



McAuley Catholic College

PACIFIC HIGHWAY, CLARENZA
LOCKED BAG 521
GRAFTON NSW 2460

PHONE (02) 6643 1434
FAX (02) 6643 2137
grafs@lism.catholic.edu.au
www.mccgrifton.nsw.edu.au

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Dear Parents/Carers,

NAPLAN and the HSC minimum literacy and numeracy standard

In July 2016, the Minister for Education announced the *Stronger HSC Standards* reforms. The reforms include the requirement for students to demonstrate a minimum standard of functional literacy and numeracy to be eligible for the HSC from 2020.

Why have a minimum standard?

The best indicators of success (employment, higher salaries and wellbeing) rely on a student's literacy and numeracy skills (*Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians, 2008*).

Without targeted intervention and support to reach the standard, some students risk missing out on skills necessary for everyday life. These skills allow students to:

- compare prices and understand percentages
- understand interest rates and lending offers
- work out quantities and measurements
- manage personal budgets
- understand and write routine workplace instructions
- navigate websites
- communicate more effectively in a broad range of contexts.

Currently, the HSC does not directly measure students' literacy and numeracy skills nor does it require a minimum standard to be met.

The minimum standard will prompt an early focus on literacy and numeracy, and help students meet progressive milestones. Advanced students will also benefit from an increased focus on literacy and numeracy by developing more sophisticated skills.

What does this mean for my child?

1. The minimum standard is set at a functional level of literacy and numeracy for success in day-to-day life.
2. Students can demonstrate the minimum standard in two ways:
 - a. Band 8 or above in Year 9 NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests, or
 - b. passing online reading, writing and numeracy tests of an equivalent standard in Years 10, 11 and 12.
3. Students will have multiple opportunities to demonstrate they meet the standard between Year 9 and the time they complete their HSC.

Further information will be provided as the year progresses. If you have any questions or concerns please contact either Mrs Leanne McLennan (Leader of Literacy and Numeracy) lmclennan@lism.catholic.edu.au or Mrs Tiffany Lee (Leader of Curriculum) tlee@lism.catholic.edu.au at the College.

Yours faithfully,

Leanne McLennan
Leader of Literacy and Numeracy Coordinator

Tiffany Lee
Leader of Curriculum