



## **MAJOR CHANGES TO THE NSW SCHOOL CERTIFICATE**

Dear Principal

On Thursday 4 August, 2011 the NSW Minister for Education announced that School Certificate tests would not continue beyond 2011.

This announcement was one outcome of a review of the School Certificate that commenced in December, 2010.

As part of that review process, the Board of Studies consulted widely with key stakeholder groups and developed a Discussion Paper containing several principles for change, including the discontinuation of the tests.

As part of his announcement, the Minister also noted that the Board would continue to consult on the key points raised in the Discussion Paper, with a view to providing a new credential from 2012 for students who leave school prior to receiving their Higher School Certificate.

During the remainder of 2011, the Board of Studies will consult with peak groups representing parents, teachers and students in all school sectors. This consultation will form the basis of a detailed plan for the new credential. Further advice will be provided shortly on the timing and other details of this consultation process.

It is important to note that arrangements for the 2011 School Certificate will not be affected, and tests will take place as scheduled from 7 – 11 November, 2011.

The Discussion Paper and the Minister's media release are available on the Board of Studies website at:

[http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/sc\\_review.html](http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/sc_review.html)

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

Tom Alegounarias

**President**

4/8/11