



TAK SUN SECONDARY SCHOOL

New Senior Secondary Bulletin

Issue 1

November 2009

Message from the School (前言)

It has been more than two months since the New Senior Secondary (NSS) curriculum was started. There are still lots of information coming from the Education Bureau. In order to cope with the updated information regarding the NSS curriculum, the School will issue the NSS Bulletin regularly so that parents and students can meet the NSS requirements and better prepare for the HKDSE (Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education) Examinations in 2012.

Issues in this Bulletin (目錄)

1. Updated University Admission Requirements
2. New Reporting System
3. NSS Publications
4. Introduction of Applied Learning

The NSS Bulletin will be available on the School Homepage for easy access. More information can be found on the EDB website at <http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/> (It can be accessed with the School NSS homepage (Curriculum → NSS Curriculum)).

If you have any enquiries regarding the implementation of NSS curriculum at our School or more information regarding the NSS curriculum, please contact our Director of Curriculum Development, Mr. Eric Kwan, at 2317-4339 or erk@tsss.edu.hk.



1. Updated University Entrance Requirements (大學收生最新資訊)

The university entrance requirements were updated on 27th October 2009. Students and parents may refer to the following link for the details, which are also accessible through the School homepage (Curriculum → NSS Curriculum).

http://334.edb.hkedcity.net/doc/eng/University_entrance_requirements_Eng_v1.pdf

2. New Reporting System (新成績表)

A new report system has been used to report the performance of our Secondary Four students. The subjects are organized according to the NSS curriculum framework:

Core subjects

- English Language, Chinese Language, Mathematics and Liberal Studies.

Elective subjects

- Only the elective subjects taken by the students are shown in the report card.

Other Learning Experiences (OLE) subjects

- Aesthetic Education, Physical Education and Religious Studies and Ethics.

Student's level of performance in core subjects and elective subjects is reported with reference to a set of standards as defined by cut scores on the variable or scale for a given subject. There are five levels of performance (1 to 5), with 5 being the highest. A performance below the cut score for level 1 will be labeled as "Unclassified" (U). Level 5 students with the best performance will have their results annotated with the symbols "***" and the next top group with the symbol "**". In order to provide a general interpretation of these standards, the School has aligned the levels with the following descriptors:

5**	Excellent
5*	Merit
5	Very Good
4	Good
3	Satisfactory
2	Meeting requirements
1	Not meeting requirements
U	Unclassified

For the OLE subjects, the performance of the students is reported at four different levels depending on the students' performance, efforts and achievements in these courses:

Dr	Attained with Distinction
Cr	Attained with Credit
At	Attained
NA	Not Attained

3. NSS Publications (新高中小冊子)

The “New Academic Structure – Parents Handbook” was published by the Curriculum Development Institute of the Education Bureau (EDB) to provide parents of the first cohort of New Senior Secondary students (Secondary 4) with the essential information about the New Academic Structure.

Another booklet from the EDB titled “Decoding the New Senior Secondary Curriculum – Student Handbook” aims at enhancing students’ understanding of the New Senior Secondary Curriculum and the learning opportunities provided, as well as their role as effective learners. Both booklets would be distributed to Secondary 4 students and parents by the end of November.



New Academic Structure
– Parents Handbook (EDB, 2009)



Decoding the New Senior Secondary
Curriculum – Student Handbook (EDB, 2009)

The “HKDSE Examination” and the “HKDSE Examination – Information on School-based Assessment” booklets have been published recently by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA). These booklets provide students and parents with an overview of various aspects of the new examinations, including the structure, the methods of assessment and the report system. These booklets would be distributed to Form 4 students and parents by the end of November.



HKDSE Examination (HKEAA, 2009)



HKDSE Examination – Information on School-based Assessment (HKEAA, 2009)

Due to the impact of the NSS implementation, the EDB has also issued some leaflets for the parents of the last batch of students under the existing educational system so that both parents and students can understand more in the preparation of the students' future career plans. For the other batch of NSS students, some newsletters are available for students so that they can get more information about the NSS.



“334” New Academic Structure – Useful Tips for Parents (EDB, 2009)



News articles on New Senior Secondary Structure (EDB, 2009)

4. Introduction of Applied Learning (應用學習簡介)

Applied Learning (ApL) is an integral part of the NSS curriculum which complements other NSS subjects by offering studies with stronger elements of practical learning linked to broad professional and vocational fields. After six years of piloting since the 2003/04 school year, the first cohort of NSS ApL courses will be launched in the 2010/11 school year and students can take ApL courses as elective subjects in Secondary 5 and Secondary 6.

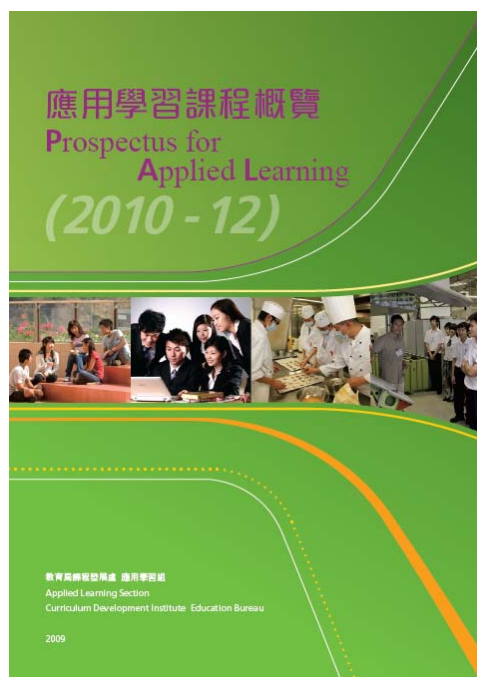
Similar to the requirements of other NSS subjects, ApL focuses on nurturing students' knowledge, skills and attitudes. The emphasis is to provide students with opportunities to understand fundamental theories and concepts through application and practice, develop generic skills in authentic contexts, and explore their orientation for life-long learning and career aspirations.

All current Secondary 4 students may apply for studying NSS ApL courses in Secondary 5 and Secondary 6 from the 2010/11 to 2011/12 school years. The duration of each ApL course is 180 contact hours, generally extending over two academic years in Secondary 5 and Secondary 6.

Assessment of ApL courses (應用學習科目的評核)

There is no public examination for ApL courses. Assessments of student performance, including both formative and summative assessments, are undertaken by course providers and administered mainly by the respective course tutors.

In order to ensure the consistency of assessment standards, the HKEAA is responsible for the moderation of the assessment results submitted by the course providers. The moderated results of ApL courses will be recorded on the HKDSE certificate. In this connection, schools should arrange their students to register with the HKEAA for entry to ApL courses together with other NSS subjects when applying for the participation in the HKDSE examination. For details, please refer to the announcements soon to be made by the HKEAA.



Students who have successfully completed their enrolled ApL courses will be designated as ‘Attained’ or ‘Attained with Distinction’ on the HKDSE certificate. Students awarded ‘Attained with Distinction’ will be deemed to have performed at a level comparable to the Standards-referenced Reporting of the HKDSE at Level 3 or above.

ApL course for our students (本校的應用學習科目)

In the first NSS cohort to be launched in the 2010-12 school years, a total of 30 ApL courses categorised under the following six areas of studies will be offered by a total of 11 course providers approved by the EDB: Creative Studies, Media and Communication, Business, Management and Law, Services, Applied Science and Engineering and Production. Details of the 30 NSS ApL courses and the 11 course providers are available on the EDB website at <http://www.edb.gov.hk/apl>.

Our School is planning to offer “Film and Video Studies” under the category of Media and Communication. This ApL course is offered by the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE). Please note that a student has to drop one subject when he is going to take up the ApL course.

The screenshot displays the EDB website page for the ApL course '8. 電影及錄像 (Film and Video Studies)'. The page is organized into several sections:

- 課程名稱 (Course Name):** 8. 電影及錄像 (Film and Video Studies)
- 課程描述 (Course Description):** Details the course's focus on film and video production, including scriptwriting, directing, and editing.
- 課程內容 (Course Content):** Lists topics such as film history, theory, and practical production techniques.
- 課程目標 (Course Objectives):** Outlines the skills and knowledge students will gain, such as understanding film language and producing short films.
- 課程提供者 (Course Providers):** A list of approved providers, including the Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (IVE).
- 課程詳情 (Course Details):** Provides information on course duration, entry requirements, and contact details for providers.

A photograph on the right side of the page shows a student operating a professional video camera on a tripod, illustrating the practical nature of the course.

Taster programme of ApL courses (應用學習科目的試驗計劃)

Most Taster Programmes will last for about one half day, depending on the nature and contents of the programmes. As they are offered by course providers free-of-charge with limited places, schools should give the priority to students who are interested in taking the related ApL courses as elective subjects in the 2010-12 school years.

Our School is planning to offer a taster programme in Film and Video Studies for our Form 4 students. They may apply for the programme at their own cost. The details will be given out in due course.