STUDENT CONNECT

SUCCESS IN YEAR 12 AND BEYOND

May 2014

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Win an iPad Air!

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Queensland Studies Authority
WIN AN

iPAD AIR!

QSA is offering Year 12 students the chance to win one of three iPad Airs. Entering the draw is easy. Simply log on to your learning account on the Student Connect website at www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au between 1 May and 31 August 2014.

Winners will be notified in early September and announced on the Student Connect homepage.

You’ll need your LUI (Learner Unique Identifier) and password to log on. If you don’t know your LUI, ask your school for it.

While you’re in your learning account, don’t forget to check your personal and subject enrolment details. If any information is missing or incorrect, talk to your school or VET provider. In December, QSA will post your results to the home address in your learning account, so it’s important to let your school know if your address has changed.

STAY FOCUSED! YOU’RE ALMOST THERE!

With Term 1 behind you, the countdown to the release of Year 12 results and OPs has begun. While the end of school may be in sight, it’s important to stay focused.

This edition of Student Connect magazine highlights key aspects of your final semester of study including the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE), Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test, Overall Positions (OPs) and Field Positions (FPs).

It also contains key dates for 2014, useful information on career planning and scholarships as well as profiles of past students who share their tips for success in Year 12 and beyond.

The next time you receive Student Connect magazine, it will be from the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) rather than the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA).

QCAA, which commences work from 1 July 2014, will assume all of QSA’s functions and be responsible for implementing new initiatives in curriculum, assessment and tertiary entrance.

It will deliver the QCS Test in September, calculate students’ OPs and FPs and issue your results in December.

Good luck with your studies. We wish you a happy and successful year!
RAW TALENT

In Year 12, Urangan State High School student Madison Howarth was offered a place on RAW Dance Company’s highly-competitive full-time course. Madison accepted, and this year moved from Hervey Bay to Brisbane to start her Certificate IV in Dance.

A naturally gifted dancer, Madison only began formal lessons when she was 11. She started with ballet and within a few years was teaching tap, jazz and hip hop to students her own age and younger.

Madison says before she started dance, her self-esteem was low following years of bullying.

“I had chronic eczema when I was younger. It looked like I’d been burned. People would stare at me and make comments all the time. Mum tried all sorts of creams and medications but nothing worked. I’m Aboriginal, and I experienced a lot of racial bullying at primary school as well as bullying because of my eczema.”

Madison says her mum enrolled her in dance classes to boost her confidence. “Mum knew how much I loved music and dancing. I’ve had dreams of being a dancer and performer since I can remember. I was always dancing around the house!”

Now Madison is turning her dreams into reality — thanks to her mum’s support and encouragement.

“I had a lot of people doubt my dreams and ability to pursue them, and every now and then I would believe what they were saying. Having my mum believe in me and push me to do what I love resulted in me being accepted into RAW Dance Company and has given me the opportunity to pursue my aspirations. I can’t thank her enough.”

Madison Howarth, 18
Urangan State High School

Subjects: Dance, Drama, English, Geography, Legal Studies, Maths A
Career goal: To perform while travelling the world

“Appreciate every moment. Year 12 passes by so fast. Stay as focused as you can. All your hard work will pay off in the end, and it will be worth it.”
YOUR QCE: ARE YOU ON TRACK?

By now you’re hopefully well on the way to achieving a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) — Queensland’s senior school qualification.

To get a QCE, you need 20 credits in a set pattern and a set standard. You must also meet literacy and numeracy requirements.

You can check your enrolment details and your progress towards a QCE in your learning account at www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au. You need your LUI and password to log on. If you don’t know your LUI, ask your school for it.

If you have any questions about your QCE eligibility, talk to your school or call the Student Connect hotline on 1800 804 991.

At USQ, you can design your degree to suit your life.

#1 IN QUEENSLAND FOR GRADUATES IN FULL-TIME WORK

WE ARE RIGHT THERE WITH YOU WHILE YOU STUDY

ONLINE, ON-CAMPUS OR BOTH

SMALLER CLASSES = more access TO LECTURERS

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

If you suffer from illness or trauma during Year 11 or 12 and you can prove it has had, or will have, a serious effect on your studies and results, you can apply to your school principal for special provision for school assessment.

What do I need to do?

Let your school know as soon as you become aware of the illness, condition or trauma. You must apply to your school principal with documentary evidence well before the last day of school in Year 12 (21 November 2014). It’s too late to apply once you have left school and received your results.

What kind of special provision might I get?

Your school principal may decide to make a reasonable adjustment to some forms or items of your assessment. This could include extending due dates, alternative assessment arrangements, or exempting you from some assignments. To be fair to other students, you can’t be given credit for work you haven’t done or for how well you might have achieved.

Want more info?

For more information talk to your school or visit www.qsa.qld.edu.au.
“In Year 12, there are people who will help you and push you. Make the most of it. Try your hardest and don’t say ‘no’ to opportunities.”

RYAN’S KITCHEN RULES

Ryan Grant never planned on a career in hospitality — he always wanted to be a police officer. “When I was in Year 10, my hospitality teacher persuaded me and a friend to enter a cooking competition. I didn’t really want to do it, but I gave it a shot. We ended up winning, and the mentor chef offered me a job in his restaurant.”

Ryan took up the position, and he’s never looked back. He says: “Doing my school-based apprenticeship was the best decision I ever made. My interest in food became a passion and it quickly became my life.”

Asked why he loves working as a chef so much, Ryan says: “It’s the adrenaline, the buzz. When you talk to other people in the restaurant business, they get it. The hours are terrible — no parties, no weekends off. But it’s so enjoyable and really worthwhile.”

Ryan is certainly committed to his trade. While in Year 12, he worked in the restaurant until late at night after school each day. He only had three days off after finishing Year 12 (for schoolies!) and has now started his full-time apprenticeship.

Since winning his first cooking competition in 2011, Ryan has won gold at both the 2012 Queensland and National Chef of the Year competitions. Last year he won the Queensland School Culinary Challenge and was named Queensland School-based Apprentice of the Year and National Apprentice Chef of the Year. Not bad for someone who never intended on becoming a chef!

Ryan Grant, 18
Marymount College, Burleigh Waters


Career goal: To finish my apprenticeship then work in Melbourne and overseas
The QCS Test is one of the tools QSA uses to compare the achievements of OP-eligible students studying different subjects at different schools across Queensland.

The QCS Test assesses achievement in the 49 Common Curriculum Elements (CCEs). These are generic skills that you work with across your senior subjects. This means that you are preparing for the QCS Test all the time and in every subject.

The QCS Test is made up of four testpapers:
- a Writing Task — requiring a response of 600 words
- a Short Response testpaper — requiring different types of response
- two Multiple Choice testpapers — with 50 items in each.

While sitting the QCS Test is essential for students seeking an OP, other students can benefit from sitting the test, since:
- a grade of C or above will ensure you meet QCE literacy and numeracy requirements
- a grade of D or above may boost your QTAC selection rank.

Even if you’re not OP-eligible, you should have a go at the test — your results aren’t included in your school’s results — that’s a big myth. Only the results of OP-eligible students are used in OP calculations.

QCS Test markers receive intensive training in applying the marking schemes. They mark independently, and their judgments are monitored so that every script is marked fairly. Referee marking occurs if required.

Writing Task responses are marked by at least three markers with at least two judgments being provided for each criterion. Similarly, each item on the Short Response testpaper is double marked, meaning at least 10 markers are involved in marking the whole testpaper. Multiple Choice responses are scanned electronically. Any discrepancies, including blanks and double entries, are investigated.
Top tips
The best QCS Test preparation comes through the study of your school subjects. You should also:
- know the test procedures in advance and understand the implications of not following these directions
- know what equipment you need for each session and what equipment is not permitted in the test room
- be familiar with the 49 Common Curriculum Elements
- understand the key terms before you sit the test
- be aware of the knowledge that is assumed in the test
- sit at least part of past Multiple Choice and Short Response test papers
- attempt a past Writing Task — giving yourself two hours to craft your response
- refine your test-taking strategies, including time management
- apply to QSA for any special provision relevant to your circumstances
- prepare yourself mentally and physically for the test days.

By now you should have received your copy of the 2014 QCS Test Student Information Bulletin from your school. It contains all you need to know about the QCS Test, including what to expect in each test paper, how to prepare for the test and strategies for success. View an electronic version on the QSA website.

Writing hints
Make sure your handwriting is legible. Unless you are directed to respond in a different format, write in clear, correct sentences that have a logical flow and sequence. Revisit what you’ve learned in school about basic grammar, correct punctuation, correct spelling and commonly confused words. Make sure you know how many lines are needed for 600 words of your handwriting.

Number know-how
While all students deal with language in their senior subjects, some students may not continue studying maths. The QCS Test assumes you have a sound knowledge of Year 10 maths, so it’s a good idea to refresh your ability to work with some basic concepts and operations before the test. Examples are available on the QSA website in Preparing for the QCS Test: Sample questions that draw on assumed mathematical knowledge.

Past test papers and Retrospectives
Most schools organise QCS Test practice sessions using past test papers, but anyone can purchase hardcopy test papers from the past three years from the QSA. Retrospectives, which provide commentaries on past QCS Tests, are also available on the QSA website.

Final countdown
This year’s QCS Test will take place on Tuesday 2 and Wednesday 3 September.

In the weeks before the test, review basic arithmetical operations, sample items, solutions and explanations. Hours of intense work preparing for the test won’t improve your performance and might even make you feel more anxious.

On the day before the test, check your equipment, the starting time and the venue and organise your transport. Get a good night’s sleep, and relax!

Don’t cheat!
Don’t cheat or engage in any other form of academic misconduct. QSA has sophisticated processes for cross-checking responses. If it is shown that you cheated, you won’t receive a grade for the QCS Test.

Find out more

KEY TERMS: QUICK QUIZ
Do you know what these key terms mean?
- Account for
- Compare
- Contrast
- Discuss
- Derive
- Determine
- Evaluate
- Exemplify
- Justify
- Verify

Page 28 of the Student Information Bulletin has the answers.
It’s been a year of new starts for Brianna Jackson — a new town, a new job and a new place of study.

In January, Brianna moved from Blackwater to Yeppoon to start work at an accounting firm, and begin a Bachelor of Accounting at CQUniversity.

Brianna says: “For a long time, I had absolutely no idea what I wanted to do when I finished school. I considered a lot of options, but in the end chose accounting because it was my favourite subject at school and I did really well in it. I thought, if I’m good at it, why not pursue it?”

Keen to earn money and gain work experience while studying, Brianna applied to a number of accounting firms in Central Queensland.

She says: “I didn’t think there was any use studying accounting and working somewhere unrelated. I wanted a job that gave me insight into the profession and real-world experience.”

Brianna’s proactive approach paid off. She was offered a position at a Yeppoon accounting firm, and received a scholarship from CQUniversity thanks to her excellent academic record and involvement in her local community.

This semester, Brianna is working two days a week and studying the other three. “It’s really good. Everyone at the firm is very supportive. If I need help with anything at uni, I just ask my colleagues!”

After Brianna graduates, she plans on becoming a chartered accountant servicing rural towns like Blackwater — her hometown. “For many people in Central Queensland, the nearest accountant is more than an hour away. There are a lot of people and businesses that would really benefit from having an accountant closer by.”

**Brianna Jackson, 18**

**Blackwater State High School**

Subjects: Accounting, Biology, English, Legal Studies, Maths B, Physical Education

Career goal: To become a chartered accountant

A WELL CALCULATED MOVE

Year 12 goes by quickly. Take every opportunity to be involved in your final year. Enjoy every moment and make as many memories as you can.

“Year 12 goes by quickly. Take every opportunity to be involved in your final year. Enjoy every moment and make as many memories as you can.”
If you have a medical condition or impairment, or if another factor could make it difficult for you to sit the Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test, you may be eligible for special provision.

There are four types of special provision available.

**Before the test**
- **Special arrangements** — practical adjustments to the test conditions (e.g. rest breaks, A3-size test materials, use of a computer).
- **Exemption** — allows a student to be absent from the test and remain eligible for an Overall Position (OP).

**After the test**
- **Absentee exemption** — allows a student who was unavoidably absent from the test to remain eligible for an OP.
- **Declaring a test grade null and void** — allows a student who sat the test to choose not to receive a test grade.

**FAQs**

**How can I find out what might be approved in my situation?**
First, think about the factors that may make it difficult for you to sit the test. Then, talk to your guidance officer or teacher for some advice. You will find information about specific situations in the QCS Test: 2014 Special provision handbook on the QSA website.

**Will special provision affect my OP?**
No. Special provision will not affect your OP and there will be no mention of special provision on your Senior Statement/Statement of Results. If you are approved exemption or have your test grade declared null and void, you will not receive a QCS Test grade. If you are eligible for an OP and do not sit all four test papers, you will become ineligible if you do not apply for, and receive, exemption.

**How do I apply?**
Talk to your guidance officer or teacher. They will tell you which school staff member will help you complete an application form and gather the necessary documentation (e.g. medical certificate/specialist report). We will write to you, care of your school, to tell you the outcome of your application.

**When is the closing date?**
- **Before the test (special arrangements and exemption)** — 21 May 2014. If you are diagnosed with an illness or if another situation develops after this date, apply as soon as possible (but not before the documentation time limits shown in the special provision handbook).
- **After the test (exemption and declaring a test grade null and void)** — 1 October 2014.

**Want more information?**
UNDERSTANDING YOUR OP AND FPs

What are Overall Positions (OPs)?

Your OP (Overall Position) is your position in a statewide rank order from 1 (highest) to 25 (lowest) based on your overall achievement in Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) approved subjects.

OPs are used for tertiary entrance purposes only, indicating how well you have done compared with all other OP-eligible students in Queensland.

How do I get an OP?

To be eligible to get an OP, you must:

- complete 20 semester units of credit in Authority subjects
- study at least three of your subjects for four semesters
- sit the QCS Test
- attend school until the final day of Year 12, which is 21 November 2014.

How is my OP calculated?

To work out your OP, QSA finds out where you rank:

- **In your subject**
  At the end of the year, your teachers send QSA the rank order and gaps between all OP-eligible students in each of your Authority subjects. These are called SAIs (subject achievement indicators).

- **In your school**
  The QSA uses the QCS Test group data to find out where the strong subject-groups (OP-eligible students only) are for that year. Your achievement in your subject can then be compared fairly with the achievement of OP-eligible students in other subjects in your school, to work out your overall ranking in your school.

- **In the State**
  Having worked out where you rank in your school, the QSA uses the QCS test data for the school group (OP-eligible students only) to compare the performance of schools. We can then work out where you rank in relation to all other OP-eligible students across the State.
**Myth: My school can predict my OP**

Fact: Only the QSA has the necessary data to calculate your OP. Any prediction your school makes is only a guide.

**Myth: QSA allocates the number of OP1s for each school in advance**

Fact: QSA does not set a quota of OP1s or any other OP rank for a school. OPs compare the performance of students — not schools — across the state.

**Myth: Some subjects are worth more than others**

Fact: All subjects are treated equally in the calculation of your OP, and you can achieve a high OP, including an OP1, with any combination of subjects.

**Myth: There is a bias in favour of certain schools**

Fact: Students, not schools, are awarded OPs. The procedures followed for the calculation of OPs are exactly the same for students at every school.

**Myth: Students in a small group or small school are disadvantaged**

Fact: The QSA has special procedures in place for small groups and small schools to ensure students are not disadvantaged. SAIs are assigned differently and the scaling processes are adjusted to make sure that OPs reflect students’ performances fairly.

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**What are Field Positions (FPs)?**

Field Positions (FPs) are additional rank orders from 1 (highest) to 10 (lowest) that supplement an OP. FPs may be used by tertiary providers to help differentiate between students with the same OP when the number of places in a course is limited.

You may receive up to five FPs, depending on your subject choices. The extent to which a subject contributes to each FP depends on the weighting of that subject in that field. The QSA publishes the table of subject weights for FPs each year. A template on the QSA website can help you work out which FPs you are eligible for.

**When will I get my OP and FPs?**

Your OP, FPs, QCS Test grade and subject results will be published in your student learning account on the Student Connect website on Saturday 20 December 2014. To access your results online you need your Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) and password. If you don’t know your LUI, ask your school for it.

**Want to know more?**

FOOTY STAR SCORES TOP OP

Year 12 was all about kicking goals — on and off the field — for Mountain Creek State High School student Cameron Stevenson.

Last year, Cameron successfully juggled his sporting and academic commitments to achieve an OP1 and more than 20 credits towards his QCE.

A talented athlete, Cameron represented his school in volleyball, basketball, rugby, athletics and soccer, and is a member of the Brisbane Lions Youth Academy. This required him to travel to Brisbane up to three times a week for training and throughout Queensland and interstate for weekend games.

Cameron says finding time to fit everything into the week was a struggle at times and required sacrifices and creative thinking.

“I didn’t have time for a part-time job, so I did a Certificate III in Sport and Recreation in Year 11. It gave me extra credits towards my QCE and meant I was able to earn money by coaching younger kids and organising events at my local club.”

Despite his overall academic achievement, Cameron would rather be outside than in the classroom. He says his dream is to become a professional sportsperson or a physio for a professional sports team.

With this in mind, Cameron has moved to Brisbane to study physiotherapy at The University of Queensland and to continue his training with the Brisbane Lions.

Cameron Stevenson, 17
Mountain Creek State High School

Subjects: Biology, Economics, English, Maths B, Physical Education, Physics
Career goal: To become a professional athlete or physio for a professional sports team

“Work hard but at the end of the day, your OP is just a number. Have fun and enjoy Year 12.”
PLANNING FOR YOUR FUTURE

If you still don’t know what you want to do when you finish school, don’t panic! There is still time to explore your options.

Careers expos

Careers expos are held in major metropolitan and regional centres across Queensland from May to August each year. At a careers expo, you’ll have the opportunity to talk to representatives from tertiary providers, student services and a wide range of employers about career and further education and training options.

Myfuture website

On the myfuture website — www.myfuture.edu.au — you can explore different occupations, match your skills and interests to a specific job, find out what qualifications you need to pursue your career goals, and more.

Open days

Open days give you the chance to experience life on campus, explore facilities and talk to staff and students. Most tertiary providers hold open days, information sessions and campus tours at least once a year.

Visit the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority’s (QCAA) stand at the careers expos below for information about the QCE, QCS Test, OPs, FPs and more.

- **TSXPO**: 19–20 July
  Exhibition Building, RNA Showgrounds, Brisbane

- **Sunshine Coast Daily Careers Expo**: 22 July
  University of the Sunshine Coast Sports Stadium, Sippy Downs

- **Toowoomba Chronicle Careers Expo**: 28 July
  Clive Berghofer Centre,
  University of Southern Queensland,
  Darling Heights

- **Townsville Careers Expo**: 11 August
  Townsville RSL Stadium, Murray Sports Complex, Annandale

Want to know more?

SEE YOU AT THE EXPO!

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Find out more

QUT Open Day.

You can do all the research in the world, but nothing beats seeing QUT for yourself. So don’t miss QUT Open Day.

**QUT Open Day**
Sunday 27 July, 9am - 3pm
at Gardens Point (city) campus
www.qut.edu.au/open-day
APPLYING FOR TERTIARY STUDY?

If you plan to go on to tertiary study, you’ll need to apply through the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre (QTAC). QTAC processes applications for the majority of undergraduate courses at Queensland and northern New South Wales universities, TAFE Queensland and other selected colleges and institutes. For more information, visit www.qtac.edu.au or call 1300 GO QTAC.

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<th>Important QTAC dates</th>
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<td>18 June 2014 onwards</td>
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<tr>
<td>QTAC guide sent to schools</td>
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<td>5 August 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Applications open for 2014–2015 admission</td>
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<td>30 September 2014</td>
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<td>On-time due date for applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 October 2014 onwards</td>
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<td>Higher application fees apply</td>
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SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

Did you know there are thousands of scholarships available each year for tertiary study in Queensland? A scholarship can help pay for course fees, text books, accommodation costs and living expenses.

Common categories include:
- Financial hardship scholarships
- Scholarships for women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- Scholarships for specific fields of study
- Sporting scholarships.

Whatever your further education and training goals, it is worth finding out what’s available.

For more information
- Visit university, TAFE and other education provider websites.
- Search for scholarships on www.myfuture.edu.au.
- Talk to your school career guidance officer.

33rd Annual TSXPO
TERTIARY STUDIES EXPO

Meet with representatives from all Queensland Universities, interstate and overseas Universities, private education colleges, TAFE institutes, Defence Forces, student services, government employers and agencies plus more to answer all your careers related questions.

www.tsxpo.org

Sat 19 & Sun 20 July 2014
10am - 4pm
Exhibition Building, Brisbane Showgrounds

Visit Website for competition details

Visit
facebook.com/TSXPO
twitter.com/CareersEvents

For other careers events visit:
www.careersevenet.com
Building the family tradition

A career in construction was the obvious choice for former Ipswich Grammar School student Jarred Hancock. “It’s something I’ve had an interest in for a long time. I’ve grown up around building my whole life. My dad is a builder — he built the first house in Springfield — and my brother is a carpenter.”

Jarred considered following in his brother’s footsteps after finishing Year 12 but decided to pursue a Bachelor of Construction majoring in management at the University of Southern Queensland’s Springfield campus instead.

He says: “I’ve always looked up to my brother and I thought seriously about being a carpenter. But I really wanted to further my education at university.”

“I really like communicating with people, organising things, and working as a team. My degree in construction management allows me to combine my people skills and interest in management with my passion for construction and design. It’s the perfect mix for me.”

When he’s not studying, Jarred can be found on the site of his dad’s latest property development.

“I’ve been doing some labouring and carpentry work for my dad to get some experience. It’s great. I finish my lecture and then head over to help out wherever I can.”

After he graduates, Jarred would like to work with his dad and brother in the family business or as a construction manager for a large company.

“My ultimate goal is to become a construction manager for a major property developer. But even to get the chance to do some work experience for one of the big names in construction would be amazing.”

Jarred Hancock, 18

Ipswich Grammar School

Subjects: Drama, English, Geography, Maths A, Physical Education, Technology Studies

Career goal: To be a construction manager

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Enjoy your friends. Enjoy your year. Don’t be scared about finishing Year 12. Life after school is a lot of fun and very exciting.

BUILDING THE FAMILY TRADITION
### KEY DATES FOR 2014

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>21 May</td>
<td>Last day to apply for QCS Test special provision — before the test.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 August</td>
<td>Release of provisional statements: Check your personal and enrolment details. Tell your school if any information is missing or incorrect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 August</td>
<td>Last day to apply for special arrangements for the Senior External Examination.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2–3 September</td>
<td>QCS Test</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>Last day to submit evidence of learning from workplace, community or self-directed learning projects for QCE credit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 September</td>
<td>Last day to submit applications for QCE credit transfer for interstate and international courses of study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 October</td>
<td>Last day to apply for QCS Test special provision — after the test.</td>
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<td>18 October</td>
<td>Senior External Examination period begins.</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>Release of provisional statements: Check your personal and enrolment details. Tell your school if any information is missing or incorrect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 November</td>
<td>Final day for Year 12 students: You must stay at school up to this day to be eligible to receive a QCE and OP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 November</td>
<td>Schools publish subject achievement indicators (SAIs): Check you’ve been placed in the correct position compared with your classmates — if you see an error, talk to your school immediately.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 December</td>
<td>QSA posts QCEs, Senior Statements, Statements of Results, QCIAs and Tertiary Entrance Statements.</td>
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<td>20 December</td>
<td>QSA publishes Year 12 results, OPs and FPNS in student learning accounts on the Student Connect website at: <a href="http://www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au">www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au</a>.</td>
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