

Subject Selection Booklet

for Year 9 students
entering into Year 10
in 2017



INTRODUCTION TO COURSE SELECTIONS



INTRODUCTION

The following pages present information on the subject offerings for Year 9 students currently studying at Northside Christian College and planning to continue. A general overview is presented here to enable the Parent/s, and/or, Guardian/s, to work with their child/ren in deciding which subject combination best provides for their future prospects, whether that be tertiary studies, apprenticeships/ traineeships or part/full-time work.

SELECTING SUBJECTS – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The College acknowledges the difficulties that secondary students experience in choosing subjects, particularly in earlier year levels. Throughout their senior secondary years of education and beyond, a student may undergo any number of preference changes from a series of potential careers, or destination-institution course choices, or preferred tertiary educational institutions. In Year 10, students will undergo a much more intensive planning process to produce a Senior Education & Training (SET) Plan to help guide their subject choices for Years 11 and 12.

SUBJECT OFFERINGS

All subjects (excluding Christian Foundations) are based on the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) Syllabuses.

Students in conjunction with parents/caregivers must determine any **PREREQUISITE** subjects required for further study of that subject. If any doubt, the Careers Officer is available for consultation. These are predominantly the languages (Japanese and French), Graphics, to some extent Information and Software Technology, Business subjects and certain levels of Mathematics leading into Year 11 subjects the student may wish to pursue.

SELECTING SUBJECTS

All subjects are designed to develop the skills required in the students as they move into the senior secondary schooling subject offerings.

Movement between subjects during the year may affect a student's achievement, so subject selection should be considered carefully, following consultation between the student, parents and teaching staff. (See the section of this Handbook entitled "Subject Changes".) Year 10, however, is a year when students are still exploring their interests, so some movement is expected.

Several factors should be considered when choosing elective subjects, including:

Achievement	Current results will provide a good indication of future success though this may not always be a true reflection of the student's ability, rather their effort, or lack thereof.
Aptitude	What is the student's natural aptitude in this field of study?
Interest	Students are more likely to succeed in subjects which hold some interest for them.
Attitude	A positive attitude towards a subject including a willingness to commit to the hours of homework required is a necessary or preferred prerequisite.

In choosing a course of study, a student needs to:

- consider some of the goals they are beginning to aspire to and areas of general industry interest
- investigate the possible paths to those goals and what level of post-schooling study is required
- talk to people who know something about the goals and the subjects needed to be undertaken
- examine possible pathways in the light of his/her abilities, personality and commitment level
- prayerfully decide on which path seems right.

Students should avoid making subject choices merely on the grounds of the subjects being chosen either by their friends, or on the basis of their perceptions about any teacher they think might be teaching the subject.

The important guiding principle is to put yourself in a position, through the subject selection process, so that you are most likely to experience academic success now and into the future.

INTRODUCTION

THE QCE (NEW SYSTEM FOR SENIOR ASSESSMENT & TERTIARY ENTRANCE FOR YEAR 11s 2018)

Our 2018 Year 11s will be the first Queensland students to complete senior secondary under the new system. In the new system, a student's best 5 subject results will be used to calculate their ATAR score. The ATAR score replaces the OP system and will be used for students wishing to gain entrance to tertiary education after Year 12. All subjects and qualifications will contribute to the ATAR score, however subjects will have different weightings determined by the academic rigour of the subject.

Each subject will require students to complete 4 assessment instruments in Year 12; 3 of these will be school-based assessments, 1 will be an external assessment. The external assessment will contribute 25% to the overall subject result in most subjects. In Science and Maths subjects, it will contribute 50%.

Under the new system, the content, assessment and marking judgement for each subject is determined and/or monitored by the QCAA. This includes:

- New "high definition" syllabus documents for all subjects.
- School based assessments will be "endorsed before use" by the QCAA.
- Teachers' marking judgements to be ratified by the QCAA through random sampling of all Year 12 work.
- External assessment instruments will be set and marked by the QCAA.

Students will still have access to the full range of vocational and complimentary studies options that are currently offered.

https://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/snr_assessment_intro_syllabus_subject.pdf

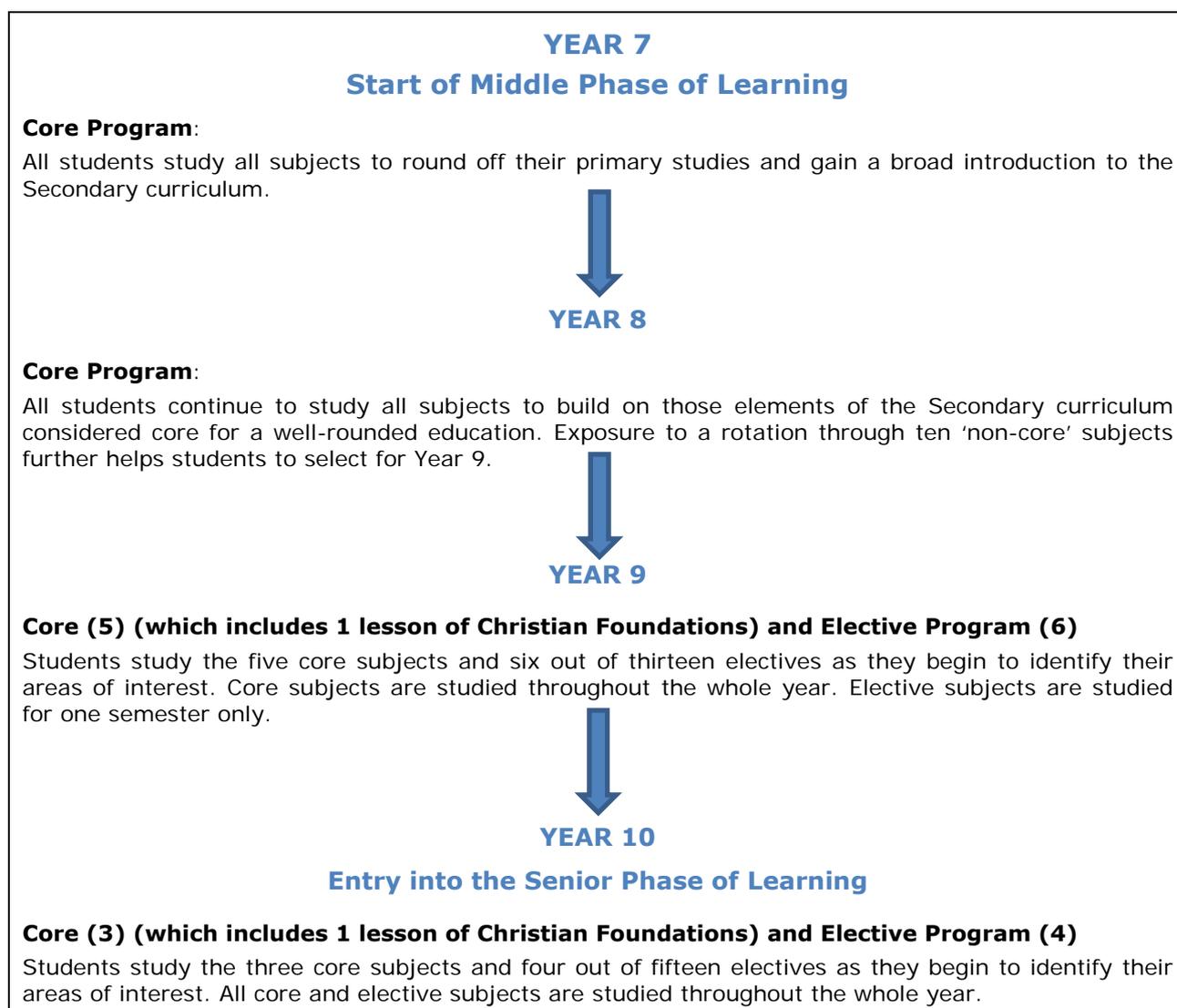
INTRODUCTION

A DEVELOPMENTAL CURRICULUM

Core subjects are compulsory. They expose students to important learning experiences for children in this age group. These include the development of information and research skills, effective use of technology, problem solving skills and exposure to learner-centred and open-ended, negotiated tasks.

Elective subjects provide an opportunity for students to begin to pursue areas of specific interest, some of which may become important elements of their career aspirations.

Our curriculum is structured to gradually progress students from a broad, core curriculum in Year 7 towards a broader exposure to elective subjects by Year 9. By Year 10, students follow an elective program similar to that in Years 11 and 12. This makes Year 10 an important preparatory year for the senior years of schooling.



INTRODUCTION

TRANSITION SUBJECTS

It **may** be possible for a student to take up an elective subject in Years 10-12 that they had not studied in the previous year but, clearly, this places a student at a disadvantage. Generally, students need to follow lines of study as follows:

YEAR 10		YEARS 11/12 ≈
English	→ → →	English Literature English Essential English
Mathematics (Sem. 1)	→ → → →	Specialist Mathematics Mathematical Methods General Mathematics Essential Mathematics
Mathematics (Sem. 2)	→ →	General Mathematics Essential Mathematics
Mathematics (Sem. 2)	→ → →	Specialist Mathematics Mathematical Methods General Mathematics
Science	→ → →	Biology Chemistry Physics
Art Certificate I in Visual Arts <small>CVA10315</small>	→ →	Visual Art Certificate III in Visual Arts <small>CUV30111</small>
Drama Dance	→	Drama
Music	→ →	Music Music Extension (2 semesters only in Yr 12) <small>students must do 4 semesters of Music to study Music Extension</small>
Senior Social Science	→ → →	Ancient History Modern History Study of Society
Physical Education	→ →	Physical Education Recreation Studies
Design Technology	→	Manufacturing – (Certificate I in Furnishing <small>MSF10113</small> & Certificate I in Manufacturing (Pathways) <small>MSA10107</small>)
Graphics	→	Graphics
Home Economics Hospitality	→	Home Economics
Digital Information and Technologies	→ →	Information Technology Systems Film and Television
Business and Enterprise	→ → → →	Accounting Business and Communication and Technologies Business Management Legal Studies
Japanese	→	Japanese
French	→	French
No Prerequisite		Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care <small>CHC30113</small>

≈ Some senior (11/12) courses may be offered as a Year 11/12 composite class based on student preferences.

As the new senior curriculum that will be implemented in 2018 is still in draft phase, the Year 11 and 12 subject offerings and/or names may change.

INTRODUCTION

SUBJECT OFFERINGS

YEAR 10	
<p>Core: Christian Foundations (1 lesson) English Mathematics Sport (non-graded)</p> <p>Electives: Choose 4 from: Business and Enterprise Certificate I in Visual Arts Dance Design Technology Drama</p>	<p>French Graphics Home Economics Hospitality Digital Information and Technologies Japanese Music Physical Education Science Senior Social Science Visual Art</p>
YEAR 11 – 12	
<p>Core Subjects Christian Foundations (1 lesson)</p> <p>Electives within Core English <i>or</i> Essential English</p> <p>and General Mathematics <i>or</i> Mathematics Methods <i>or</i> Essential Mathematics</p> <p>and Choose 4 electives from: Accounting Ancient History Biology Business and Communication Technologies Business Management Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care CHC30113 Certificate III in Visual Arts CUV30111 Chemistry</p>	<p>Drama English Literature Film, Television and New Media French Graphics Home Economics Information Technology Systems Japanese Legal Studies Manufacturing (<i>Cert I in Furnishing MSF10113 & Cert I in Manufacturing (Pathways) MSA10107</i>) Specialist Mathematics Modern History Music Music Extension (2 semesters Year 12 only) Physical Education Physics Recreation Studies Study of Society Visual Art</p>

SUBJECT CHANGES

Year 10 students may be able to make changes between terms. Students must arrange changes via Student Services by the end of each term or no later than the first week of any term.

INTRODUCTION

SENIOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING (SET) PLANS IN YEAR 10

What is a SET plan?

A SET plan maps what a student will study and learn during the senior schooling years (Years 10, 11 and 12). The SET plan is agreed between each student, their parents or carers and the school.

The SET plan helps young people identify and plan their own pathway through education and training in senior schooling, and then on to further learning or work. It also helps students make good choices about what, where and when to study.

Developing a SET plan

The College works with each young person during Term 2 to help develop a SET plan. During Terms 3 & 4 an interview with the Careers Officer is scheduled to refine the plan.

Both the student and the college should keep a copy of the SET plan.

What happens next?

The SET plan is implemented and courses planned around the agreed approach. The College monitors progress against the plan.

Want to know more?

- See our Careers Officer, Mr Robin Grant
- visit Education Queensland at <http://education.qld.gov.au/etrf/setp.html>
- telephone the QCAA on 07 3864 0299
- email gce@qcaa.qld.edu.au.

Year 10: What next?

Preparing for the senior phase of learning



In Years 11 and 12, you can choose from a wide range of learning options that will help you when you leave school – whether you want to go to university, TAFE or another education and training provider; take up an apprenticeship or traineeship; or get a job.

Senior Education Profile

At the end of Year 12, you will receive a Senior Education Profile (SEP).

Depending on your learning goals and achievements, your SEP may include a:

- Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)
- Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)
- Senior Statement
- Tertiary Entrance Statement.

Senior Education and Training (SET) Planning

In Year 10, your school will work with you and your parents/carers to develop a Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan.

Your SET plan will help you:

- think about your education, training and career goals after Year 12
- structure your learning in Years 11 and 12 around your abilities, interests and ambitions
- decide which learning options are best to ensure you achieve your learning, further education and training, and career goals
- include flexible and coordinated pathway options in your course of senior study
- map your pathway to a QCE.

Student learning accounts

All senior students in Queensland have a learning account on the Student Connect website: www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au.

You can use your learning account to:

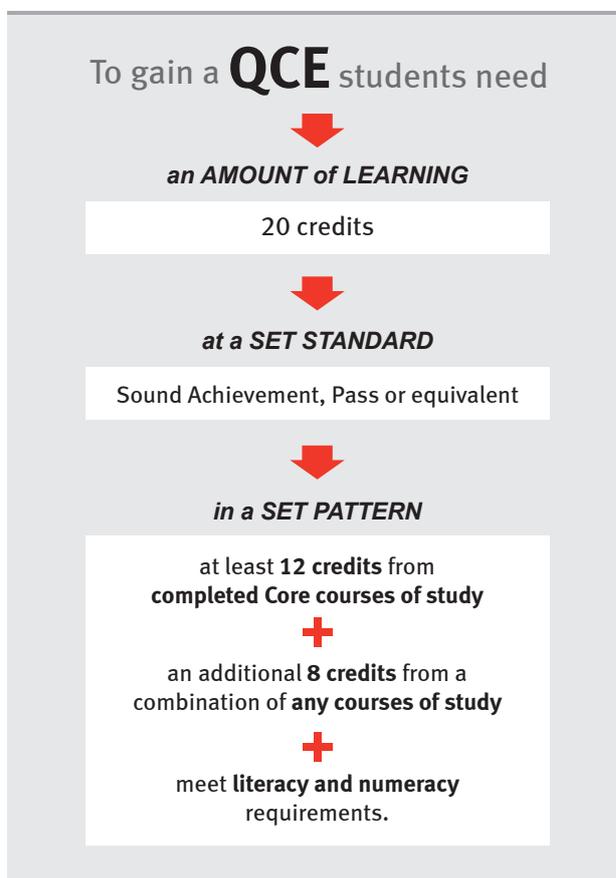
- plan your pathway to a QCE
- check your personal details and enrolments
- check your eligibility for a QCE and Overall Position (OP)
- find out your final results including your QCS Test grade, OP and Field Positions (FPs), if eligible.

Your school will give you a 10-digit Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) and initial password to log into your learning account.

Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE)

The QCE is Queensland's senior schooling qualification. It is internationally recognised and offers flexibility in what is learnt, as well as where and when learning occurs.

How does it work?



What can I study?

The QCE allows you to choose from a broad range of learning options including:

- **Senior school subjects:** Results in Authority subjects count towards your OP and FPs; results in subjects developed from Subject Area Syllabuses do not.
- **Recognised studies:** The QCAA recognises a range of awards, certificates, international learning programs (such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma program), school-based courses, and structured community and workplace learning. Completed recognised studies can contribute credits towards a QCE.
- **University subjects completed while at school:** Most Queensland universities and TAFEs offer students in Years 11 and 12 the opportunity to study at a tertiary level. If you successfully complete diploma or advanced diploma modules or university subjects, you can earn credit towards your QCE. To find out more about tertiary study opportunities available to you, speak to your school guidance officer.
- **School-based apprenticeships and traineeships:** A school-based apprenticeship or traineeship gives you the opportunity to train on the job while working towards your QCE. Students who are ineligible for an OP may have their school-based apprenticeship or traineeship considered by the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC) as part of the tertiary entrance process. For more information contact your school guidance officer.
- **Vocational Education and Training (VET):** VET qualifications give you practical work-related skills and can contribute credits towards your QCE.
- **Learning projects:** As part of your QCE, you can design and undertake an independent and unique short program of learning that is separate from any established school, training or other educational program. Completed learning projects can contribute credit towards a QCE.

School-based assessment

If you study an Authority subject in Years 11 and 12, you will be taught and assessed by teachers in your school. The QCAA manages a rigorous system of external moderation to ensure students are treated fairly and standards are comparable from school to school. This involves review panels of trained teachers externally moderating students' school-based assessments.

Results in Authority subjects are recorded on your Senior Statement and can contribute credits towards the QCE. They are also used to calculate your OP and FPs for tertiary entrance.

Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement (QCIA)

The QCIA recognises the achievements of students who are on highly individualised learning programs. To be eligible, students must have impairments or difficulties in learning that are not primarily due to socio-economic, cultural or linguistic factors.

The QCIA is an official record that students have completed at least twelve years of education, and provides students with a summary of their knowledge and skills that they can present to employers and training providers.

Tertiary Entrance Statement

If you are eligible for an OP, the QCAA will issue you a Tertiary Entrance Statement at the end of Year 12. Your Tertiary Entrance Statement records your OP and your results in up to five FPs.

OP

Your OP is your position in a statewide rank order based on your overall achievement in QCAA approved subjects. OP1 is the highest and OP25 is the lowest. OPs are used for tertiary entrance purposes only, indicating how well you have done compared with all other OP-eligible students in Queensland.

How do I get an OP?

To be eligible for an OP, you must:

- complete 20 semester units of credit in Authority subjects
- study at least three subjects for four semesters
- sit the QCS Test
- attend school until the final day of Year 12.

FPs

FPs are additional rank orders that supplement an OP. FPs may be used to differentiate between students with the same OP when the number of places in a course is limited. You may receive up to five FPs, depending on your subject choices. FPs are reported in 10 bands, from one (the highest) to 10 (the lowest).

Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test

The Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test is the tool QCAA uses to compare the achievements of OP-eligible students studying different subjects at different schools across Queensland.

The test contributes scaling data for the calculation of OPs and FPs for tertiary entrance. It also provides an individual result for each student — A (highest) to E (lowest).

The QCS Test is developed and administered by the QCAA, and is held over two days in Term 3 at schools across the state.

What is tested?

Particular knowledge of specific subjects is not tested. Instead, the QCS Test assesses achievement in 49 of the Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs). The CCEs are generic skills that you work with across your senior subjects, such as using correct spelling, punctuation and grammar, calculating, analysing and hypothesising. This means that you are preparing for the QCS Test all the time and in every subject.

What is the format of the test?

The QCS Test consists of four testpapers:

- a Writing Task — requiring a response of about 600 words
- a Short Response testpaper — requiring different types of responses
- two Multiple Choice testpapers — with 50 items in each.

Who should sit the test?

While sitting the QCS Test is essential for students seeking an OP, other students can benefit from sitting the test, since:

- a grade of C or above will ensure you meet QCE literacy and numeracy requirements
- a grade of D or above may boost your QTAC selection rank.

Only the results of OP-eligible students are used in OP calculations.

Senior Statement

Your Senior Statement records:

- what, when and where learning was undertaken
- the result and credit value achieved
- your result in the QCS Test, if eligible.

Tertiary entrance pathways

In Queensland, an OP is the usual pathway for Year 12 students to gain entrance into tertiary study at university, TAFE or another learning provider. But there are other pathways available. Your school guidance officer can help you understand the different tertiary entrance pathways and the best options for you.

Tertiary entrance rank/QTAC selection rank

If you're not eligible for an OP but wish to gain entry to a tertiary course, you can apply to QTAC for a selection rank based on schedules that are specifically developed for this purpose.

- QTAC will calculate a rank based on your subject results.
- Your QTAC selection rank is based on a mixture of Authority subjects, and/or subjects developed from Subject Area Syllabuses, and/or vocational qualifications, and uses the achievement in your best 20 semesters or equivalent, on your Senior Statement.
- If you sit the QCS Test, your QCS result will also be included in your rank calculation. If you achieve a D result or better, you may improve your chances with your tertiary entrance rank.
- If you do not take the QCS Test, a result of E will be used when calculating your tertiary entrance rank.

FAQs

I don't know what I will do after Year 12. What subjects should I study?

If you are not sure what you want to do after Year 12, choose subjects you like or have an interest in, and in which you are likely to do well.

I want to go to TAFE or university. Which subjects should I take?

If you intend to go to TAFE or university after completing Year 12, you should check how students are selected for your preferred course/s. You need to ensure you choose subjects that fulfil the prerequisites for the course/s you are considering. You should then choose subjects that interest you and in which you are likely to succeed.

To be OP-eligible, you must study a minimum of 5 Authority subjects. Three of these subjects must be over 4 semesters. However, you do not have to study all Authority subjects. You may choose to take a subject developed from a Subject Area Syllabus or a vocational qualification in addition to your Authority subjects, if these are available. You must also sit the QCS Test in Year 12.

If you choose to be OP-ineligible and use your QTAC selection rank, you should also sit the QCS Test to try to increase your rank. If you do not sit the QCS Test, QTAC will assign a result of E for the purpose of calculating a rank for you. (There will be no result on your Senior Statement from QCAA.)

I enjoy VET subjects. What happens if I decide to do further study after Year 12?

If you choose to study mostly VET at school, you can still move on to further study after Year 12. At the end of Year 12, QTAC can calculate a rank based on your results in the subjects that you have taken in Years 11 and 12. You can use this rank to enter diploma courses offered by some universities and TAFE institutions. You may also be given credit at TAFE for units of competency or qualifications you have completed during Years 11 and 12.

I want to start a school-based apprenticeship/traineeship at school. What can I do when I leave Year 12?

If you are OP-eligible, you may be able to use your OP to gain entry to a university course, provided you have studied the necessary prerequisites. If you are OP-ineligible, you can choose to complete your apprenticeship/traineeship, and then use this qualification to enter the workforce or to continue with further study. You may be granted credit for the units of competency you have completed as part of your apprenticeship/traineeship.

I want to get a job after Year 12. Can I return to study later?

If you enter the workforce after completing Year 12, you can return to further study at any time. In order to be eligible for a course, you must have successfully completed any prerequisite subjects. When you apply for entry to a course, your OP (if you have one) will be used. If you do not have an OP, a rank can be calculated for you, based on what you have done at school or through some recognised training courses. You can even use life experiences and length of time spent working in an industry.



More information

www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au

www.qcaa.qld.edu.au

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Changes to senior assessment and tertiary entrance in Queensland

The Queensland Government has announced a steady and considered transition to revitalised senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. The earliest date for commencement of new systems would be for students starting Year 10 in 2017.

Designed to meet the needs of students, the new systems will include:

- a model that uses school-based assessment and common external assessment
- new processes that strengthen the quality and comparability of school-based assessment
- a move away from the Overall Position (OP) rank to an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

Students and their families should be reassured that existing processes remain fair and reliable.

For further information on the changes visit the QCAA website.

SECONDARY STUDENT SERVICES

Outside Provider Agreement



Northside Christian College is compliant with the requirements of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA), follows the curriculum directions of the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) and is a member school of Independent Schools Queensland (ISQ). The College is also a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) for some Vocational Education Training (VET) Certificates.

Curriculum offerings follow either the Australian Curriculum or studies approved by the QCAA. Currently, the QCAA issues senior syllabuses and other Overall Position (OP) subjects and non-OP (subject area specific) subjects. These are offered where there are viable numbers of students wanting to undertake the courses on offer. Northside provides a small number of VET Certificate programs within our RTO status.

For those students who elect to study a subject outside of the curriculum on offer, the College may endeavour to link them with a choice of external educational Providers. Parents may undertake their own research to select a course of study with an Outside Provider. Dependent on the course of study chosen, the College may elect to facilitate the student's learning through reasonable provision, but does not take ownership of the student's learning within the external program or the provision of final results. Any ensuing contract is primarily between the parent/s and student and the Outside Provider, not the College.

Such offerings may include the following:

- Schools of Distance Education based in Queensland
- TAFE College and Institutes
- Private Providers of VET or other qualifications
- University provided programs for schools
- School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships with trade businesses or other business organisations
- QCAA External Exams and any tutoring engaged in preparation for these
- Musical, Dance or other Artistic graded performances which may be included on the student's Senior Statement or attract a Selection Rank through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC)
- The Trade Training Centre

Each parent/student will be responsible for:

- Making full and direct up-front payments to the Provider
Some exceptions apply and must be clarified with the VET Coordinator before proceeding.
- Contacting their Provider and maintaining ongoing correspondence
It is the student's duty to check his/her learning account ensuring that the competencies are located in their learning accounts by mid-November each year. Please note that Providers may enter results at different junctures in the course. If the required information does not appear in the student's Learning Account, the Provider should be contacted immediately.

SECONDARY STUDENT SERVICES

Outside Provider Agreement



Each parent/student will be responsible for: (cont)

- Providing the student’s Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) (available from Student Services) to the Outside Provider
The Provider is legislated to pass on the student’s outcomes to the QCAA. It is not within the College’s jurisdiction to pass such information on;
- Taking steps in the year of subject selection for the following year.
Any Outside Providers need to be listed as part of the student’s subject selection by the due date set by the College, even if the Provider cannot, at that point, provide a definite placement.

Please be aware that study with an Outside Provider will not provide grounds for a reduction of College tuition fees.

Please sign the following statement to indicate that you have read and understood the conditions of the Outside Provider Agreement.

It is a requirement that The Agreement must be returned prior to the commencement of any program.

Student: _____ Year Level: _____

Program: _____

Outside Provider: _____

I recognise that by undertaking a program with an Outside Provider that, whilst Northside Christian College may facilitate my learning with this Provider ...

- the College is neither responsible for the learning process nor provision of any final result or paperwork awarded on completion of the course of study
- College tuition fees are not reduced.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent’s Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please sign and return the agreement to Secondary Student Services.