



*To Strive is to Grow*

## Beyond Year 10 – a new phase in your education

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### Changes in Compulsory Education

From July 2006, new laws in Queensland have meant that young people now have to stay in school until they finish Year 10 or turn 16.

After Year 10, young people then have to take part in education and training for a further two years or until they have:

- gained a Queensland Certificate of Education / Senior Statement ; or
- gained a Certificate III Vocational qualification; or
- turned 16.

Young people will be able to leave education or training to enter the workforce during this period, as long as they are working at least 25 hours a week.

As a current Year 10 student, your Learning Account has already been created and your education and training achievements undertaken during the next two years of your senior phase of education will be "banked " into this account with the Queensland Studies Authority and may count towards the new senior qualification – the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

### What decisions do you have to make?

- Am I going to continue my education at Boonah SHS and complete Year 11 and Year 12?
- Am I going to leave this school and continue my education at another school or TAFE?
- Am I going to combine study at this or another school with a School-based Traineeship or Apprenticeship?
- Am I going to be engaged in full time employment?

### What questions should you ask?

- If I choose to continue my education how will I know what subjects to choose?
- What subject choices do I have at Boonah State High School?
- At the end of Year 12 what certification do I get? What pieces of paper do I get?
- What do I need to have to get into a Tertiary Institution like a University, College or TAFE Qld?
- What about School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships?
- Will study in Years 11 and 12 be different to what I have been used to in Year 10?

# How do I cope with Years 11 and 12?

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So you have breezed through Year 10 – and perhaps some of you are hoping to do likewise in Year 11. The news is, though, that many of you are likely to be jolted somewhat by the marked differences you may find in several areas.

For one thing – **Year 11 is not easy**. You may be more than a little dismayed not only by the increase in workload, but also by the type of work you are expected to cover. For example, the work is different in the sense that you will be required to develop a more critical and evaluative approach to your studies.

**Expect to change positively in many ways.** You will not achieve well if you are hoping to leave everything to the last minute and 'crash-study' just before exams. You will need to work regularly and consistently on homework/study/assignments throughout the year. This clearly involves the development of self-discipline and a greater sense of organisation. If you have difficulty planning a realistic and achievable study time table – and **STICKING** to it – seek help before you lapse too far behind. Trying to catch up while still attending to new work can be a demoralising and stressful exercise.

Home, family and personal problems frequently can have a negative effect on your motivation to study. It is difficult to concentrate if you are emotionally distressed. So again, seek out someone you think can help. You may prefer to discuss your concerns with someone you know well and with whom you feel comfortable, or you may choose to talk with a counsellor, social worker or doctor. The guidance officers are always there to help – not just with career concerns, but in personal, emotional and social areas as well.

**The school library has a number of books on study skills.** You should read at least one of these self-help guides. They contain many helpful hints that will make your study time more efficient and effective. As well, throughout the year, and particularly prior to holiday periods, various study skill courses are advertised. Attendance at one of these may give you the skills and the motivation to succeed in your studies.

## How to choose subjects and courses

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Choosing your senior subjects is an experience not to be rushed. Give yourself time to consider the following points:

### What subjects interest you?

It is best to consider those you like and feel you would enjoy over the four semesters.

### What careers interest you?

This question may take considerable thought. In fact you may need to talk it over with informed people. Find out as much as you can about the careers that interest you. Remember, our Guidance Officer is there to help you, and has numerous pamphlets and other information.

### What further education will be required to achieve your career ambitions?

What kinds of courses, and which institutions – perhaps university or TAFE? When considering which subjects to take you should consider the prerequisites for the courses, which lead to the careers you are considering.

## Are your ambitions realistic?

Both you and your parents/caregivers should ensure that your ambitions match your ability and performance. Your achievement during Year 10 will give you a fair indication of whether your ambitions can be achieved. It is also important to know that you will be able to cope adequately with your chosen subjects. If you select subjects, which are too difficult, you may become very frustrated with your lack of progress. Similarly, you will probably become bored and frustrated if you choose subjects below your ability level. Neither situation produces success or satisfaction.

## Have you kept your options open?

If you are unsure what you want to do after completing Year 12, it is best to select subjects that keep your future options as flexible as possible. Even if you have very definite career ideas, it is unwise to select a course that restricts you to a very limited area. While keeping prerequisite subjects in mind, aim for as much variety as possible. This not only helps to maintain interest, but also helps to provide a well-rounded education.

Overall, choose your subjects carefully, and only after having considered the points presented to you. Talk it over with parents or caregivers, teachers or friends if you need to. Certainly, don't hesitate to seek help if you are confused and remember our Guidance Officer is there to assist you.