

28 July 2015

Letter 5/2015 to Principals from Chief Executive SACE Board

Dear Colleague

Welcome to Term 3.

This letter includes information on mid-year results, course counselling, and the Research Project Student Expo. It also provides an update on key initiatives including the implementation of the Australian Curriculum, and the Board's continuing transition towards a digital environment.

The SACE website's Term 2 analytics - which show a 20% increase in total visits, and a doubling in the number of visits using smartphones, compared with Term 2 2014 – reflect an environment where schools are increasingly undertaking SACE administration online.

The overall smoothness of this transition to date highlights the strength of the partnership between schools and the SACE Board. We appreciate your ongoing attention to overseeing these transitions within your school, and to continued collaboration aimed at minimising disruption, and maximising benefits for students, schools and the SACE Board.

I wish you and your school every success in Term 3.

2015 Research Project Mid-year Results and Stage 1 Results Now Only Online

On Monday 3 August, Research Project results and all Stage 1 results due June will be available via *Students Online* and *Schools Online* from 8.30 a.m.

Please note that these results will be distributed online only – no paper Records of Achievement will be issued.

In 2014, more than 5000 students visited the website on the mid-year results-release day to check their results. In preparation for this year's mid-year results release, please encourage students to log in to *Students Online* prior to Monday 3 August using their SACE registration number (e.g. 123456R) and PIN (by default, the first 4 digits of their date of birth e.g. 2306 for a student born on 23 June).

The link to *Students Online* is: <https://apps.sace.sa.edu.au/students-online/login.do>

At any time, students, parents, or teachers may contact the SACE Board for support or clarification by calling 08 8373 0599 (metro) or 1800 652 230 (country freecall).

Release of SACE/NTCET Results Reports for Schools

Mid-year Results Reports for your school will be available electronically in [Schools Online](#) from 8.30 a.m. on Monday 3 August 2015.

Mid-year results reports include:

- Final Moderation Effects
- Final Subject Grade Report
- School Subject Assessment Report
- Stage 2 Moderation Feedback Reports.

Please note that Stage 2 Moderation Feedback Reports are now available from *Schools Online* only, and will not be posted to schools.

Reports can be downloaded as a PDF or in CSV/Excel format for easy distribution and analysis.

If you require access to these reports and have not been assigned the role of Principal's Delegate in *Schools Online*, please complete the *Schools Online Principal's Delegate Access* form available on the [SACE website](#) and return via email to SACE.servicedesk@sa.gov.au

Information on how to access the mid-year results reports will be emailed directly to the Principal's Delegate(s) at your school on the morning of results release.

Online Results Sheets (ORS) update

I am pleased to advise that teachers and Principals' Delegates successfully completed the online submission of Stage 1 results and the school and external assessment results for the Research Project via *Schools Online*.

This is the first time that Stage 1 results were submitted online. This phase of the ORS project involved introducing more than 2300 Stage 1 teachers to *Schools Online*, with over 7800 Stage 1 class results being submitted and over 900 for the Research Project.

At the end of the year, students' predicted results for examination subjects and external assessment results for subjects with an investigation will be submitted online for the first time. The implementation of these result sheets means that all results submitted by a teacher to the SACE Board (other than performance subjects) will occur online.

End-of-year Results Release 2015

The SACE Board is proposing to separate the electronic release of results from the delivery of official documentation in order to provide students' results as early as possible.

Previous practice has been to withhold results after processing and quality assurance by the SACE Board until the documentation can be printed, packed, and distributed so that results are released online on the same day as the documentation is delivered to students via Australia Post.

By separating these two processes, results would be available early in the week beginning 14 December, rather than on the Thursday of that week. Under this proposal, students,

parents, and schools would receive results earlier and, if and where necessary, have more time to gain support and clarification prior to Christmas. Students would then receive printed documentation progressively throughout that week.

Based on consultation to date, school leaders have indicated their support for the earlier release of results online, prior to the distribution of documentation.

Should you have any concerns regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Manager, Information Services, Michaela Bensley at Michaela.Bensley@sa.gov.au

Further details regarding this initiative will be provided over the coming months.

Course Counselling for Stage 2

Materials to support schools undertaking course counselling for Stage 2 have been updated on the SACE website.

These materials include:

- a 'Planning for Stage 2 of the SACE' PowerPoint
- a 'VET in the SACE' PowerPoint
- a 'SACE Planner' for students.

Complementing these materials is the latest Stage 2 edition of our *Achieve* handbook – a handy reference booklet for Year 11 students and their families, designed to engage them in the course counselling process. This edition includes information about SACE results and tertiary entrance, plus details about VET and the Research Project.

Printed copies of *Achieve* have now been delivered to schools for distribution to every Year 11 student and all SACE teachers. *Achieve* is also available to download, along with an article that can be included in school newsletters, at:

www.sace.sa.edu.au/news/achieve

As part of this edition, the SACE Board is interested in hearing from students about their views on the content and format of *Achieve*. Student feedback will help to guide the ongoing development of the magazine.

Students have the chance to win an iPad by sharing their views via the short survey at:

www.sace.sa.edu.au/achieve

SACE Management Conferences

The Term 3 SACE Management Conferences are for school leaders responsible for the management of SACE assessment and quality assurance — this includes SACE Coordinators, Principals' Delegates, and/or curriculum leaders.

The focus will be our joint work on the timely provision of student results, including the submission of online results sheets for the December 2015 results cycle. Opportunities will be provided to discuss and share processes used by schools and the SACE Board to assure the quality of results for students.

Conferences will be held at the SACE Board, regional locations, and via video conference on:

- Friday 14 August 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.*, SACE Board
- Wednesday 19 August 9.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. (video conference)
- Thursday 20 August 9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.*, SACE Board
- Thursday 20 August 4.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m., SACE Board
- Monday 24 August 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m., Standpipe Golf Motor Inn (Port Augusta)
- Wednesday 26 August 1.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m., Port Lincoln Yacht Club (Port Lincoln)
- Thursday 27 August 1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m., Southgate Motel (Mt Gambier)

Please use the following link to register the attendance of your SACE coordinator, and any other key leaders with responsibility for the overall management of student SACE results, [SACE Management Conferences](#).

**After these conferences, an additional hour will be offered for new SACE coordinators focusing on routine operational management of SACE end-of-year results cycle processes. New SACE coordinators are asked to register for this additional session separately to their registration for the main conference, via [SACE Management Conferences](#).*

Implementation workshops for Stage 1 English and mathematics

A series of 3-hour workshops is currently being offered to support the teaching of the redeveloped Stage 1 English and mathematics subjects in 2016.

The implementation workshops will include:

- overview of the changes to the English and mathematics subjects
- assessment requirements of each subject
- task design — focus on what is new
- overview of the learning and assessment plan approval process
- options and pathways presented by the new subjects
- overview of Stage 1 moderation
- use and integration of electronic technology in each subject.

A number of workshops are now fully subscribed. However, teachers can still register to attend other English and mathematics via [implementation workshops](#).

Updated list of Approved Graphics Calculators

The list of approved graphics calculators below includes three newly approved calculators for use in external examinations from 2016 in all mathematics subjects, subject to the conditions listed in the annual Information Sheet 'Specifications For Use of Approved Calculators, Stencils, and Computers'. (This information sheet can be found on each mathematics subject minisite on the SACE website.)

Casio fx-9860G AU

Casio fx-9860G AU Plus

Casio fx-CG20AU

Hewlett Packard HP 39GS

Sharp EL-9900

Texas Instruments TI-83 Plus

Texas Instruments TI-84 Plus

Texas Instruments – TI 84 Plus C – silver edition

Texas Instruments – TI 84 Plus CE.

Please contact Kate Cooper at kate.cooper@sa.gov.au for further information.

SACE Board Twitter account

The SACE Board has launched an official Twitter account – [@saceboard](https://twitter.com/saceboard)

The introduction of social media is part of the Board's commitment to using digital innovations to support our work with teachers and schools. The account is intended as a further avenue of communication for teachers and school leaders, but will also include material of interest to the broader community.

If you or your school's staff are active on Twitter, we encourage you to follow [@saceboard](https://twitter.com/saceboard) and keep in touch.

You can also visit the SACE Board's social media accounts using the icons at the bottom of each page on the SACE website.

Research Project Student Expo

A limited number of places are still available for school groups to attend the SACE Research Project Student Expo at the Ridley Centre, Adelaide Showground, on 12 and 13 August 2015.

The 2-day expo has been designed to inspire and encourage students who are about to undertake their Research Project, as well as to showcase the work of our senior secondary students to the wider community.

More than 4000 students have already registered to attend the expo as part of class groups.

Further information on the expo program, participating organisations and registration details can be found on the [Research Project Student Expo](#) page.

As well as school groups, the expo is open to members of the public. Family members are welcome to attend and pre-registration is not required for individuals or family groups.

With the launch of the SACE Board Twitter account, this year's expo will be supported by social media. We will post live updates from the event on 12 and 13 August, and videos and support materials as they become available, using the hashtag #RPexpo.

The SACE Board will also capture presentations and student stories, as well as handouts and materials from exhibiting organisations. These will be posted on the SACE website following the event as an ongoing resource for teachers and students.

Leader Update

The attached Leader Update provides information about the quality assurance of Stage 1 English and mathematics subjects in 2016.

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 2/15 *Quality assurance of Stage 1 English and mathematics subjects in 2016*