities that staff are prepared to offer. If you feel that you would like to offer something that will add richness to the education of our girls, please contact Assistant Principal in charge of Curriculum, Ms Lara Hearn. We will also be seeking ideas from our students and invite your feedback and suggestions.

#### Independent Learning Programme Year 11-13 Students

On Day 10 (Flexible Friday) our Year 11 – 13 students will undertake a programme which builds their ability to learn independently. The activity slots are 90 minutes long and breaks have been allocated between each. One session on these Fridays will be run by our Student Leaders and will be used as an opportunity for Service Learning and Leadership, such as the Student Volunteer Army which was initiated by our Head Students this year. With our new Library complex due to open early in Term Two, we will have plenty of library/study space available for our Seniors to manage their learning in preparation for life beyond secondary school. They will meet with their mentor teacher first thing and establish where and what they will be working on for that day. Teaching staff will be available for tutorial support as required and students may move around the school to seek assistance.

Be assured that our academic focus remains the same, along with retaining our school culture of high expectations. Most students have now been informed as to what we are planning and they are excited by the changes. As with any new structure, we will need to regularly review the changes to ensure that it meets the needs of our students going forward. We invite you to attend a meeting in November (TBA) to further explain the new timetable or to answer any queries you may have.

Ms L Graham - Principal