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National Newsletter: Social Sciences

Information and resources for middle leaders in secondary schools | Term 2 2014

Kia ora, Talofa lava, Mālō e lelei, Kia orana, Talofa ni, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Ni sa bula, Greetings

Welcome back to Term 2 and trust that you had a well deserved break so you feel re-energised for another busy term.

This term we say farewell to Facilitator Sue McVeigh who has taken up the role as National Moderator Business Studies and Accounting at NZQA. Sue has worked tirelessly to support the Commerce teachers – especially for those teaching Business Studies. We wish her well in her new venture and hopefully our paths will cross as she continues to support teachers.

In this newsletter, we focus on presenting information and ideas that we hope will stimulate discussion related to your teaching and learning programmes.

Please share this newsletter with your colleagues, and get in touch if you need additional information or wish to give feedback.

Ngā mihi

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Reflecting on Junior Social Studies

As a result of the Social Science survey towards the end of last year, it was great to be able to offer a workshop in Term 1 **'Progression, Achievement and Pathways for Junior Social Studies'**. It was encouraging to see so many teachers nationwide to:

- Reflect on their current practice
- Be informed and get new ideas from others around achievement and reporting
- Gather ideas to show effective progression in units of work – assessment for formative purposes.

A common question asked was, 'How do we know we are assessing at the right curriculum level?'

Year 9 and 10 students should be assessed at L4 or 5 of the curriculum as it is the Social Studies conceptual understandings that we are assessing - not their literacy. Within each level, differentiate the learning to cater for the needs of your students. To support you in understanding what you should expect at each level use the Social Studies exemplars. These can be found at www.tki.org.nz/r/assessment/exemplars/socialstudies/index_e.html

What's on top?

2014 NZHTA Conference

'I ngā rā o mua'

The days before us

This conference will be held at Dilworth School, Auckland, 29-30th September, 2014.

For more details:

Follow on Twitter: @thedaybeforeus

Like on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/NZHTAConference2014

Or keep checking in for updates at:

<http://www.nzhta.org.nz/>

ULearn 14 conference

'The Ultimate Modern Learning & Teaching conference'

This PLD opportunity focuses on modern learning and teaching practices, environments and uses of digital technologies to:

- Deepen understanding of the latest developments in pedagogy, curriculum and practice
- Create flexible learning spaces that cater for personalised, collaborative and creative learning
- Help align technology with effective pedagogy, and get the most out of every tool they use.

When: 8-10 October 2014

Where: Rotorua Energy Events Centre

www.events.core-ed.org/ulearn

Subject-specific support for 2014

We will be offering some NCEA cluster support throughout Terms 2 and 3. Please look out for the advertising of these through your regional facilitators.

The future of the Social Studies exemplars

These exemplars are a valuable tool to support your understanding of assessment in Social Studies.

Currently, there is a three-question survey about the future of the Social Studies exemplars – to retain these or not. At the time of writing this newsletter, this survey was still open – can I urge you please to complete this as soon as possible.

www.assessment.tki.org.nz/News/Future-of-the-online-exemplars

Literacy in the Social Sciences



In the Social Sciences students need specific help from their teachers as they learn:

- The specialist vocabulary associated with that area
- How to read and understand its texts
- How to communicate knowledge and ideas in appropriate ways
- How to listen and read critically, assessing the value of what they hear and read. (NZC, p 16)
- Annotated student exemplars

To support your students' literacy needs, it's important to inquire into your own practice – Teaching as Inquiry. Literacy Online is to support you as you discover what it is that your students require to succeed. This is a great link to consider and go deeper into at department meetings.

<http://literacyonline.tki.org.nz/Literacy-Online/Secondary-Literacy/Teacher-needs/Literacy-in-the-learning-areas2/Literacy-in-the-Social-Sciences>

Further support within Literacy Online is a module that has been written to:

- Illustrate how you can use subject area literacy teaching and learning activities in social studies.
- Help you develop your learning inquiry by identifying opportunities to observe and analyse what is happening in your classroom.

Take the time to use this module to reflect on your current practices – and allow this as a discussion starter with your colleagues to enhance the teaching and learning of your programmes. This module can be found at:

<http://literacyonline.tki.org.nz/Literacy-Online/Secondary-Literacy/Teacher-needs/Pedagogy/Literacy-in-Secondary-School-Contexts/Module-5-Social-studies-and-subject-area-literacy/Overview>

Have you seen.....?

Increasing Educational Achievement

This report presents the findings of ERO's evaluation of the practices of some schools used to support improved achievement for a specific group of Year 12 students. This report shows how a significant focus on the individual student can make a difference.

www.ero.govt.nz/National-Reports/Increasing-educational-achievement-in-secondary-schools-August-2013

Middle leader support

The Educational Leaders website has useful resources, news and discussions which focus on supporting you in your curriculum leadership role.

<http://www.educationallleaders.govt.nz/Middle-and-senior-leaders>

NZQA subject resource pages

Subject-specific resources including moderation newsletters, resources for internally and externally assessed standards, and scholarship resources.

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/>

NZQA BPW Making Judgements

These workshops are delivered by NZQA for:

- Teachers who need to improve their moderation agreement rates.
- Teachers new to standards based assessment and the NCEA.
- Beginning teachers.

For further details please visit:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/events/best-practice-workshops/>

University Entrance requirements

From 2014, new requirements apply for University Entrance. Students must meet a new literacy requirement to enter into university-level programmes from 2015.

The literacy requirement for the new University Entrance from 2014 is 10 credits at NCEA **Level 2 or above** made up of 5 credits in reading and 5 credits in writing.

For further details please visit:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/publications/newsletters-and-circulars/assessment-matters/university-entrance-requirement-from-1-march-2014/

Reflecting on the use of e-Learning



The NZC outlines a vision of young people who will be confident, capable, lifelong learners, able to effectively use a range of digital technologies. In the classroom, the technology should not distract from the purpose for learning; it should enhance learning.

Consider the important outcomes for students, and how e-learning might support or develop those outcomes. Students need to know how to use technology for a specific task, and should be given time to learn how to use it to complete a task e.g. creating a wiki or shared learning space which includes exploring, uploading of images, inserting links and feeds (RSS).

It is also important for students to have opportunities to convey their understanding by using the available technologies, e.g. presenting using Powerpoint, Prezi, wikis, or using VoiceThread.

Explore the different applications and develop your expertise with the technology so you can assist students and support the teaching and learning of the content.

To further explore relevant information, resources, and communities to support teachers and schools in developing their e-learning practice, go to <http://elearning.tki.org.nz/>

First World War commemorations

In developing your Social Sciences programmes for 2014 and beyond, consider remembering WW1 – 100 years on. WW1 was one of the most significant events of the 20th Century which had a seismic impact on New Zealand society.



WW100

The World War One Programme Office has been established to lead and coordinate New Zealand's centenary commemorations from 2014-18. Its website www.WW100.govt.nz provides a range of resources including:

- Activities and projects register
- A timeline of New Zealand's involvement in the First World War
- A benchmark survey of New Zealanders' understanding of the First World War
- *Discover World War One* and *Life 100 Years Ago* sections to provide context and understanding of New Zealand's involvement
- Links to various other sites and sources

Information is also available on:

Twitter: WW100nz

Facebook: WW100nz

National contact details for Social Sciences

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Previous Social Science newsletters

If you are looking for previous newsletters, go to this link on TKI:

<http://nzcurriculum.tki.org.nz/Secondary-middle-leaders/Professional-learning-and-development/E-newsletters/National-newsletters-2013>

Social Sciences wikispace

This is a very popular site being used by many of you, with resources, key websites, and information to share from our workshops, clusters and in-depth work.

Much of the work we do, and support we give is added to this wikispace.

Please ensure that you add this to your favourites and visit it regularly.

<http://secondarysocialscience.wikispaces.com/>