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To the Principal
All Western Australian Schools

Dear Principal

WELCOME TO THE 2018 SCHOOL YEAR

I am pleased to welcome everyone back for another school year.

In 2018, the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) will continue to work towards the goals outlined in our Strategic Plan:

- Develop Kindergarten to Year 12 curriculum and support resources and Pre-primary to Year 12 assessment and standards that allow all students to achieve to the full extent of their capabilities.
- Develop and administer high-quality examination, testing and certification programs that instil confidence in the Western Australian curriculum and standards of achievement.
- Actively promote a high level of community confidence in the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* and the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) through conduct and stakeholder engagement that is ethical, transparent and in the public interest.

As we begin our work for 2018, we look forward to reaching some key milestones in the implementation of the Western Australian curriculum for students from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Kindergarten to Year 10: Technologies, The Arts, Languages, a trial of moderation in Years 7 and 8 and NAPLAN Online

Schools are reminded that 2018 is the first year of full implementation for Technologies, The Arts and Year 3 Languages. Full implementation includes teaching, assessing and reporting on student achievement which must be in place by the end of Semester 1. (See the Authority's *Pre-primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting Policy* at <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/policy/teaching-assessing-and-reporting-policy> for more information.)

To support the implementation of Languages, the Judging Standards materials (achievement standards, assessment pointers and annotated work samples) were published for Pre-primary to Year 6 Languages during Semester 2, 2017, and will continue to be developed during Term 1, 2018. The achievement standards and assessment pointers for Years 7 to 10 Languages were published at the end of 2017 and annotated work samples will be progressively uploaded during Semester 1, 2018. (The Languages page on our website is at <https://k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/home/teaching/curriculum-browser/languages>.)

The Authority has published the Australian Curriculum Languages for schools wishing to teach a language other than those adopted and adapted by the Authority for Western Australia, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages Framework.

The Authority conducted a trial Year 6/7 moderation process in 2017 for English, Mathematics and Science. This will be continued in 2018, and extended to include Humanities and Social Sciences. Schools will be invited to participate in the process with details advertised in the *Kto10 Circular* in February.

Two hundred and seventy nine schools in Western Australia have committed to participate in NAPLAN Online in May 2018. These schools have proven to be technically capable of having the tests delivered online to their students. All participating schools have had staff complete mandatory training with the Authority and further refresher training will be provided early in 2018 prior to NAPLAN Online in May. All Western Australian schools participating in NAPLAN Online in 2018 will be provided with 'backup' paper NAPLAN test materials which will be delivered to schools by the first week of Term 2.

Year 11 and Year 12 curriculum and standards

The 2018 syllabus delivery audit is focusing on Year 12 ATAR courses. All schools are required to submit a course outline and an assessment outline for each ATAR Year 12 course they are teaching in 2018. The upload of the required documents must be completed by 4 pm Friday, 23 February. (See the Authority website at <https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/moderation/syllabus-delivery-audit> for more information.)

Consensus moderation processes in 2018 are for selected Year 12 ATAR and General courses only. There will be no consensus moderation for Year 11 courses in 2018. Participation in this process is compulsory for all schools delivering a Year 12 course. (Details of Year 12 ATAR and General courses requiring consensus moderation in 2018, along with participation requirements, were published in the December 2017 *11to12 Circular* at <https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars>.)

As indicated last year, the Authority will be implementing a non-approval of grades process in 2019. Details about this process will be provided in Term 1, 2018. The process is designed to ensure that schools are meeting their obligations in assessing and reporting of student achievement in Foundation, General and ATAR courses and maintaining the integrity of the Board's certification process.

P-12 school information briefings

I am pleased to announce that in 2018 the Authority will be hosting a series of briefings covering Pre-primary to Year 12. Principals, deputies and teachers will be able to register to attend the briefings that will focus on the Authority's areas of emphasis for 2018. The Primary briefings will also include a workshop which will focus on curriculum and assessment planning, and, in particular, planning for multi-age groups of students. Details about the briefings will be available in the eCirculars, with registrations opening soon.

Finally, I wish you, your staff and students, and your broader school communities all the best for a productive school year.

Yours sincerely



**PATRICK GARNETT
CHAIR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY**

29 January 2018