



Our reference:  
**D2011/8218**

Your reference:

Dear Principal

On 4 August the Minister for Education, the Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP, announced that School Certificate tests would not continue beyond 2011.

The announcement represents the first step in a process to develop a new record of achievement for students who leave school before attaining their Higher School Certificate. The Minister has requested the Board undertake that process in consultation with teachers and the broader community.

In 2012 and beyond, there will be a new record of achievement. The formal title of this record of achievement is yet to be determined as are the details of how it will be implemented. Those details will be finalised in the course of the consultation process.

The consultation will be conducted from September 2011. It will include an online survey that will allow all teachers, parents, students and interested community members to have their say directly to the Board of Studies NSW.

In addition, teachers will be able to provide input to their representative bodies which, in turn, will be invited to participate in consultation meetings with the Board.

The new record of achievement will be finalised by the end of the 2011 calendar year. Please continue to monitor the Board Bulletin for progress reports.

Fundamental principles on which the new record of achievement will be based are outlined in the Board's Discussion Paper <[http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/sc\\_review.html](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/sc_review.html)>.

In terms of planning for students currently in Year 10, or who will be entering Year 10 in 2012, it is important to note that:

- There are no changes to the current curriculum requirements.
- There are no changes to the requirements for accreditation or registration.
- School Certificate tests will take place in 2011 as per the published schedule.

This represents a great opportunity for teachers to be involved in crafting a new record of achievement, which reflects the future needs, and demands of students and employers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Alegounarias".

Tom Alegounarias

**President**

22 August 2011