

Board Bulletin



BOARD OF STUDIES NSW

August 1999 – Vol 8 No 6

Internal Assessment in the New HSC

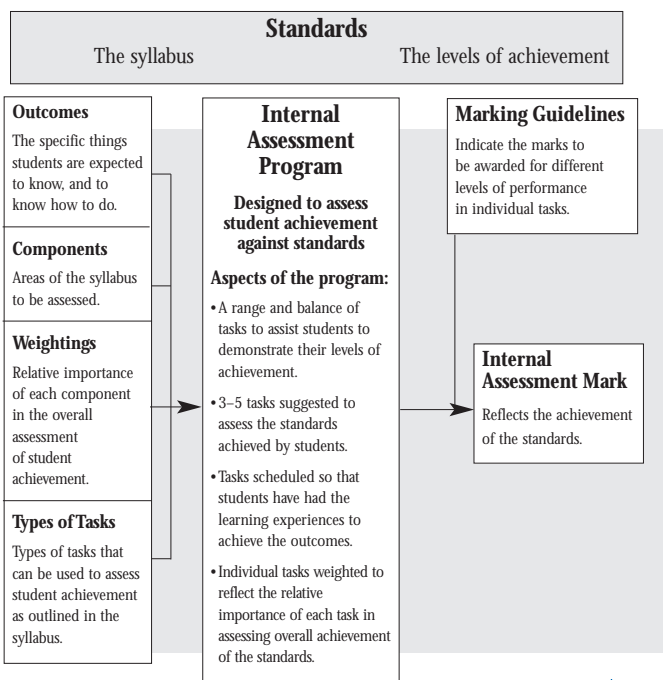
The New Higher School Certificate will use a standards-referenced approach for assessing and reporting student achievement.

What changes will schools need to make to their assessment procedures?

Schools will already have policies and procedures to meet the Board's requirements for internal assessment. Schools are currently required to have an internal assessment program for each course that specifies the assessment tasks, the weightings for each task, and a schedule of the tasks for the course.

Schools must also have procedures to deal with late submissions, and illness/misadventure. If these procedures are in place and working well there is no need for any change. If changes are needed, the following Board documents will be useful: *HSC Assessment: A Guide to Developing Procedures in Schools* (1996); and *Preliminary and HSC Assessment under Pathways General Guidelines* (1995).

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Update on Creative Arts K-6



Artwork by Year 6 students from
Our Lady of Rosary Primary School, Waitara

During Term 2 this year, 26 randomly selected schools intensively trialled the Creative Arts K-6 Draft Syllabus and Creative Arts K-6 Draft Support Document. The trialling has generated a diverse range of views about the syllabus and support document.

Focus group meetings on the draft syllabus and support document were held in Parramatta on June 7, Narrandera on June 9, Sutherland on June 21 and Narrabri on June 28. At the start of Term 3 all schools were sent a survey seeking comment on the effectiveness of the syllabus and support document. The closing date for survey responses is August 27. Responses to the survey, comments from the trialling schools, and feedback from written submissions and focus group meetings will be used to amend the syllabus and support document.

Additional information about the Creative Arts K-6 Draft Syllabus, the Creative Arts K-6 Draft Support Document and the trialling and consultation of these documents may be obtained from Julie Stevens, Senior Curriculum Officer, Creative Arts, Office of the Board of Studies, e-mail stevens@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au, phone (02) 9367 8161, fax (02) 9367 8476.



HSC and SC Important Dates

Year 9

30 Aug Special Provisions Application forms available in Schools for 2000 School Certificate.

Year 10

27 Aug Final date for BEC Panel decision letters to schools.

15 Oct Latest date for principals to notify students of decision to issue an 'N' (non-satisfactory completion of course) determination and to provide the students with appeal form.

8 Oct Grading recommendation schedules and Profile Collection Sheets for special program of study sent to schools.

19 Oct Latest date for student appeal against an 'N' determination to be lodged with the principal.

29 Oct Latest date for students to request a Board of Studies review of an 'N' determination through their principal.

12 Nov Grading recommendation schedules and profile collections sheets due at Board of Studies.

10 Dec School Certificate documents dispatched to schools.

Year 11

27 Aug Final date for BEC Panel decision letters to schools.

30 Aug Special Provisions application forms available in schools for the 2000 HSC.

15 Oct Latest date for principals to notify students of decision to issue a 'U' (unsatisfactory completion of course) determination and to provide the students with appeal form.

19 Oct Latest date for student appeal against a 'U' determination to be lodged with the principal.

29 Oct Latest date for students to request a Board of Studies review of a 'U' determination through their principal.

26 Nov Preliminary Records of Achievement dispatched to schools.

Year 12

27 Aug Final date for BEC Panel decision letters to schools.

29 Aug Completion date for Food Technology Independent Research Projects.
Completion date for Industrial Technology major work.
Completion date for Drama Projects.

3 Sep Latest date for principals to notify students of decision to issue a 'U' (unsatisfactory completion of course) determination and to provide the students with appeal form.

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Important Dates Year 12 (cont)

5 Sep	Completion date for Music Essays and Compositions. Completion date for Visual Arts major works. Completion date for 2 Unit Design and Technology Projects.
7 Sep	Latest date for student appeal against a 'U' determination to be lodged with the principal.
10 Sep	HSC Assessment Marks due at Board of Studies.
12 Sep	Completion date for 3 Unit Agriculture Projects. Completion date for Rural Technology Projects.
13 Sep	Classical Ballet practical examinations begin.
17 Sep	Latest date for students to request a Board of Studies review of a 'U' determination through their principal.
8 Oct	Vocational Module Collection forms sent to schools.
10 Oct	Completion date for 3 Unit Design and Technology Projects.
29 Oct	Assessment ranking sheets sent to schools.
30 Aug-10 Sep	Drama, Industry Studies and Industrial Technology Itinerant practical marking.
6-17 Sep	Design and Technology 2/3 Unit Itinerant Practical Marking.
6-18 Sep	Music (Board) Itinerant Practical Marking.
25 Oct-5 Nov	Visual Arts Itinerant Practical Marking.

The *Board Bulletin* is a regular publication by the Board of Studies NSW. Principals are requested to circulate it among teachers and members of the School Council, P & C and parents. One copy should be filed for reference. Schools may only photocopy this publication for use by teachers, students and parents. Contributions or suggestions for articles are welcome.

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President's Message



Electronic communication is emerging as a significant avenue of direct communication between the Board and teachers, parents and students as the accompanying article shows. Dr Bennett and his team can be rightly proud of their achievement.

Keeping the site up to date and user friendly is a major priority. We are working to make documents more accessible and easier to download. In future we hope that there can be more rapid sharing of information and experience as projects develop. We hope that teachers will be able to interact with and evaluate material, as it becomes available on the website.

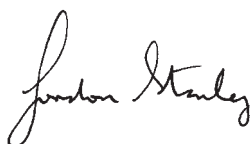
At a recent meeting of the Board's Primary Committee we had a demonstration of the Linkages Project website (<http://www.linkages@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>) and saw how this project is evolving as more creative activities are developed and posted on the site.

This term I am engaged in a range of regional visits to talk with school personnel and their communities about the Board's program of work and get feedback on emerging issues. These occasions provide opportunity for me to get firsthand experience of local issues.

Early this month I attended the national Australian Curriculum Assessment and Certification Authorities' Conference in Perth and was glad to hear very positive reactions to our recent work in curriculum and assessment. There was great interest in the changes to the School Certificate and HSC as well as to our initiatives in the primary area.

Our approach to assessment was seen as part of the new era in reporting student achievement, which restores professional meaning to the process by providing outcome information which should be more directly useful to students in planning their future.

The inclusion of an increased range of VET courses within a framework structure is creating interest in other states as all education systems come to consider ways of expanding employment related school opportunities.



(Professor) Gordon Stanley

Board of Studies Website is a winner!

An independent web service group has recently rated the Board of Studies website seventh in the top Australian government sites used throughout Australia.

The Director of Information Services at the Office of the Board of Studies, Dr John Bennett, said the Board's website has also been rated 14th among the educational sites and 131st among all sites accessed by Australians, anywhere in the world.

It also rates third in the top 100 Australian education websites.

'The Board of Studies website is designed to provide students and the general community with the most accurate, up-to-date information about curriculum and education in NSW,' Dr Bennett said.

'The website includes all the New Higher School Certificate syllabuses, Parents' Page, the Reading Room, past HSC exam papers, Higher School Certificate and School Certificate Review News, developments on the HSC syllabuses, 1998 HSC Results, Board announcements, Product Catalogue, K-6 documents, Board Bulletin and On Board,' he said.

'The website provides regularly updated versions of the Board's documents, particularly the syllabuses, when there is need for clarification or change to the content.

'On average, the website attracts over 60,000 hits per day and the most common searches that people type in to find the BOS website are 'board of studies', 'board of studies NSW', 'HSC timetable' and 'HSC syllabus.'

In the first week in July over 1 800 000 hits were recorded.

'The average visitor views seven pages and about 70 e-mails a day are received by the Board with orders for products and documents.

'The Board's website is also linked to over 1100 schools throughout NSW. It can also be accessed through the Board's linking with Charles Sturt University HSC Online website and other link pages such as the Macquarie University Library Link Pages.





Primary Matters

Re-organisation of K-6 material on Board of Studies Website

The K-6 material on the Board of Studies website will be significantly re-organised to make it easier for teachers, parents and students to find material specifically related to primary education. If visitors to the Board's website click on the 'K-6 Page' button on the left-hand side of the Index Page they will have access to a wide range of materials and documents. They will be able to enter the Linkages Project or make links to websites of particular interest to primary educators, along with links to the relevant 7-10 syllabuses in each key learning area.

Linkages Update

Teachers from two schools in the Broken Bay Diocese, who are featured on the Board's Linkages webpage, have used these generic skills as a common thread as part of Linkages projects that they have been undertaking this year. The skills that they found most featured across the primary curriculum were:

- *Research* — where students used a variety of sources to find information and evaluate and use those most relevant
- *Communication* — where students presented their information in a wide variety of formats including oral presentations, written texts, board games and retrieval charts

- *Critical thinking* — where students reflected on their learning and the processes that they were using
- *Cooperation* — where all classes used cooperative groups for research, analysing data, presenting information and sharing experiences.

Current research has identified the notion of certain skills being both transferable and necessary to promote effective learning. These 'generic skills', which are evident within each key learning area, can broadly be described as research, communication, solving problems, using technology, critical thinking, expression, task management, cooperation and citizenship.

Further information on Linkages projects can be obtained from Suzanne Ziems at ziems@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au, ph (02) 9367 8274 or fax (02) 9367 8476. The Linkages webpage can be found at <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/k6-linkages>


Science and Technology K-6 revised outcomes

In February 1999, the Board of Studies approved the revision of the outcomes in the 1991 Science and Technology K-6 syllabus. A 1996 evaluation of this syllabus found that the outcomes were too numerous (there were 158 in total) and of little use to teachers for planning, programming, assessing and reporting.

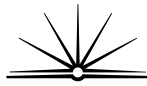
A set of draft revised Science and Technology K-6 outcomes, which was developed in Term 2, has now been distributed to a sample of 50 schools as well as those schools and teachers who have requested copies in response to information in previous editions of the *Board Bulletin*. Copies of the draft document can be found on the K-6 page on the Board's website.

Following adjustments to the outcomes and indicators arising out of the consultation, an addendum of outcomes and indicators to the 1991 syllabus will be developed for use by schools for next year. This addendum will be produced in hard copy format and on CD-ROM. In addition to the addendum of outcomes and indicators, the CD-ROM will include a selection of student work samples illustrating achievement of the revised stage outcomes.

Inquiries about the draft outcomes or work samples can be directed to Mandy Shaw, at shaw@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au, ph (02) 9367 8267 or fax (02) 9367 8476.

If you would like further information regarding these items or K-6 curriculum matters in general, contact Phil Lambert, Inspector, Primary Education, at lambert@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au, ph (02) 9367 8199 or fax (02) 9367 8476. 





NSW students debate Head of State issues

Students from all over NSW are making their contribution to the future of Australia's Constitution by participating in a series of Constitutional Conventions.

More than 100 students from Sydney schools met at the Metropolitan Schools Constitutional Convention on 13 August to discuss issues of who should be Australia's Head of State, how they should be elected, and what their powers will be.

NSW Minister for Education and Training, John Aquilina said the conventions provide a stimulating forum for students to discuss key constitutional issues and increase their knowledge of the workings of the Australian Constitution.

'The Convention is timely, given that Australians will vote on a similar issue at the referendum in less than three months,' Mr Aquilina said.

'Guest speakers at the convention included Kerry Jones from Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy and the Hon Neville Wran from the Australian Republican Movement.

'After listening to the speakers, students then discussed the issues raised and drafted a final communique,' he said.

Mr Aquilina said the series of Constitutional Conventions run throughout NSW helped students understand the importance of civics and citizenship and the role they play in society.

A total of 430 students from 56 schools have attended conventions held in Lismore, Armidale, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong.

At each convention, students discussed ways that the Constitution may be improved and topics concerning the 'Head of State', the 'Present System of Government in Australia' and 'What should the Preamble to the Constitution say.'

A range of high-profile speakers also participated in each convention. The North Coast Convention featured presentations from two lecturers in Law and Justice, Southern Cross University, Anne Schmillmoller and Loretta Kelly, and political commentator Mungo MacCallum.

Federal Member for New England, Stuart St Clair MP, Senior Lecturers in Political Science, University of New England, Dr Tim Battin and Dr Jeff Archer, and Principal of New England Girls School, Ms Anna Abbott, all spoke at the North West Convention.

The South Coast Convention featured presentations from the Hon Neville Wran, Chairperson of the Australian Press Council, Professor David Flint and Dean of Law, Wollongong University, Damien Considine.

David Elliott, from Australians for a Constitutional Monarchy, historian and Republican author, Dr Mark McKenna and 2WG announcer, Scott Levi spoke at the Riverina Convention.

The Office of the Board of Studies is also holding conventions in Newcastle and Bathurst in September.

Full list of students participating in Metropolitan Schools Constitution Convention on page 6.



Board Bulletin *Extra copies available*

Schools may request additional copies of the *Board Bulletin* if the standard quantity is not enough.

Secondary schools may request 20 copies instead of the standard 12, and primary schools may request 12 instead of the standard 4 copies.

Principals should complete the coupon and return to the address below.

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School number:

School name:

Address:

Principal's name:

Principal's signature:

New South Wales Metropolitan Schools' Constitutional Convention

Student Representatives

Students

Lisa More
 Nicholas Maconachie
 Ronia Akkoumi
 Amal Etri
 Mei Akacha
 Melinda Dennison
 Chris Mitre
 Lolitta Har
 Patricia Marinozzi
 Jasmy Warren
 Manelle Merhi
 Abeer Karaali
 Elizabeth Kinnear
 Blaise Kelly
 Melissa Da Silver
 Emilia Ryan
 Luca Lupa
 Celia De Suleau
 Michelle Muzyczka
 Anastasia Raptis
 Eleni Koureas
 Jodi Walkom
 Patrick Crisp
 Rebecca Heinrich
 Abby Kerr
 Nicole Ranieri
 Alexander McGregor
 Yatungka Widders
 Kharishma Santhariah
 Michael West
 Keegan O'Shea
 Melanie Cooke
 Tariq Shafei
 Katerina Markatis
 Naomi Strutt
 Corinne Behnke
 Tyrah Livne
 Sally Heighway
 Amy Wootton
 David Bromley
 Rick- Jason Gara
 Renee Jacobs
 Jim Doyle
 Vanessa McGoon
 Loreen Akram
 Kasey Wood
 Jillian Kirk
 Renee Hash
 Laura Eljiz
 Charlotte O'Brien
 Farid Naddaf
 Andreea Gobaun
 Thailia Ong
 Michael Brown
 Vanda Por
 Michael Boyadjian
 Chris Gray
 Amanda Fell
 Stella Frossinakis
 Allison McLeod
 Luke Coleman
 Jennifer Clark
 Georgia Cable

Schools

Abbotsleigh School
 Ashfield Boys High School
 Auburn Girls High School
 Auburn Girls High School
 Bankstown Girls High School
 Bass High School
 Bass High School
 Bethany College
 Bethlehem College
 Beverly Hills Girls High School
 Beverly Hills Girls High School
 Birrong Girls High School
 Blacktown Girls High School
 Brigidine College, Randwick
 Brigidine College, Randwick
 Brigidine College, St Ives
 Cabramatta High School
 Cambridge Park High School
 Cambridge Park High School
 Canterbury Girls High School
 Canterbury Girls High School
 Caringbah High School
 Caringbah High School
 Carlingford High School
 Catherine McAuley High School
 Cerdon College
 Chatswood High School
 Cheltenham Girls High School
 Cherrybrook Technology High School
 Cherrybrook Technology High School
 Christian Bros. Lewisham
 Concord High School
 Condell Park High School
 Condell Park High School
 Cranebrook High School
 Cranebrook High School
 Danebank Anglican School
 Danebank Anglican School
 Davidson High School
 Davidson High School
 De La Salle College Ashfield
 Doonside Technology High School
 Dover Heights High School
 Dulwich High School
 East Hills Girls Technology High School
 East Hills Girls Technology High School
 Elderslie High School
 Elderslie High School
 Elizabeth Macarthur High School
 Erskine Park High School
 Evans High School
 Evans High School
 Fairfield High School
 Gilroy College
 Holroyd High School
 Holy Cross College Ryde
 Homebush Boys High School
 Hurlstone Agricultural High School
 International Grammar School
 Jamison High School
 Jannali High School
 Jannali High School
 Kambala C of E Girls School

Students

Alicia Kidson
 Rebecca Richards
 Stephen Wallace
 Sangeeta Chandra
 Kellie Hunt
 Melissa Hawley
 Sara Ramirez- Morales
 George Nasr
 Stephen Bush
 Gabrielle Curtis
 Anna Dawson
 Angela Sill
 Matthew Baker
 Gerard Beneclot
 Frances Evesson
 Bianca Ertl
 Alison Bowie
 Colleen McKenna
 Servet Ibrahim
 Laurie Pearcey
 Therese Kenny
 Grace Chuck
 Monica Carroll
 Sarah Paterson
 Jacqieline Turner
 Danielle Jones
 Jessica Bayley
 Beth Dominello
 Camilla Milazzo
 Andrea Gaitanos
 Helen Power
 Trish Blackwell
 Elannie Damianos
 Jarra McGrath
 Katherine Weir
 Roxane Persehais
 Sam Crosby
 Jenn Rogers
 Trix Kalinisan
 Rhea Mercado
 Jessica Requeiro
 Richard Higgins
 Kate O'Toole
 Jenny Phimleut
 Louise Watson
 Jeffrey Gabrielle
 Kirrilee Banister
 Phillip Newton
 Atlanta Webster
 Tina Lee
 Emma Jagger
 Claudia Ng
 Violetta Krithinakis
 Irma Djaya
 Mark Sultana
 Adam Gelbart
 Jeremy Spinak
 Prasan Ullawishewa
 Michael Gibling
 Simone Lofts
 Dora Kofiotis
 Glodia Petro
 Hermione Blackman

Schools

Kambala C of E Girls School
 Katoomba High School
 Katoomba High School
 Kincoppal-Rose Bay
 Killarney Heights High School
 Kirrawee High School
 Kirrawee High School
 La Salle Catholic College Bankstown
 Leumeah Technology High School
 Loreto Kirribilli
 Loreto Normanhurst
 Loreto Normanhurst
 Marist College, Kogarah
 Marist College, Kogarah
 Marist Sisters College
 McCarthy Catholic College
 Meriden School
 Merrylands High School
 Merrylands High School
 Mosman High School
 Mount St Benedict College
 Mount St Benedict College
 Mount St Joseph
 Narwee High School
 Nepean High School
 Newtown High School of Performing Arts
 North Sydney Girls High School
 Our Lady of Mercy College
 Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College
 PLC Sydney
 Peakhurst High School
 Penhurst Girls High School
 Penhurst Girls High School
 Pittwater House Grammar School
 Pittwater House College
 Rooty Hill High School
 Rosebank College
 Santa Sabina
 Sefton High School
 St Andrews College
 St Clare's College, Waverley
 St Ignatius College Riverview
 St George Girls High School
 St Johns Park High School
 St Leo's College
 St Marys Cathedral College
 St Patrick's College
 St Pius X College
 St Vincents College
 Sydney Girls High School
 Tara Anglican School for Girls
 Tara Anglican School for Girls
 Tempe Languages High School
 Tempe Languages High School
 Terra Sancta College
 The Scots College
 The Emanuel School
 Trinity Grammar School
 Trinity Grammar School
 Turramurra High School
 Wiley Park Girls High School
 Wiley Park Girls High School
 Wenona





PRODUCT NEWS

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Take advantage of our website. Many of our documents are already on the net. Browse through the latest information about the Higher School Certificate and School Certificate. The latest *Board Bulletin* is also available on our site.

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Enquiries: (02) 9367 8331 Helen Kerr, Leader/Client Services Section.



The highlights of OnSTAGE 98 and ENCORE 98 are now available on video and CD as teaching resources. The video costs \$50 and the CD is priced at \$20.



Professional Development Support for the New HSC

As would be expected, the Office of the Board of Studies is receiving significant numbers of requests for professional development support at a local level for the implementation of the New HSC.

The Office of the Board of Studies is presently involved in supporting the implementation in a number of ways:

- Board of Studies Liaison Officers are providing schools and principals with up-to-date information about the development and implementation of syllabuses and assessment materials on a regular basis;
- Board officers are involved in the planning, organisation and development of materials for the cross-sectoral training and development strategy;
- the Board provides information directly to schools through its targeted brochures, posters, support materials and information packages, *Securing Their Future* newsletters, *Board Bulletins* and the Board website;
- senior Board officers make presentations at major conferences and forums organised by peak education groups including professional associations;

- the President of the Board is scheduled to continue meetings with teachers and community groups around the state to discuss the changes for 2000 and 2001.

These means of support will continue throughout the implementation phase for the new curriculum. They represent the fairest and widest-reaching means of allocating the Board's limited resources to assist teachers and parents statewide.

Given the ongoing priorities that involve Board curriculum and assessment officers, it will frequently not be possible for Board officers other than BOSLOs to assist with district level activities.

The cross-sectoral training and development program developed by the Securing Their Future Professional Development Team provides comprehensive support for the implementation of the new syllabuses. This program is available to all schools across the state during Terms 3 and 4. The New HSC website (<http://www.newhsc.schools.nsw.edu.au>) provides details about the program.



Internal Assessment in the New HSC *continued from page 1*

Schools can also contact their Board of Studies Liaison Officer for further advice.

What will schools be required to submit to the Board for internal assessment?

In 2001, schools will be required to provide a mark only, as they do now. The mark for each student must be calculated in accordance with the Board's requirements for each Board Developed Course.

Schools will not be required to submit descriptions of student performance or indicate a performance band.

What about the Preliminary course in 2000?

Principals will continue to certify that students have satisfactorily completed Preliminary courses. Satisfactory completion includes achievement of some or all of the course outcomes.

Should the internal assessment mark still show the rank order and gaps between students?

Yes, the mark submitted to the Board should still reflect the rank order of students and the relative differences between them in terms of their achievement. The difference in a standards-referenced approach for the New HSC is that the rank order and relative differences will come from student achievement of specified standards of performance instead of comparisons between students.

The standards that the differences are based on are explicit and are incorporated in the syllabus, examinations and performance descriptions.

Will the way teachers assess have to change?

The key features of standards-referenced assessment are that assessment tasks are focused on outcomes and clearly reflect the outcomes being assessed. Students know and

understand the outcomes to be assessed and the levels of performance expected. Their achievements are linked to different levels of achievement of the specified standards. This means schools will need to review and adjust their assessment practices where necessary.

When will the change to assessment procedures occur?

This will need to take place in stages over several years.

All schools will be able to use a standards-referenced approach for the New HSC in 2003. By then teachers will be familiar with the standards; the performance descriptions will have undergone refinement following the 2001 HSC examinations; and samples of student work exemplifying performance standards for each course will be available.

Each new syllabus has been carefully designed to give students a clear understanding and knowledge of the subject and to provide a flexible structure within which students can prepare for further study and employment.

An information package has also been distributed to schools. The package includes a booklet containing detailed information about the New HSC, the unit system, pattern of study requirements, types of courses, pathways to work and further study, Vocational Education and Training options, and the University Admissions Index and TAFE requirements.

It also includes a subject-specific booklet with a description for each course, a set of overhead transparencies for use at parent information nights and multiple copies of a parent brochure summarising the New Higher School Certificate.

The package has been provided on CD-ROM so schools can amend the contents to suit their own needs.

