



Our Ref: 2024/70412

To The Principal
All Western Australian Secondary Principals

Dear Principal

It has been a busy year, and I would like to provide an update on the work of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) as we work towards the end of the year.

Adopting and adapting the Australian Curriculum version 9 in the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline*

Our work to adopt and adapt the Australian Curriculum version 9 within the *Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline* has continued throughout 2024. The Western Australian curriculum for the English and Health and Physical Education learning areas has been available for familiarisation in 2024 and for implementation in 2025. In addition, consultation has taken place for Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, Science and Technologies this year. The syllabuses for these learning areas will be available for familiarisation in 2025 and implementation in 2026. Details of the arrangements for The Arts and Languages learning areas will be communicated to schools early in 2025.

The Authority will continue to support schools to implement the revised Western Australian curriculum for English and Health and Physical Education throughout 2025. The Authority's curriculum support materials will be updated to align with the revised curriculum and will include examples of approaches to teaching, learning and assessment strategies, consistent with the Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment. To further enhance understanding of these revisions to the curriculum, professional learning modules will be made available for schools to access via the Authority website. The Authority will also provide ongoing guidance and relevant updates through its communication channels, including online circulars.

WACE Refreshment

The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment that the Board initiated in 2022 continued throughout the year. The Board is committed to ensuring that any modifications introduced will be to maximise the value of the WACE for students as they move into further education, training and employment and to minimise the impact on schools and teachers wherever possible. I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the research and consultation that the Authority has undertaken as part of the WACE Refreshment to date.

In June 2023, a review of senior secondary school pathways was announced by the Minister for Education in a bid to help all Western Australian students reach their full potential through their post-school study, training or employment pursuits. The Pathways to Post-School Success Review (Pathways Review), has been led by the Department of Education in partnership with Catholic Education Western Australia and the Association of Independent Schools Western Australia. The Pathways Review has run alongside the WACE Refreshment. As the WACE Refreshment continues, the Board will also work with

the Minister for Education and the school systems/sector on any Recommendations arising from the Pathways Review.

The initial focus of the WACE Refreshment has been on senior secondary courses as part of our ongoing syllabus review and development processes. The courses which have been revised and the schedule for their implementation are detailed in Attachment 1. We look forward to providing further updates about the WACE Refreshment in 2025.

Year 12 students

Many schools will have already formally farewelled their Year 12 students. I thank everyone who has been in the schooling experience of these students over the years. The school community is important not only for the direct education of these students but also their broader schooling experience and preparing them for their lives after school. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to each student's journey.

ATAR course examinations 2024

The ATAR course examinations are a key moment for many students. Students completing practical examinations through portfolios and productions submitted their work in September. The practical (performance and oral) examinations for ATAR courses began on Saturday, 21 September and ended on Sunday, 20 October. The ATAR course written examinations begin on Monday, 28 October and run through until Friday, 15 November.

The ATAR course examinations are the visible moment in a long and detailed process. I acknowledge everyone who has played a part in the examinations. In particular, I thank teachers and school communities for the care they have taken in preparing students for the examinations and the ongoing support they will provide throughout the examination period. I also thank the hundreds of teachers involved in the marking process. Teacher involvement is central to the success and integrity of the examination process. To all students enrolled in ATAR courses, I wish them all the best in their examinations.

Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment

The Term 4 Window for students in Years 9 and 10 commenced on Monday, 21 October, with the writing component finishing on Tuesday, 22 October and the other components finishing on Friday, 1 November. This is the second year in which Year 9 students have been able to complete one of their allocated Year 10 'sits' in Year 9.

The new OLN testing schedule was introduced to reduce the demands of testing on schools in March and in response to feedback from schools for a more flexible schedule. Indications are that the new testing schedule is working well for students and schools. The key dates for the 2025 OLN testing program are listed below. Further details are published in the *Activities Schedule* and on the Authority website.

Test period	Start	End	Years
Term 1	Wednesday, 26 February	Friday, 14 March	11 and 12
Term 2 Window A	Monday, 5 May	Friday, 16 May	10–12
Term 2 Window B	Monday, 16 June	Friday, 27 June	10–12
Term 3 Window A	Monday, 28 July	Friday, 8 August	10–12
Term 3 Window B	Monday, 8 September	Friday, 19 September	10–12
Term 4	Monday, 27 October	Friday, 7 November	9 and 10

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for developing and centrally managing the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). The School Curriculum and Standards Authority is the Test Administration Authority in Western Australia for NAPLAN.

Next year will be the third in the new time series, and 2025 will be the first of the new data sets to compare the progress of cohorts: Year 3 in 2023 with Year 5 in 2025, Year 5 in 2023 with Year 7 in 2025, Year 7 in 2023 with Year 9 in 2025.

NAPLAN 2025 will run from Wednesday, 12 March until Monday, 24 March. Further details are published in the *Activities Schedule* and on the Authority website.

ATAR course examinations in 2025

Due to the addition of new courses to the Authority's offerings and a request from the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC), the Authority's ATAR course written examination period will be brought forward in 2025. The 2025 ATAR course written examinations will begin on Wednesday, 29 October and will be scheduled to finish on Thursday, 20 November. The start date for the ATAR course practical examination period in 2025 will remain as currently published. The Authority website and *2025 Activities Schedule* will reflect the changes for the written examinations, and schools will be provided with further information as part of our regular communications.

In closing, 2024 has been a busy year, and we all still have much to do before we reach the holiday break. I wish you all the best for the remainder of the term.

Yours sincerely



**PAULINE WHITE
CHAIR
SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY**

24 October 2024

Attachment 1

Years 11 and 12 courses

As a part of the Authority's ongoing syllabus review process, a number of courses will be offered for the first time in 2025.

Reviewed courses implemented in Year 11 in 2024 and Year 12 in 2025

- Years 11 and 12 Ancient History ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Engineering Studies ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Human Biology General
- Years 11 and 12 Modern History ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Physical Education Studies ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Religion and Life Foundation

Reviewed courses to be implemented in Year 11 in 2025 and Year 12 in 2026

- Years 11 and 12 Aboriginal and Intercultural Studies ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Careers and Employability General (replacing Careers and Enterprise General)
- Years 11 and 12 Physics ATAR

New courses implemented in Year 11 in 2024 and Year 12 in 2025

- Years 11 and 12 Agribusiness ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Agricultural Science and Technology ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Science in Practice General

New course to be implemented in Year 11 in 2025 and Year 12 in 2026

- Years 11 and 12 Humanities and Social Sciences in Action General

Courses approved for retirement in Year 11 in 2024 and Year 12 in 2025

The Year 11 course is no longer available, and the Year 12 course will be offered for the last time in 2025.

- Years 11 and 12 Career and Enterprise ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Children, Family and the Community ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Integrated Science ATAR
- Years 11 and 12 Biology General
- Years 11 and 12 Earth and Environmental Science General
- Years 11 and 12 Economics General
- Years 11 and 12 Literature General
- Years 11 and 12 Philosophy and Ethics General
- Years 11 and 12 Physics General
- Years 11 and 12 Politics and Law General

Courses replaced by new courses in Year 12 2025

These courses have been replaced by new courses, with 2024 being the last year of teaching.

- Year 12 Animal Production Systems ATAR (replaced by Year 12 Agricultural Science and Technology ATAR)
- Year 12 Integrated Science General (replaced by Year 12 Science in Practice General)
- Year 12 Plant Production Systems ATAR (replaced by Year 12 Agricultural Science and Technology ATAR)