



26 March 2018

NAPLAN 2018 AND HSC MINIMUM STANDARDS

Dear Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers in 2017 were informed by the College of a State Government decision to require Year 9 students to demonstrate minimum standards in Literacy and Numeracy in order to be conferred a HSC at the end of Year 12 from 2020.

However, Mr Rob Stokes NSW Education Minister has since announced a reversal of this decision on 22 February 2018, indicating that the results for Year 9 NAPLAN tests *will no longer be linked to the minimum standard of numeracy and literacy for the HSC*. The Band 8 requirement as a prerequisite for a student to achieve the HSC Minimum Standard for a Year 9 student therefore is no longer mandatory because students will be able to demonstrate that they have achieved minimum standards through online tests which can be taken at any time during Years 10, 11 or 12.

Year 10 2018

This reversal of decision by Mr Stokes does NOT however apply to current Year 10 students.

Current Year 10 students who achieved a Band 8 or above in a 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing or numeracy test are recognised as having met the HSC minimum standard in that particular area and will NOT need to sit the corresponding online tests.

Current Year 10 students **who did NOT achieve a Band 8 or above in the 2017 Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing or numeracy test WILL need to sit the corresponding online tests.**

NESA states: 'All HSC students will now meet the HSC minimum standard through short online tests in reading, writing and numeracy. Tests can be taken in Years 10, 11 or 12, in a process similar to obtaining the NSW Learner Drivers Licence.'

What if students don't pass the tests by Year 12?

Students will have many opportunities to meet the HSC minimum standard, even after they finish Year 12. But it is important to note:

- Students have five years from the year they start their first HSC course to meet the HSC minimum standard, so can take the online tests after they leave school.
- Students will be able to sit their HSC exams and receive their HSC results regardless of whether they attain the HSC minimum standard. However, without the minimum standard, they will not receive the Higher School Certificate.
- Students who do not meet the HSC minimum standard will receive a Record of School Achievement (RoSA) which contains a student's record of academic achievement up until the date they leave school.

Note: Year 12 students who do not meet the new literacy and numeracy standard and do not receive their HSC will still be able to get an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) and go to university. The ATAR, which is used by universities to allocate placements, is calculated by the Universities Admissions Centre independently of the government.

At Bethlehem, our Intervention program for our Year 10 students, is taking place through an additional lesson per cycle in English and Mathematics not only in Year 10 but across different year groups 7-10, where our teachers are targeting skills development in literacy and/or numeracy through in-class skill-building. NESA has produced a short clip and information about

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard/online-tests/what-to-expect-in-the-tests>

You can read more about the changes to the HSC Minimum Standard.

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard>

Year 10 Bethlehem students for whom this applies will have two opportunities to meet the minimum standards through the online tests this year in Terms 2 and 4. In the meantime, please assist us in supporting your daughter through her literacy and numeracy skills development by encouraging her in daily reading and numeracy activities. You might find some additional tips here

<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/7-10-literacy-numeracy/pdf-doc/literacy-parents-brochure.pdf>

<https://www.literacyandnumeracy.gov.au/parents-parentTips>

or here

[How parents can encourage their teens to read](http://www.adlit.org/article/23399/) <http://www.adlit.org/article/23399/>

Please do not hesitate to contact the College or consult the NESA links for further information.

Yours sincerely

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