

After a very successful Youth Challenge in 2008, Tasmania Together will hold the competition again in 2009. A big thank you to everyone who participated last year

The 2009 Tasmanian Together Youth Challenge (TTYC) was launched last week in Burnie on Saturday March 28 as part of National Youth Week. Entries will close on 10 July.

The Challenge is open to **all Tasmanian students from K-12**. Students will be able to enter individually or in a group and can express their views on the future using a range of creative and artistic styles including multimedia, art, song, dance, poetry or prose, or an issues-based inquiry from any curriculum area.

Once again there will be great prizes for the winning schools, as well as for the winning students. Watch this space for further details and entry requirements.

Visit www.ttyouthchallenge.com.au to sign up for updates and find out basic information about the competition (note a new website will be launched Saturday).

To keep up with what is happening and see some of the great entries from last year become a TTYC fan on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/wwwttyouthchallengecomau/15079002162 and / or become a friend on MySpace: www.myspace.com/ttyouthchallenge

For more information about Tasmania Together – and examples of how it can link to the curriculum, visit: www.tasmaniatogether.tas.gov.au/schools.

Contact: secretariat@tasmaniatogether.tas.gov.au or phone (03) 6232 7010.

The curriculum team is available to work with teachers and school leaders in all learning services in

A/Manager	Sue Tolbert	6212 3110
Curriculum Project Officer – English-literacy	Rosanne McDade	6212 3315
Project Officer English-literacy	Pamela Powell	6212 3306
Curriculum Project Officer Mathematics-numeracy	Denise Neal	6212 3308
Principal Education Officer Science	Denise Devitt	6212 3302
A/Principal Education Officer Society & History	David Boon	6212 3313
Principal Education Officer Health and wellbeing	Toni Gray	6212 3314
Project Officer Values Education / State Advisor Asia Education Foundation / Civics and citizenship	Jan Kiernan	6233 7938
Principal Education Officer Arts	Frank Bansel	6233 7334
A/Senior Music Programs Officer	Lylla McDermott	6233 5012
Music Performance Programs Officer	Di O'Toole	6233 7739
Curriculum Project Officer Vocational & Applied Learning (VAL)	Tony Woodward	6212 3319
Principal Education Officer LOTE	Sue Tolbert	6233 7331
Senior Education Officer (LOTE) / Coordinator eLearning Design	Janine Davison	6233 5071
Curriculum Project Officer ICT	Larissa Brenner	6236 5620
Tasmania Curriculum Resource Co-ordinator	Nigel Brown	6212 3317

For curriculum and professional learning support contact your Manager (Learning)

South
[Paul Woodham](#)
Ph 6212 3503

South-east
[Lucy Fisher](#)
Details to be advised

North
[Kevin Fagan](#)
Ph 6336 4474

North-west
[Kim Bennett](#)
Ph 6434 7224

Next issue: April 2009

- Curriculum Project updates
- National Curriculum update
- SharePoint

Learning Services South East
213 Cambridge Road
WARRANE TAS 7018

Curriculum Matters

March 2009

From the Acting Manager Curriculum implementation support

Managers Learning, Network Support Officers and members of the curriculum team are currently analysing data collected late last year through the curriculum survey. We will be working with the Managers, Learning and will contact you directly to discuss how we can support your curriculum implementation and arrange the assistance you have requested.

The Secretary's *School Improvement Framework 2009* outlines school, Learning Service and Departmental responsibilities around the curriculum and school improvement.

The key government school curriculum responsibilities are:

- **A school improvement plan, data based and addressing key performance indicators**, with priority in 2009 to a strategy for school literacy and numeracy improvement; and
- **A plan to implement by 2011 the Tasmanian curriculum** and the Ministerial Taskforce on Reporting to Parents recommendations.

Learning Services – including the state wide curriculum team – are working closely with schools and networks to help schools fulfil these requirements.

Please contact your Manager, Learning or the Acting Manager, Curriculum (Sue Tolbert) sue.tolbert@education.tas.gov.au for more information and support.

For **Curriculum Matters** on the web visit <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/curriculum/resources/updates>

Public information about the curriculum can be accessed at: <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/curriculum>

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Moderation planning days

Moderation planning days have been taking place over the last two weeks in all Learning Services to support school moderators. The days have been very well attended and have included input from Learning Services, Educational Performance Services and the curriculum team.

The main messages and key resources are summarised here.

Main curriculum messages

1. **Moderation isn't about getting assessment perfect: it's about getting it better**
2. Moderation processes are designed to help teachers reach a common understanding of standards and share assessment strategies. The aim of moderation is to help make teacher assessment judgements more consistent, not 'the same' in all circumstances or under all conditions.
3. The overwhelming weight of evidence and research suggests that **the best way to improve achievement is to have high expectations for success, teach for depth rather than breadth and set challenging but achievable tasks**. Using the Tasmanian curriculum area *learning opportunities for planning*, and the *assessment evidence guides for assessment*, can greatly assist this.
4. Keep moderation, reporting and assessment in perspective: **keep the focus on improving learning**.
5. For example, student work can be compared for assessment and moderation purposes, but adding a question such as "How might you help this student achieve the next stage of achievement?" can greatly enrich the process and bring it back to a learning focus.
6. **Develop and share processes that support in school and cross-school moderation**. We have much to learn from each other – beginning teachers, experienced teachers...schools large and small...urban and isolated...They all bring valuable expertise and ideas 'to the table' so we should, within the constraints of time and geography, find ways to work together in the best interests of all Tasmanian students.
7. **Access support and resources**. Schools are encouraged to both suggest and make use of the extensive moderation resources on the eCentre:
<http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/Report/default.aspx>, and use the rich data and resources available from EPS <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/dept/contact/contact/eps>

For access to syllabus documents, public information on the curriculum and curriculum updates, visit: <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/curriculum>

For **teacher resources on the Tasmanian curriculum**, visit the eCentre <http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/C6/Curriculum%20Centre/default.aspx>

Additional **resources on assessment** can be accessed through the eCentre **REPORT** tab <http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/Report/default.aspx>

and through the section on **ASSESSING** <http://www.ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/C14/Assessing/default.aspx>

or access the **SARIS Workspace** at <http://ecentre.education.tas.gov.au/sites/SARIS/default.aspx>

Moderation planning days (continued)

Online Moderation resources include:

Outlines of the day and organisational resources

- Models for moderation day
- Workshop overviews by curriculum area
- Sample Agenda, attendance and feedback forms

Tasmanian curriculum resources

- Overviews and key messages
- Web links and resources

Resources on assessment and reporting requirements for the Tasmanian Curriculum

- Reporting requirements for Tasmanian Curriculum areas
- Reporting Solutions (Web-based presentation)
- Reporting to Parents Taskforce recommendations (PowerPoint)

General assessment resources

- Defining proficient and advanced
- Standards and Stages
- National Assessment Program including NAPLAN
- Assessment principles and strategies
- On balance judgement

Sample moderation tasks and protocols

- Common Assessment / Moderation Tasks by curriculum area
- Using rubrics
- Protocols to aid assessment

Work samples

- Using student work samples
- Set of work samples

Links and additional resources

- Tasmanian Curriculum web materials
- Curriculum area Sharepoints

Contact information

PEOs / CPOs and other state wide and Learning Service officers

For more information about moderation resources on the eCentre and Department of Education web, or to provide feedback or suggest resources, please contact nigel.brown@education.tas.gov.au Phone 6212 3317

