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BCATS Resource Development

April is here already and term 1 of the school year finishes this Thursday. The last few weeks have been particularly busy for the BCATS qualification development team and by last Friday the bulk of the draft resource and assessment material for the Pilot Schools had been completed and sent off to the printer.

Once the printing has been completed the material will then be dispatched to BCITO Regional Offices and delivered to the respective schools during this coming week. (To those Pilot Schools involved rest assured – you will get it before close of play on Thursday!)

Each school participating in the Pilot Programme has been allocated a BCITO staff member based in the Regional Office which services the area where school is located.

BCATS Secondary Schools Pilot Programme

The purpose of the BCATS Pilot Programme is to evaluate the suitability of the draft resource, assessment and support material for the draft new unit standards at present under development. These units have similar common assessment tasks as those contained in the existing Elementary Construction Skills domain.

The pilot will also provide the opportunity for unit and achievement standards from other secondary school curriculum areas to be evaluated for their suitability and content.

Once the pilot is completed and the feedback analysed, decisions will be made on the final structure of the qualification/s in the domain and the content of the unit standards, resource, assessment and support material.

The BCITO is committed to introducing the BCATS qualification/s from the beginning of 2008. To achieve this goal we will have to ensure that all of the material is available to providers from November of this year.

Professional Development Day

During March, a successful orientation day was held for specialist subject teachers from the cluster group of Northland, Auckland and Waikato Pilot Schools from the English, Mathematics and Graphics curriculum areas.

The day commenced with a visit to Alloy Yachts, a company in West Auckland which successfully competes on the global market constructing super yachts. The opportunity to see these huge luxury vessels on the production line and the coordination of the complex range of operations that contribute to their construction over a three year period was truly impressive for those in attendance.

This company has a staff of over 300 tradesmen and more than 60 apprentices in a range of woodworking, electrical and engineering trades. The company has developed strong links with the Gateway programme and a number of apprentices are recruited each year directly as a result of participating in that programme.

In the afternoon session, speakers outlined the opportunities and advantages of completing a trade based qualification.

Background Information

The number of new contacts on the BCATS database has increased considerably over the last couple of months and there may be some people who would like to receive some overview and background information on the BCATS programme.

If you require this information please contact:

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