

## Welcome to the 2nd cohort of school graduates under the New Academic Structure

Building on the smooth implementation of the first three-year cycle of Hong Kong's New Senior Secondary (NSS) curriculum, the second cohort of students have completed their secondary education and they, in pursuit of their own interests, are embarking on a new phase of their learning journey. While we are looking forward to welcoming the birth of the third cohort of students in 2014, we would like to share with you how we are proceeding in this learning journey.

### More students eligible for post-secondary studies

Some 70,000 school candidates have taken part in the second Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination in 2013, and their overall performance was encouraging<sup>1</sup>. We are glad that around 70% of day school graduates are eligible to apply for sub-degree programmes and relevant civil service posts in Hong Kong and 38.9% of them, with an increase of 1.2% from last year, have met the general entrance requirements for local undergraduate programmes. Many congratulations to the students for their hard work, and deep appreciation to the education community for their dedication to developing the next generation.

### Short-term comprehensive review for a systemic reform completed in 2013 to improve implementation

Upon the smooth completion of the first cycle of the NSS curriculum, a comprehensive review<sup>2</sup> of the New Academic Structure (NAS) was conducted in 2012/13 jointly by the Education Bureau, the Curriculum Development Council, and the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority to collect extensive feedback from education stakeholders through various channels such as surveys, studies, focus group interviews, seminars, forums and meetings, to understand the issues of concerns and optimise the implementation of the NAS.

### Impact – quality, quantity, and global mobility

We are delighted to share with you some rewarding findings. Surveys and other feedback indicate that the NSS has succeeded in providing what was intended, “a flexible, coherent and diversified curriculum aimed at catering for students’ varied interests, needs, aptitudes and abilities” (Curriculum Development Council, 2009). Statistics from “The Survey on New Senior Secondary Information” (2012) confirms that as a result of the reform, students are studying a wider range of subjects, with as many as 1,129 subject combinations in 2012 according to their interests, not limiting to science, commerce and arts streams. Feedback from principals, teachers and students indicates that the new curriculum has contributed positively to the quality of student learning, in both academic and non-academic areas. Their feedback indicates that the Seven Learning Goals of the NSS curriculum framework are being achieved by students. Both teachers and students reckon that the wide variety of Other Learning Experiences (OLE) under the new curriculum and the process of preparing the Student Learning Profile (SLP) have facilitated students’ development of positive values, attitudes and generic skills (e.g. collaboration, problem solving), which would better prepare them for further studies and employment. Students, in general, indicate that they find the subjects in the new curriculum enjoyable and interesting, that the subjects have helped them learn independently and develop other skills.

The NAS seeks to facilitate global student mobility through smooth articulation to multiple pathways. The non-local recognition for the HKDSE established since 2008 has enabled several thousand HKDSE holders to be accepted to a wide range of institutions outside Hong Kong, for degree and post-secondary study. In the “Survey on 2012 Secondary 6 Students’ Pathways”, around 7% of respondents indicated that they had gone to study outside of Hong Kong, with the UK followed by Mainland China the most popular destinations

### Medium-term review to complete in 2015

We are committed to nurturing the ongoing improvement of education in Hong Kong. A medium-term review is being conducted and would be completed in 2015. Do share with us your feedback on the performance of our NSS graduates, and we will keep you posted of the latest development too!

Education Bureau  
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<sup>1</sup> For details of the HKDSE Examination results statistics, please refer to the press release of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority ([www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/PR/20130714\\_HKDSE\\_Results\\_ENG\\_FULLL.pdf](http://www.hkeaa.edu.hk/DocLibrary/Media/PR/20130714_HKDSE_Results_ENG_FULLL.pdf)).

<sup>2</sup> A progress report on the NAS Review: The New Senior Secondary Learning Journey – Moving Forward to Excel with details of the fundamental changes, achievements and challenges of the NAS as well as an overview of the short-term recommendations for fine-tuning the NSS curriculum and assessment, was released on 19 April 2013. Please refer to the designated webpage ([www.edb.gov.hk/nas/review/en](http://www.edb.gov.hk/nas/review/en)).