Dear Principal

**2006 School Certificate - Computing Skills Test**

From 2006 the School Certificate Test in Computing Skills is mandatory for all students in Year 10. Completion of the test is a requirement for the award of the School Certificate.

Schools can choose to have their students sit for the test in either the online or the pen and paper format. Students at a school must undertake the test using the same format; i.e., all students must attempt the online format or all attempt the pen and paper format. Where possible, students granted special examination provisions will undertake the test in the same format as the remainder of the cohort. Further information concerning special examination provisions will be provided shortly.

From the beginning of Term 2 you can nominate which format of the test you have chosen for your school by notifying the Office of the Board of Studies through *Schools’ Online*. You have until the end of Term 2 to finalise your decision.

The 2006 School Certificate Test in Computing Skills (online format) will be available from Wednesday, 15 November 2006 to Friday, 17 November 2006.

The 2006 School Certificate Test in Computing Skills (pen and paper format) will be held at 11.00am on Friday, 17 November 2006.

**Supervision of the Computing Skills Test**

For the English-literacy, Science, Mathematics and Australia History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship tests, the Office provides each school with one Presiding Officer, and – for those schools with more than 25 School Certificate candidates – a Test Supervisor. The individual school supplements this provision according to an established formula.

These supervision arrangements will also apply to the pen and paper version of the Computing Skills Test.

Schools with a School Certificate candidature of 1-25 students that choose to undertake the test in the online format will receive $170. Those with more than 25 students will receive $330. This figure is double the cost to the Office of providing a Presiding Officer and Test Supervisor. Government schools will have this amount included in their semester 2 global budget grant instalment; while the Office will provide it directly to non-government schools.
As for the supervision of the other School Certificate tests, schools can decide whether to employ outside personnel as examination supervisors of the tests or whether teaching staff might supervise the tests. In the event that teaching staff undertake the supervision of the tests, the funding provided by the Office for the supervision of the tests will be retained for use by the school for educational purposes as determined in accordance with existing arrangements.

Support Materials for the Computing Skills Test

The Office of the Board of Studies has developed a range of support materials to enable schools to conduct this test:

- The Nominate School for Online/Pen and Paper Test and the Test Administration Centre functions in the SC Computing Skills Test area of Schools Online.

- The scope statement, test specifications and a Specimen Test for the 2006 School Certificate test in Computing Skills is available on the Board of Studies website at: http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/schoolcertificate/

- An online multiple-choice quiz provides students with an opportunity to attempt questions from past trial Computing Skills test similar to those they will encounter in the School Certificate Computing Skills test. These questions can be accessed from the Computing Skills Updates page on the Board of Studies website located at: http://www4.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/specTest.cfm?courseID=6000

- A practice test which can be used to familiarize Year 10 students with the format and navigation of the online test is available for download from Schools Online.

- A computer diagnostic tool which can be used to check the computers the school plans to use for the online test is available for download from Schools Online.

| Contact details for questions regarding the 2006 School Certificate Computing Skills Test |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Students Entries                              | Student Enrolments | Ph: (02) 9367 8130           | Email: records@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au |
| Technical Questions                           | Ian Reid           | Ph: (02) 9367 8408           | Mobile: 0407 264 666        | Email: csthelp@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au |
| Test Inquiries                                | Joe Merlino        | Ph: (02) 9367 8110           | Email: merlino@boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au |

Further information on the Computing Skills test will be sent to schools shortly.

Yours sincerely

Rob Speers
Director, Examinations