

The Primary Curriculum: Board considers projects

Report of the Eltis evaluation released

At its meeting in December 2003 the Board considered a set of projects designed to address the concerns raised by teachers during meetings held as part of the Board's Primary Curriculum Project.

The Board requested the Office to undertake further work to ensure that the projects are examined in light of the recommendations contained in *Time to Teach – Time to Learn*, a report by Professor Ken Eltis of the evaluation of outcomes, assessment and reporting in NSW Government Schools.

Major findings of the Board's Primary Curriculum Project

The major findings of the project are that there is a need to: clarify the scope of the K–6 curriculum; further clarify the role of outcomes and indicators; provide advice on ways of integrating the curriculum; identify common approaches to assessing and reporting; assist teachers to meet the diversity of learning needs of students.

Many teachers and groups who contributed to the project saw overcrowding of the curriculum as a major issue. Teachers commented on the need to eliminate overcrowding and indicated that there is a need for a framework for curriculum integration that maintains the integrity and rigour of each key learning area.

Teachers indicated they want a clear statement about what is essential or mandatory within each syllabus and the number and nature of outcomes for each stage of learning to be reviewed.

There were many suggestions about the need to support teachers who wish to develop multi-stage units, particularly those in small schools and those with composite classes. Teachers indicated that they want clarification of the role of outcomes in teaching, learning, assessing and reporting. They also asked for further support materials and advice to assist in addressing the needs of the diverse range of learners.

Bringing together the Board's major findings and the recommendations of the Eltis report

The Office of the Board of Studies will work with the Department of Education and Training and other key groups to develop and implement a plan which integrates the recommendations of the Eltis report and the projects addressing the major findings of the Board's Primary Curriculum Project. The plan will be considered by the Board's Primary Curriculum Committee before being put to the Board.

The plan will involve collaboration with key groups and consultation and involvement of teachers.

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PRIMARY TEACHERS

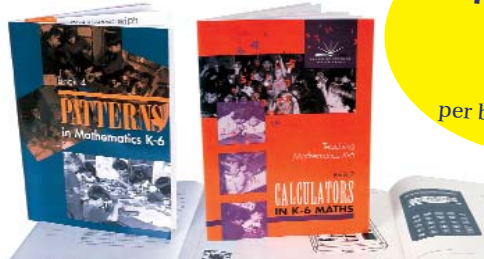
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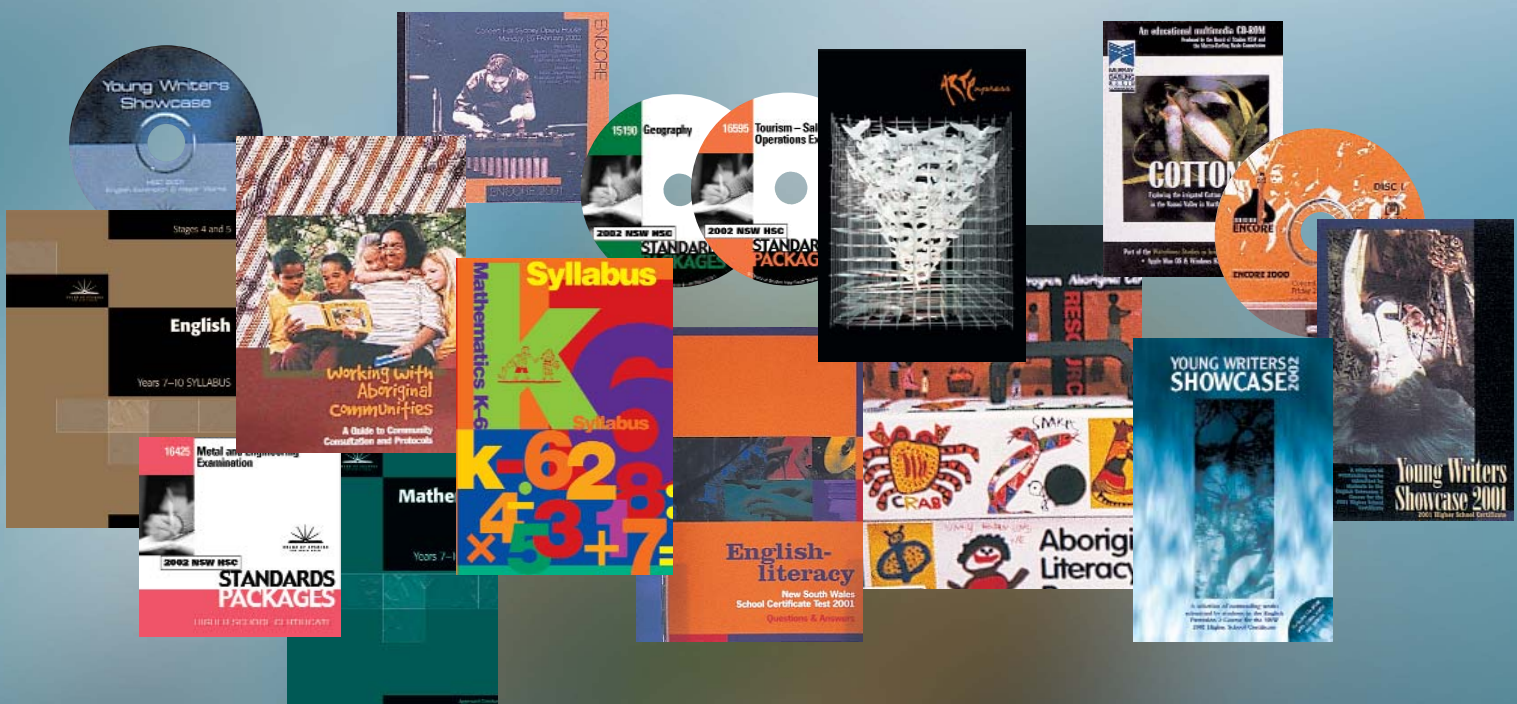
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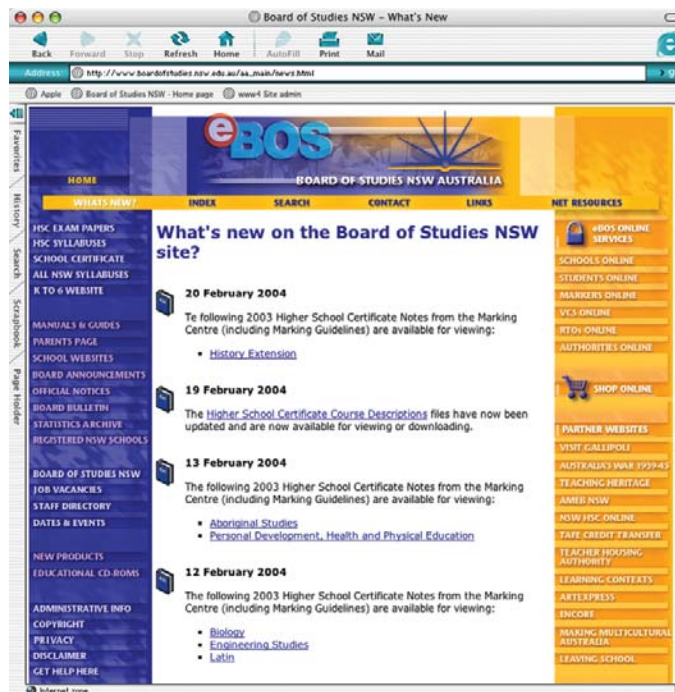
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- Information and booking details about the state-wide program of meetings to support implementation of the new Years 7–10 syllabuses.
- The School Developed Board Endorsed Courses Guidelines and Forms. The closing date for submissions is 2 April 2004.
- A range of 2003 Higher School Certificate Notes from the Marking Centre (including Marking Guidelines)
- A range of 2003 Higher School Certificate examination papers
- The 2004 Event Timetable for School Certificate (Year 10), Preliminary Year (Year 11) and Higher School Certificate (Year 12)
- Advice on Programming and Assessment for the new 7–10 syllabuses in Music and History
- Advice on Programming and Assessment for K–10 syllabuses in a range of Languages
- The Resource List for Primary Industries Curriculum Framework (for implementation from 2004 for Year 11 students) and Stage 6 Support Document
- The 2003 Annual Report of the Board of Studies and the Office of the Board of Studies
- The following 2003 School Certificate tests: English-Literacy, Mathematics, Science, and Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship
- The 2003 HSC Lists of First-in-Course, All-rounders, Distinguished Achievers, and Top Achievers in a Course
- The 2003 HSC Band Descriptors and Performance Data
- The Modern History Stage 6 Draft Syllabus and Consultation Survey. Consultation period is 8 December 2003 to 26 March 2004
- The 2004 Higher School Certificate – Important Dates Practical Submissions/Marking. A3 poster can be found on the Dates and Events page
- Explanation of SMS text abbreviations for HSC results
- The 'HSC Assessment in a Standards-referenced Framework – A Guide to Best Practice' booklet
- The Ancient History Stage 6 Draft Syllabus and Consultation Survey. Consultation period is 8 December 2003 to 26 March 2004.

Primary Matters is a regular publication by the Board of Studies NSW. Principals are requested to circulate it among teachers and members of the School Council, P & C and parents. One copy should be filed for reference. Schools may only photocopy this publication for use by teachers, students and parents. Contributions or suggestions for articles are welcome.

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