Radford College Australian Curriculum Implementation to date

As at 18 February 2015

Radford College has been an enthusiastic participant in the implementation of the Australian Curriculum in the ACT. The Radford College Director of Teaching and Learning is a member of ACIC (Australian Curriculum Implementation Committee), a committee that provides advice to the ACT Australian Curriculum Task Force about how best to implement this national curriculum in the Territory. As a College we have also been involved in the ACARA Samples Project for Phase One subjects, contributing exemplars of student work to ACARA to demonstrate the achievement standards for the English Years 7–10 framework and senior Geography and Chemistry frameworks.

In 2011 the Radford College Junior School became actively involved in the draft, evaluation and full implementation phases of the Australian Curriculum. Full implementation means teachers are teaching the content of the frameworks and assessing according to the achievement standards for the subjects. Teachers attended course evaluation sessions and contributed samples to moderation workshops over the period 2011–14. In November 2011 when the Australian Government and ACARA gave recognition to the Primary Years Programme (PYP) as an alternative curriculum framework, Radford College made the decision to continue implementation of the Australian Curriculum, under the framework and Essential Elements of the PYP.

Foundation to Year 6 English, Maths, Science and History frameworks have been fully implemented since semester two 2012, with Science being taught through Transdisciplinary Units of Inquiry. Geography has been implemented since semester one 2013 and also taught through Transdisciplinary Units of Inquiry. In semester one of this year, the Junior School is implementing the Arts, Languages and Health and Physical Education frameworks and entering the familiarisation and engagement stage of implementation for the Civics and Citizenship Years 3–6, Economics and Business Years 5–6 and Technologies Foundation – Year 6 frameworks.

Currently at Radford in the 7–10 years, the Australian Curriculum frameworks for the Phase One subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and History and the Phase Two Geography framework are all fully implemented. The additional framework Radford is fully implementing in Years 7–10 in 2015 is the Phase Two framework for the Arts which includes Drama, Music, Visual Arts and Media Arts. We are also engaging with the Phase Three frameworks of PE, Design and Technology, Chinese, Japanese, and French.

In terms of the implementation of the Australian Curriculum at the Year 11 and 12 levels, Radford has been extensively involved since 2011 in the development of the Australian Curriculum achievement standards for Geography and Chemistry, by
annually providing student work samples to ACARA for these subjects’ frameworks. In addition to this, many of our staff have been involved in providing feedback to the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) about how ACT senior Science (all four disciplines), Geography, Mathematics, English and History courses can be integrated with their counterpart Australian Curriculum frameworks.

In 2014, the Australian Curriculum History Modern, History Ancient, Physics and Chemistry courses were taught to Year 11 students and History Modern and History Ancient to Year 12. This year, we are continuing to teach our Year 11 students these Australian Curriculum courses and Year 11 English students are also being taught the Australian Curriculum English and Literature courses. Our Year 12 students are being taught Australian Curriculum Chemistry, Physics and History courses.