



NEWS RELEASE

Premier of New South Wales

Sunday 18 October 2009

CLASS OF '09 GEAR UP FOR HSC

Premier Nathan Rees said today this week's HSC exams will provide students with world class qualifications from courses recognised internationally.

The Premier, Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth and HSC students visited a display of visual arts pieces being marked at Homebush.

"We are proud of the quality of our education system and that is backed up by schools in other countries adopting the HSC standard for their own students," said Mr Rees.

"Schools in countries including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong are just some of the votes of confidence in NSW's higher school certificate.

"Almost 70,000 students will sit more than 110 exams at more than 700 locations across the state and even overseas.

"I congratulate teachers, markers and other staff who make this massive operation possible each year.

"Students will read from 13 million printed pages of questions and submit answers in 1.75 million booklets, which will be assessed by a 7000-strong team of markers.

"A simple message for everyone is be prepared and do your best.

"Expectations are high that the Class of '09 improve on the outstanding results from last year and maintain NSW's high standards.

"2008 saw record high achievers with almost 1,200 students achieving a mark of 90 or more in at least 10 units and almost 16,000 students gaining 90 or above in at least one subject.

"Good luck over the next four weeks and use every bit of your 13 years of excellent schooling," Mr Rees said.

Minister Firth also wished students well and said while it was natural to be nervous, it was important to keep the exams in perspective.

"Students have already completed their school assessments so half of their HSC marks are already done, and there are many avenues you can take to fulfil your goals," Ms Firth said.

Ms Firth encouraged students to make good use of revision material offered by the Board of Studies.

"Be prepared and practise from any of the past HSC exam papers, the full HSC syllabuses, the 'Test Yourself' online multiple choice quizzes.

"The Board's website also contains the useful 'Notes from the Marking Centre' for every subject from the last several years," Ms Firth said.

“These notes are straight from the senior markers and give students an excellent summary of what was expected for each question in each HSC exam paper.”

Students were encouraged to use the HSC advice line - **13 11 12** – for the cost of a local call, students can check their preparation with an experienced HSC teacher.

HSC FACTS AND FIGURES

- First exams are on 20/10/09 - Business Studies and Classical Greek
- Last exams are on 13/11/09 - French Extension, Information Technology (VET) and Textiles and Design.
- English – only mandatory subject with 65,171 students
- Maths - most popular elective subject with more than 52,400 students.
- Around 44 per cent of all HSC students are studying at least one science course.
- More than one quarter of candidates are enrolled in at least one history course.
- Almost 19,000 or 31% of students in Year 12 undertaking vocational education and training framework courses.
- HSC results available via the internet, SMS message and automated telephone services from 6am on Wednesday 16 December.
- Students will receive HSC results summaries in the mail on Friday 18 December.
- Full credentials will be received on Tuesday 12 January 2010.
- Online resources for HSC students:

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au>

<http://studentonline.bos.nsw.edu.au/>

<http://hsc.csu.edu.au/>

- The full media kit is available at www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

TOP 15 SUBJECTS BY ENROLMENT 2009

Subject	Total	2008 position
1 English	65 171	(1)
2 Mathematics	52 455	(2)
3 Business Studies	15 926	(3)
4 Biology	15 502	(4)
5 Studies of Religion	13 935	(6)
6 Personal Development, Health and PE	13 627	(5)
7 Ancient History	12 127	(7)
8 Chemistry	10 226	(8)
9 Modern History	9819	(10)
10 Visual Arts	9665	(9)
11 Physics	9184	(11)
12 Legal Studies	8371	(12)
13 Hospitality	7633	(13)
14 Economics	6214	(15)
15 Music	5711	(14)