

3 February 2017

## **Letter 2/2017 to Principals from the Chief Executive SACE Board**

Dear Colleague

As educators, the beginning of each school year offers us a fresh start. In 2017, we can reflect on the outstanding results of the 'Class of 2016' and the opportunities to maximise student success in the year ahead.

The SACE Board looks forward to working closely with your school to help students excel in their studies.

To assist with your Term 1 preparations, this letter contains information about 2016 SACE results, 2017 subject renewal, learning and assessment plans (LAPs), and SACE modernisation changes that will take effect this year.

In addition, I enclose a 'Leader Update' that contains information about key dates and upcoming SACE events.

### **2016 SACE results**

On behalf of the SACE Board, I wish to acknowledge the outstanding work of school leaders and teachers in improving the overall quality of students' SACE outcomes across the State.

Last year was marked by record student achievements in a number of key areas. In particular, at the time of results release, the following records were achieved by the Class of 2016:

- 15 003 students completed the SACE in 2016; 335 more than in the previous year
- 96.3 per cent of Year 12 students achieved their SACE; the highest ever proportion
- 319 Aboriginal students achieved their SACE; 24 more than in the previous year
- 6 330 students undertook vocational education and training (VET) in SACE; 341 more than in the previous year
- a record number of students who studied at least one modified subject completed the SACE
- 996 students achieved merit certificates; 76 more than in the previous year.

These results demonstrate the high-quality learning, teaching, innovation, and support that schools are delivering to students, and should be a source of pride to all educators.

## Leaders forums

To celebrate the outstanding work of school leaders and teachers in improving the overall quality of SACE students' outcomes across the State, I would like to invite you and members of your leadership team to a Leaders Forum. We would like to celebrate and reflect on our achievements together as a collective, which is why the SACE Board is hosting a single forum for all school leaders.

The forum will provide a platform for the Hon. Susan Close MP, Minister for Education and Child Development, to launch the SACE Aboriginal Education Strategy (2017-2021) and to discuss developments in relation to the [SACE modernisation program](#).

This forum is scheduled for Monday 6 March, 9am to 12.30pm, and will be held in the Derby Pavilion at Morphettville Racecourse. We will also host an online video conference session on Wednesday 8 March, 3pm to 5pm, for those unable to attend the forum.

To register for the forum or the videoconference, please visit [SACE Leaders Forums](#) on the SACE website.

## SACE modernisation: online publications

### ***2017 subject operational information***

As part of the SACE modernisation, the SACE Board is making some of the resources we provide to teachers, students, and families more relevant, effective, and engaging.

From 2017, the Stage 2 subject operational information (SOI) will be presented to teachers as web content.

The online SOI will provide teachers with a PDF extract of key dates for each Stage 2 subject, and link them directly to relevant information sheets. Teachers can also use the SACE online calendars to filter events for all subjects that they teach, and export to their personal calendar or download as a PDF.

Teachers can provide feedback on the useability of the online SOIs, via the 'online feedback form' found on the 'Help' menu on each minisite.

### ***achieve***

The SACE is modernising, and we are making the resources we provide to students, teachers and families more relevant, effective, and engaging.

As part of this modernisation, the *achieve* magazine, which is traditionally printed, is becoming an online resource that will be accessible via the SACE website in the coming weeks.

If a student is about to commence Stage 1, is participating in course counselling for Stage 2, or a family member is looking for more information, there will be up-to-date resources available anytime, anywhere, and on any device.

The online version of *achieve* will include student stories to guide and inspire, links to informative and engaging videos on the SACE Board YouTube channel, and all the usual essential information found in *achieve*, such as articles about the Research Project, VET courses, and SACE credits.

If you have any student stories that are inspiring and engaging, or if you have any questions, comments or feedback about *achieve* online, we want to hear from you. Please contact [SACE.Achieve@sa.gov.au](mailto:SACE.Achieve@sa.gov.au).

## **SACE modernisation: Phase 1 of E-assessments**

### ***Subjects chosen for online submission, marking and moderation in 2017***

Last week, I wrote to principals and SACE coordinators advising of SACE modernisation changes that will take effect from Term 1, 2017.

As part of the SACE Board's 5-year plan to modernise its delivery of the SACE, nine Stage 2 subjects have been selected for the online submission of assessment materials, for the purposes of marking and moderation.

The subjects have been selected following consultation with teachers, who indicated that students in these subjects are mostly submitting their evidence electronically to the teacher. It therefore makes sense for these subjects to be early adopters of the online submission process.

The subjects were also selected on the basis that they would be manageable for schools, in terms of subject size and scale.

The lists of Stage 2 subjects selected for online submissions are included below.

### ***External assessment investigations materials***

External assessment materials for the following subjects will be submitted online for the purposes of online marking:

- Stage 2 Community Studies
- Stage 2 Essential English
- Stage 2 Health
- Stage 2 Media Studies
- Stage 2 Philosophy

Please note: there will be no submission of hard copy investigation materials for these subjects.

### ***School assessment materials***

School assessment materials for the following subjects will be submitted online for the purposes of online moderation:

- Stage 2 Classical Studies
- Stage 2 English Literary Studies
- Stage 2 Indonesian (continuers)
- Stage 2 Media Studies
- Stage 2 Music Technology
- Stage 2 Philosophy

Please note: there will be no submission of hard copy school assessment materials for these subjects.

As communicated previously, the [SACE Policy Framework](#) and the subject outline specifications are not changing for these subjects. The move to online marking and moderation is not a policy change. It is a change to the format in which materials are submitted, from hard copy to online.

I recognise that the success of SACE modernisation requires partnership between the schools and the SACE Board. Please rest assured that we will be supporting your school and teachers as they adjust to the procedural change.

In the week beginning Monday 6 February, the SACE Board will send more detailed information to SACE coordinators and subject teachers about the transition to online submissions, including:

- instructions for submitting materials in *Schools Online*
- approved file formats
- specified file-naming conventions.

## **NEW *Schools Online* training videos**

### ***Now available online***

In an effort to enhance our *Schools Online* training strategy, the SACE Board has prepared a number of [instructional videos](#) to support new and existing principals' delegates, SACE coordinators and teachers in using *Schools Online*. The videos can be accessed via the [SACE website](#) all year round and will include items such as 'creating a SACE Class', 'changing your password', and 'maintaining student information.' We encourage all users of *Schools Online* to watch these videos for a good introduction to the system.

As the year progresses, we will aim to add to the online video library, and would welcome your feedback on any other training topics that would be useful.

For assistance with Schools Online, please contact the Support Team on +8 8372 7412 or [SACE.SchoolsOnlineSupport@sa.gov.au](mailto:SACE.SchoolsOnlineSupport@sa.gov.au).

## **Subject renewal: online consultation**

Online consultation for the following draft subject outlines will take place during March and April:

- Stage 1 and Stage 2 Music
- Stage 1 and Stage 2 Physical Education

Details and dates will be provided in a separate Letter to Principals.

## **Learning and assessment plans in 2017**

### ***Stage 1 LAPs***

In 2017, for Stage 1 subjects, schools may use pre-approved learning and assessment plans (LAPs), school-developed LAPs, or a combination of these two options.

*Please note: From 2017, Stage 1 pre-approved and Stage 1 school-developed learning and assessment plans are not submitted to the SACE Board for approval.*

## **Stage 2 LAPs**

Schools are required to have an approved learning and assessment plan for each Stage 2 subject offered, except Community Studies and the Research Project.

### **Stage 2 pre-approved LAPs (Stage 2 English and mathematics subjects only)**

In 2017, for Stage 2 English and mathematics subjects, schools may use pre-approved LAPs, school-developed LAPs, or a combination of these two options.

The SACE Board will approve a maximum of two school-developed Stage 2 LAPs per subject code and number of credits (10 or 20 credits). Schools should *not* submit LAPs for subjects that already have two approved LAPs.

When using pre-approved LAPs, please note the following:

- Schools can adapt pre-approved LAPs by using the addendum to record and endorse any changes made to the plan. The addendum is endorsed by the principal or principal's delegate and is kept at the school.
- Schools do *not* submit Stage 2 pre-approved LAPs to the SACE Board for approval. Changes to pre-approved plans are endorsed by the principal or the principal's delegate and are kept at the school.
- Schools that wish to use pre-approved LAPs must notify the SACE Board, using [Form 30](#) on the [SACE website](#).

### **Stage 2 school-developed LAPs (all subjects)**

Schools *do* submit school developed LAPs to the SACE Board for approval.

Support documents are available on the subject minisites.

## **Changes to special provisions**

Schools and the SACE Board share the responsibility of making reasonable adjustments in curriculum and assessment, to enable students who meet the grounds for eligibility under the [Special Provisions in Curriculum and Assessment policy](#) to participate in courses, and associated assessments, on the same basis as other students.

In making reasonable adjustments, the knowledge, skills and standards of subjects and certification requirements are entitled to be maintained.

The SACE Board has updated its Special Provisions in Curriculum and Assessment policy for 2017 to better reflect this shared responsibility. The changes seek to improve the consistency of provisions granted to students in schools and external assessments and recognise that those in schools who work most closely with students are best placed to advise the SACE Board of the reasonable adjustments that are most appropriate for eligible students.

Key changes include:

- a reduction in the evidence required to support an application
- a declaration from the principal (or the principal's delegate) confirming the eligibility of the student, the appropriateness of the adjustments requested, and where applicable the availability of reasonable adjustments in school assessment tasks.

Students whose applications were submitted in Term 4, 2016 will have their applications considered according to the 2017 policy and evidence requirements. No student will be disadvantaged by the changed evidence requirements. Schools will be contacted and asked to complete a principals (or principal's delegate) declaration for these students.

## **SACE Board Twitter account**

Follow the SACE Board on Twitter to receive the latest updates on teacher resources, key dates and events.

You can find us at @saceboard or by using the Twitter icon displayed at the bottom of the [SACE website](#).

## **Leader Update**

Please find enclosed a Leader Update that contains information about key dates and upcoming SACE events.

Wishing you all the best for the new school year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil McGoran', written in a cursive style.

Dr Neil McGoran  
Chief Executive

cc SACE coordinators

Attachment: Leader Update 1/17