Dear Principal

An Online Trial Computing Skills Test in 2005

I would like to thank principals and teachers from the 575 schools that contributed to the successful trial of the Year 10 Computing Skills Test in 2004. Over 50,000 students participated in the trial, with over 25,000 students undertaking the test online.

I now invite your school to participate in the final trial of the Computing Skills Test in 2005 before mandatory implementation with Year 10 in 2006. From 2006, student performance in the Computing Skills Test will be reported as part of the School Certificate credential.

It is anticipated that in 2006 most schools will wish to offer the test to their Year 10 students in online format. A pen-and-paper test will still be available for those schools that require it. However, in order to focus on further refining the delivery of an online test, this year the trial Computing Skills Test will be offered only as an online version.

Schools are invited to have some or all of their Year 10 students participate in the 2005 trial. Schools wishing to participate simply need to add course 6000 (Computing Skills Test – Trial) to the School Certificate entries for those Year 10 students taking part. This is most easily done via Schools Online.

As in 2004, the trial Computing Skills Test will be held immediately following the School Certificate tests in November. The test will be available online on November 9, 10, 11 and 14, with schools having the flexibility to participate at a time and day(s) over the nominated period convenient to the school. Schools may choose to have their Year 10 students sit the test on any one day, or conduct the test with different groups on different days within the test period.

To assist schools with the integration of ICT skills into teaching and learning programs, information and resource materials, including trial computing skills tests with answers, can be downloaded from the Board of Studies website at: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/syllabus_sc/computingskills_assessment.html

Further information can be obtained from Joe Merlino, Senior Project Officer, Computing Skills, by phone: (02) 9367 8110, fax: (02) 9367 8486, or email: merlino@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Yours sincerely

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