Dear Parent

I am writing to provide you with an update on the development of the Australian curriculum.

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (‘ACARA’) is managing the development of the Australian curriculum. The Board of Studies NSW is working with the Government, Independent and Catholic education systems in NSW to support ACARA in this important initiative and to provide input and feedback on the development of the curriculum.

The development of the Australian curriculum will occur in three phases. Phase One includes English, Mathematics, Science and History. Phase Two comprises Geography, Languages and the Arts and the remaining learning areas will form part of Phase Three.

In addition to national consultation being undertaken by ACARA, the Board of Studies NSW has implemented a substantial consultation process to gather feedback from NSW education sectors, teachers and the community about the draft Australian curriculum. This feedback informs advice provided to ACARA and implementation plans for NSW schools.

NSW school principals have been advised that in 2011 they should continue to use the existing NSW K-12 syllabuses. There will be no expectation of any classroom implementation of the Australian curriculum in NSW schools in 2011.

Once the Australian curriculum for a subject is released by ACARA the Board of Studies NSW will determine the timeline which will be appropriate for effective implementation in NSW schools. Curriculum support materials will be developed by the Board of Studies NSW to provide the level of support NSW schools and their teachers are familiar with when implementing new curriculum. NSW will continue the successful practice of generally allowing teachers 12 months to familiarise themselves with and prepare for any large scale revision of the curriculum.
I encourage you to visit the Board of Studies NSW website at: <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/australian-curriculum/>. The website will provide you with the latest information about the development of the Australian curriculum and its implementation in NSW, and opportunity to provide feedback to the Board of Studies on the development of the Australian curriculum.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Tom Alegounarias

President

13/9/2010