

## Our Assessment & Reporting is changing

Many of you know that we have been working very hard on our curriculum and assessment over the last couple of years to bring it into line with the new Victorian Curriculum Standards. This will result in some important changes to our assessment and reporting.

### **More regular, focused assessment tasks:**

One of the changes you will notice is that each subject will be doing an assessment task every four or five weeks, soon after each major concept or topic has been taught. So for example, soon after Year 8 Science students have learned about cells & microscopes, they will have a test to assess their understanding. After Year 9 English students have read the novel "Tomorrow When the War Began", they will write an essay on their understanding of the main themes. Most subjects will have about 4 – 6 assessment tasks across a semester subject, so 2 or 3 summative assessment tasks each term. This very much reflects the style of SACs (assessment tasks) at VCE.

### **Introducing Learning Tasks:**

We are introducing a new aspect of Compass, called 'Learning Tasks'. This means that teachers will publish the details of the task, including timelines and a description of the task, to students, and parents will have access to this. When you get on to your child's dashboard on Compass, you need to click on the Pencil icon and a "Learning Tasks" option appears. If you click on to this you can see what assessment tasks are coming up, when they are due and the results of any assessment tasks that have already happened. This can look like a long list of tasks, but remember, this is the whole list of assessment tasks for every subject for the semester. Some teachers and subjects are listing all of their assessment tasks in advance, others are posting them up progressively, closer to the time they will be done. Look at the 'Due Date' column to see what is close to being due. You will see comments and percentages appearing for tasks that have already been done.

### **Continual information on your child's progress:**

Once the tasks have been assessed, teachers will then post up results, feedback and comments about how each student performed on the assessment. This feedback is written for students but, of course, parents can also access this. This means that parents will be kept informed about upcoming assessments and will be able to check in on Compass and see regular feedback about student progress.

We have set ourselves an expectation that results should appear within two weeks from when the task was done, that is, teachers will assess and report on assessment tasks within a fortnight. The exception to this is where there are multiple classes of a VCE subject as these teachers need to moderate their results by comparing assessments between the group of teachers. This slows the process down so these results will take more time to be posted. This is particularly true of VCE English.

### **Standards-based assessment:**

The new Victorian Curriculum Standards are a set of statements that describe what students should know and be able to do at each level of schooling in each subject area. We have built our curriculum goals and assessment tasks directly in line with these so that students will get much clearer outlines of what is expected from them. The feedback they will be given will also be written in those terms so that students get clearer advice on what they have done well and where they need to improve or move to next. Students at Year 7 – 11 will receive a % for each assessment task, as well as feedback comments. Year 12 VCE students will receive a raw number such as 12/15 for each task. Compass will present this as '12' but the task description will tell you how many marks were possible (ie.15).

### **Impact on reports:**

The current round of Progress Reports has not been changed as we have not decided on our new format yet but you will see a new version by the next round of reporting. We are going to report on a broader range of 'learning habits' as you will already be receiving regular information on achievement through learning tasks.

Our end of semester reports will now be much clearer and simpler summaries, with an overview of the assessment tasks and information about your child's 'learning habits'. Remember, you will now be getting very specific assessment information from each subject every 5 - 6 weeks so that information does not need to be repeated in written comments on the end of semester reports.

On the semester reports, you will also see an indication of where your child is working compared to the standard expected in each key area of the curriculum for each subject. This will be shown on a five-point scale something like:

Well below expected standard	Working towards expected standard	At expected standard	Slightly above expected standard	Well above expected standard
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The Department of Education has not completely clarified this yet but we know that the old A – E grades no longer need to be used and the old VELS levels and progression points (like 7.5) are no longer relevant. We are still trialling some new approaches here so you may notice some variation in percentage results on assessment tasks as we find effective ways of judging student achievement against these new standards.

### **What else is changing?**

- Most assessment tasks will occur during class time under test-like conditions.
- Assessment tasks are being designed so that getting 80 – 100% will be harder and only students working above standard will achieve those levels.
- Students working around the expected levels would be expected to achieve results in the 40 – 80% range.
- Some students may find that it is harder to get high percentages as we try to stretch our expectations at the 'above standard' end and include some harder, application type questions, for example.
- Students with special learning needs may be given alternative or modified tasks set at a lower standard so that they can gain a sense of achievement and show learning growth, but their semester reports will still show their achievement against the expected standard for that year level.
- Students will receive feedback on their learning more often, giving them a chance to work on improvement areas or push themselves where needed.
- Students need to make every effort to be at school when an assessment tasks is scheduled. They will know well in advance when the task will be and what they are expected to know or do.

### **Be patient with us!**

This is a big change for teachers and has taken a lot of background work to get to this point. The system on Compass is new to us and we are learning and trialling as we go. Many decisions have been made but others could still change as we roll this out. We will be asking you for feedback on issues like whether the raw number for each task at Year 12 is the way to go or what 'learning habits' you would like to know about. Teachers are working ferociously hard on setting up this new system and there are bound to be lots of 'teething problems'.

### **Are you connected to KDC?**

Remember, if you have lost your password details or are not sure how to log on to Compass then call our office or your House STA and they will help you to get connected. Compass can run on both Android and Apple phones as well as any internet-connected computer. Your child should have brought home a couple of KDC Connect booklets in the last few days, which remind you how to connect to Compass in a variety of ways and provide a 'how to' on accessing Learning Tasks.

Please talk to your children about their assessment and get involved in helping them to plan for tasks and respond to the feedback they are given. If you have questions about any assessments or results, email the teacher involved or call the relevant House.

If we can all make this work, we should see students who are more independent and self-managing in their learning and make even further gains in our student achievement and learning growth.

Thank you for your support,



Linda Maxwell  
Principal