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Hello everyone and welcome

Today marks the approximate midpoint of the BCATS resource, assessment and support material development cycle. The BCITO has committed to distributing this material to schools and providers by late October / early November and we're pleased to say that we're on track.

There are still a number of steps in the Quality Assurance process (both internal and external) to be complied with before the units are registered on the NQF – but as with the resource, assessment and support material development, the units and qualification is on track too.

BCATS Pilot Programme

Last week was also the midpoint of the BCATS Pilot Programme and progress reports to date indicate that the material has been favourably received by both teachers and students.

The Pilot Programme is focussing primarily on modified draft unit standards from other domains (such as Elementary Construction Skills) that will be included in the new Building, Construction and Allied Trades Skills domain. We are grateful to those in the Pilot Programme for their valuable contribution in reviewing the material and making sure that it is relevant and achievable within the school environment.

To those who are part of the BCATS Pilot Programme, feedback forms will be mailed out to you next week and need to be returned by Thursday 21st June. We need this back so that all comments can be analysed, changes made, and pre-moderation completed prior to submitting the units and the qualification to NZQA.

BCATS Case Study – Hauraki Plains College

Hauraki Plains College is a decile 4 school located at Ngatea on State Highway 2 approximately an hour's drive south east from Auckland.

Under the leadership of the Principal, Ngaire Harris, and with the commitment of the staff and support from the Board of Trustees and the community, are presently evaluating the adoption of a multi career path academy type programme commencing at year 10.

Preliminary planning is now under way for the introduction of a Construction Academy which will deliver the BCATS programme commencing at the beginning of 2008.

The main aim of the programme is to provide opportunities for a student to focus on a career pathway from a range of occupations through workplace learning while at the same time gain credit for units that may contribute to achieving a qualification relevant to their chosen career.

Other advantages of flexible workplace learning include:

- Increased access for students to learning appropriate to their needs;

- Removing barriers to learning;
- Increasing the effectiveness of learning by making it learner centred;
- Enabling students to take more responsibility for their own learning;
- Testing future career and employment opportunities; and
- Increased motivation and interest in other curriculum areas.

Fundamental to the success of the Academy Programme, the Hauraki Plains College Pathway Programme provides an integrated approach which combines both the mentoring of a student's academic progress and career planning. The main aim of this programme is to encourage and assist all students to take personal responsibility for their own future direction and look beyond school and establish a clear direction and focus for their future life.

The programme aims to produce students who are versatile, independent and are capable of making rational decisions and with the knowledge and skills to manage their transition from school to further learning or employment.

BCATS Resource Development

Another reminder to all those people who are delivering interesting and exciting programmes and courses that as part of the BCATS resource package, we intend to also produce a teacher's manual. This manual will provide teachers with a comprehensive range of aids, projects and innovative ideas to assist in the delivery of the units in the BCATS programme.

There are some really great results flowing out of existing programmes run by schools and TEO's throughout the country. So if there is something special that is working for you and may benefit others, feel free to let us know and if it is appropriate, we'd love to include it in the manual.

Likewise, if you have some great projects (plans, drawings, specs, photos, descriptions etc), we'd also love to be able to include them and recognise those schools and students who submit them.

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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