

June 2009

Dear Parents of Year 10 students,

Please find attached important information for students and parents to assist you to make wise subject selections from the courses of study available for the Higher School Certificate at The King's School over the next two years. The following information is included with this letter:

- Information on the **Requirements for the Higher School Certificate**
- **Instructions** for completing the **Year 11 Subject Choice Form**
- The **Year 11 Subject Choice Form** (yellow in colour) for **2010**.

This information should be read in conjunction with the *Senior Handbook: Handbook and Guide to HSC Courses* that provides important information about the HSC and the School's response regarding course availability, course descriptions, pattern of study and advice on appropriate subject choices. The Handbook will have been given to all Year 10 students at the end of Term 2 so that they may discuss their options with you over the holidays. As well, the Handbook is accessible on the School's intranet at <http://intranet.kings.edu.au/curriculum/index.htm>

Year 10 students will also receive next term:

- *Studying for the NSW Higher School Certificate: An Information Booklet for Year 10 Students* from the Board of Studies; and
- *University Entry Requirements Year 10 Booklet* for Year 10 students choosing courses for Years 11 and 12 in preparation for tertiary study.

I would encourage all boys to spend some time with their parents and tutors over the next few months and to carefully consider the options that are available. In selecting an appropriate pattern of study, boys are encouraged to **choose courses appropriate to their needs, interests and abilities**; once chosen, the School asks only that each boy **work to the best of his ability** in his chosen courses. As well, there is ample opportunity to seek advice from Heads of Department, teachers, Year Coordinator, Tutor, Housemaster, Careers Adviser, Mr. Gordon, the Assistant Director of Studies, Mr. Walkden-Brown or myself.

Each boy is asked to select their preferences from the courses available but there can be no guarantee that every boy will get their first preferences. Subject choices will be discussed with students at the first tutor meeting in Term 3. There will also be an opportunity for you to discuss subject selection with teachers and staff at the *Year 10 Parent Teacher Afternoon* held on **Friday August 7**. I look forward to seeing you there as I will be giving a presentation on the selection of subject choices. All students and parents should be aware that students should select their courses **carefully** as any changes in courses may **only be made until the end of February next year**, and then only after that in exceptional circumstances.

The **Year 11 Subject Choice Form** will need to be **completed online next term**. Details of the process involved, and your confirmation, will be given to students during Term 3. The completion date will be on or before **Friday 14 August 2009**, one week after the Year 10 Parent Teacher afternoon.

Yours sincerely

Clive Logan
Director of Studies
studies@kings.edu.au

Requirements for the HSC

- All 2 Unit courses comprise two components - the *Preliminary Course* in Year 11 and the *HSC Course* in Year 12. Students are reminded that they should select an appropriate pattern of study carefully as most courses extend over two years.
- Students must complete a *minimum* of:
 - **12 Units** in their Preliminary Course (Year 11) *and*
 - **10 Units** in their HSC Course (Year 12).

The School recommends that the more able students attempt 1 or more Extension courses in their pattern of study:

- **12 or 13 units in their Preliminary Course in Year 11**
- **11 or 12 units in their HSC Course in Year 12**
- Students must satisfactorily complete the Preliminary Course or its equivalent as a prerequisite for entry into an HSC Course.
- Both Preliminary and HSC Courses must include:
 - at least six (6) units from Board Developed Courses;
 - at least two (2) units of a Board Developed Course in English;
 - at least three (3) courses of two units or greater;
 - at least four (4) subjects.
- Students may count a maximum of 6 units from courses in Science. Senior Science may **not** be studied as a Preliminary course **in combination with** Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science or Physics. However, Preliminary Courses in Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science or Physics may be used as a prerequisite for HSC Senior Science if a student decides to terminate one or more of these courses at the end of the Preliminary Course.
- A number of subjects include a requirement for the development of project work for either internal or external assessment (eg, Visual Arts, Design and Technology, Agriculture and Software Design and Development). Projects developed for assessment in one subject are not to be used either in full or in part for assessment in any other subject.

Subject Specific Requirements for the HSC

- A minimum of 2 units of English must be taken in both the Preliminary and HSC Courses:

Students taking English Extension Course(s) *must be enrolled in English (Advanced)*.
- Extension courses in English and Mathematics (1 unit) are offered in Year 11. *Students wishing to enrol in these courses require permission from the Head of Department.*
- Students at The King's School who have studied Mathematics at Level 3 or Level 2 in Year 10 are strongly encouraged to take one of the Mathematics courses. Students studying General Mathematics cannot study any other Mathematics course.
- Although not required by the Board of Studies, students at The King's School are encouraged to study a broad based HSC which includes courses from the Sciences and the Humanities.

Requirements - Courses in English

Entry into specific English courses requires the following levels of performance in the Year 10 report for English:

All students will be offered the **2 Unit Advanced or 2 Unit Standard** course in Year 11. A review of performance will take place at the end of the Preliminary Course (end of Term 3) where class and course changes may take place. Parents and boys will be advised. **English ESL** is offered subject to eligibility rules and numbers taking the course.

For a student to enter the **Extension 1 English** course, he needs to be placed in the top 30 of his current year group.

Requirements - Courses in Mathematics

Entry into specific Mathematics courses requires the following levels of performance in the Year 10 report for Mathematics:

Students who are ranked in the top 80 places for Year 10 will be offered the **Mathematics Course**. As a guide, approximately 40% of the State's students undertake the **Mathematics Course**. It is a demanding course, requiring high level skills particularly in algebra and should only be considered by very able and motivated students of Mathematics. Those students who have been studying Mathematics at Level 2 in Year 10 may find the **General Mathematics Course** more suitable.

All other students electing to study Mathematics will be placed in the **General Mathematics Course**. Approximately 55% of the State's students undertake this course. Most students who have been studying Mathematics at Level 1 in Year 10 will find the **General Mathematics Course** too difficult. Students in this situation should consider choosing an elective other than Mathematics in Years 11 and 12. Mathematics is *not* a compulsory subject in Years 11 and 12 but students will only be able to select another subject on the same line if numbers permit, otherwise students will have to do Mathematics until the end of the Preliminary Course.

For a student to enter the **Extension 1 Mathematics Course**, he needs to be ranked in the top 40 places of his current year group. Approximately 15% of the State's students undertake the **Extension 1 Course**.

At the end of the 1st assessment (about Week 8, Term 1 next year), a review of performance will take place and class and course changes may take place and parents and boys will be advised.

Extension Courses

Extension Courses build on the content of the 2 unit course and require students to work *beyond the standard of a 2 unit course*.

- Both English and Maths have a Preliminary Extension Course (Extension 1 in Year 11). If students wish to do *both* English Extension 1 *and* Mathematics Extension 1, they can only do **12 Units**.
- In English and Mathematics, students may choose one (1) or two (2) HSC Extension Courses in Year 12 (Extension 1 and/or 2).
- All other Extension Courses are offered in Year 12 only. These extension courses are offered in History, Languages and Music.
- There is only **one** History Extension Course. Students studying *both* Ancient History *and* Modern History may undertake **one** HSC History Extension Course *only*.
- Students must study Music Course 2 if they wish to study HSC Music Extension.

Course Categories and the Universities Admission Index (UAI)

Courses for the award of a UAI are divided into either *Category A* or *Category B* courses.

- Criteria for **Category A** courses are academic rigour, depth and understanding, and the degree to which the course contributes to assumed knowledge for tertiary studies.
- The **best two units** from **Category B** courses are available for inclusion in the calculation of the UAI. The only Category B courses offered at The King's School (excluding the VET courses offered in the VET/HSC program) are **Industrial Technology and Primary Industries**. Hence, students enrolled in the Industrial Technology and/or Primary Industries courses will be able to count two units in their UAI.
- Universities try to keep prerequisites to a minimum and so use the category method.
- More detailed information is included in the *University Entry Requirements Year 10 Booklet* and the *Handbook and Guide to HSC Courses*.

VET/HSC Courses

As an alternative, students may wish to pursue a **vocational course** as part of their pattern of study.

The **Vocational Education and Training** courses cover the following Industrial Frameworks:

Business Services
Construction
Entertainment
Information Technology

Metal and Engineering
Primary Industries
Retail
Tourism and Hospitality

These Courses are in turn divided into two categories:

◆ **Framework:**

These courses are 2 units for each year of study. If done for two years (ie 240 hours), they may be **counted as part of the UAI**. They have mandatory Work Placement of 35 hours per Year. Students must sit an external HSC examination.

◆ **Non-Framework:**

These courses are 2 units for each year of Study but **do not count towards a UAI**. They do not have a mandatory work placement unless otherwise stated. They are suitable for both Year 11 and New Year 12 students. Students do not sit an external HSC exam.

The VET/HSC program includes a combination of Board Developed courses and Board Endorsed courses. The Board Endorsed courses will include **Vocational Education** courses that will be offered through TAFE colleges in the local area.

A separate booklet describing the various courses, costs and conditions will be available from the Careers Advisor, Mr M C Gordon, early in Term 3. As well, the School is looking at ways to further improve the way in which we offer VET/HSC Courses and information will be passed on as soon as it becomes available. Any student wishing to enrol in a VET Course, must see me and the Careers Advisor before completing his Subject Choice Form online.

Open High School (OHS) & Saturday School of Community Languages (SSCL)

Any student who wishes to enrol in a Language course other than French Continuers, German Continuers and Latin Continuers, must see the Director of Studies and the Head of Languages before completing his Subject Choice Form online.

YEAR 11 SUBJECT CHOICE FORM

Instructions

- Students are encouraged to choose courses appropriate to their needs, interests and abilities.
- The general Pattern of Study offered is provided in the table below. Students will need to follow these instructions carefully when completing their subject choices.
- Students wishing to enrol in **ESL** must see Mrs Williams to check on eligibility rules.
- Students wishing to enrol in a **TAFE-delivered VET course** must indicate this by marking the box indicated. These students must contact the Careers Advisor before completing their Subject Choice Form online.
- Students wishing to enrol in a **Language** course at either **Open High School** or **Saturday School of Community Languages** must contact the Head of Languages before completing their Subject Choice Form online.

Please note: All courses are conditional on acceptable class sizes. Each boy is asked to select preferences from the courses available but there can be no guarantee that every boy will get their first preferences.

General Pattern of Study

Group 1

English:

Students are enrolled in *either* English Advanced *or* English Standard *or* English ESL.
Students are enrolled in Biblical Ethics (School-based course).

Group 2

Mathematics (or no Maths [if available]):

Students choose *either* General Mathematics *or* Mathematics, *or* no Maths (subject to numbers).

Groups 3 to 6

Four Electives Choices:

Students must select *six (6)* electives numbered in order of preference. Most students will receive their first four (4) choices.

Group 7

Extensions and Study Periods:

Students wishing to enrol in Extension Courses must select *one* grouping in this line.

Group	Subject	Units
1	English Advanced or English Standard or English ESL Biblical Ethics (School-based course) in Year 11	2 2 2 0
2	General Mathematics or Mathematics 2 unit or No Mathematics (subject to numbers and courses available)	2 2 2
3	Elective 1.	2
4	Elective 2.	2
5	Elective 3.	2
6	Elective 4.	2
Optional Extension Patterns		
7	English Extension 1 only (13 units in total) or Mathematics Extension 1 only (13 units in total) or English Extension 1 + Maths Extension 1 (12 units only) or Supervised study periods (12 units only)	1 1 2 0

***Subject Choice Forms must be completed online no later than
Friday 14 August 2009.***