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Dear Parent/Guardian

You may have heard that NAPLAN online is proposed to be introduced across Australia from 2018.

NAPLAN online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information. Your child's results will be returned to you faster, within a couple of weeks rather than a couple of months.

Between 11 and 22 September 2017, our school is participating in a trial of the NAPLAN Online platform (the computer system the test will be taken on). This trial isn't 'another' NAPLAN test for 2017, rather, it is a chance for teachers and students to test the new platform in a real-life classroom environment. A selection of our students will participate in the trial, by undertaking either one or two online tests that include examples of the new NAPLAN online questions. Each of these tests will take approximately 45 minutes to complete. As a parent, you can already access the public demonstration site to familiarise yourself with the online assessment.

Participating in this trial is important as it will help us make sure we have adequate bandwidth capacity, wireless connectivity, and are confident with the administrative processes and classroom practices in setting up NAPLAN testing. During the trial, we will also have the opportunity to practice managing the classroom for an online assessment, as well as the new test administration processes.

I would like to reiterate that the Trial is not a test of students' ability, but rather a test of the NAPLAN Online system's abilities. The trial has been specifically developed to enable schools to understand how NAPLAN Online testing will occur in the future. Feedback from schools participating in the trial will inform transition to the online assessment as well as provide valuable feedback to shape the final development of the NAPLAN online platform.

For additional information please contact Alana Quirk, Assistant Principal.

Further information on NAPLAN Online, including the public demonstration site, is available at www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online and in the attached Q&A.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Smith

4th September 2017

NAPLAN Online Q&A

Background

NAPLAN will move online from 2018, over a two-to-three year period across Australia.

Online education assessments bring many new opportunities for students and teachers. NAPLAN online will allow for more diversity in assessment tasks; will enable a broader range of skills to be assessed and the tests will be tailored to student achievement, providing more precise results.

Results will be available more rapidly than they are currently for paper tests, enabling teachers to identify learning priorities earlier and tailor their teaching more specifically to student needs.

Who is managing the move online?

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for the development of the NAPLAN tests including test questions and forms, test administration policy and operational activities. ACARA is undertaking a research and development program to inform the transition of NAPLAN from a pen-and-paper test to a computer-based assessment.

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training commissioned Education Services Australia (ESA) to develop and trial the platform which will deliver the National Assessment Program (NAP) online, including NAPLAN.

State/territory education authorities are responsible for preparing schools to move online, supported by a variety of readiness tools and activities.

The online assessment platform is being trialled now in the lead up to the first online assessment being undertaken in May 2018.

During September 2017, students in some year groups will participate in a trial of the assessment platform, by undertaking one or two online readiness tests that include examples of the new NAPLAN online questions and a separate writing test. Each test will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

Why is NAPLAN moving online?

Moving NAPLAN online brings many new opportunities for students and teachers that are not possible with paper-based tests. NAPLAN online will provide better assessment, more precise results and faster turnaround of information. Your child's results will be returned to you within a couple of weeks rather than a couple of months.

What is the purpose of the School Readiness Test (SRT)?

The SRT is a 'practice run' or 'test drive' of the NAPLAN online platform and provides an opportunity for students and teachers to gain further experience and familiarity with the new online assessments.

Schools will also be able to practice test administration procedures and have the opportunity to work out classroom logistics, such as setting up the room and connectivity. Schools will also be able to confirm whether they have the ICT capacity to participate in NAPLAN online in May 2018.

When is the School Readiness Test (SRT)?

The SRT or 'practice run' is taking place across Australia throughout August and September 2017. Feedback from schools participating in the SRT will inform transition to the online assessment in May 2018 as well as provide valuable feedback to shape the final stages of the NAPLAN online platform development.

What will the assessment cover?

The Readiness Test consists of one test comprising questions from reading, numeracy and language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and a separate writing test for each year level. Each test will be approximately 45 minutes.

What year levels will be taking the Readiness Test?

In the ACT, schools are working with the ACT Education Directorate to identify which year levels will participate in the Readiness Test based on school preference and need.

Why is the school doing this online assessment?

Participating in this trial is important as it will inform whether the school has adequate bandwidth capacity, wireless connectivity, and whether students have access to a sufficient number of devices for NAPLAN online testing. During the trial, teachers will also have the opportunity to practice managing the classroom logistics for an online assessment as well as the new processes for administering the test. Students will be able to gain further familiarity with the types of technology-enhanced questions new to NAPLAN.

Can students use their own devices in the SRT?

Yes. Many schools are moving towards a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy that allows students to use their own computer at school. Students will also be able to use their own headphones required for the spelling test.

BYOD's will need to have a NAPLAN secure browser application installed and validated prior to undertaking the online assessments. The secure browser application is available for download at <https://www.assessform.edu.au/Public/NapLDB.aspx>.

Please refer to the NAP website for further information concerning BYOD: <http://nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online/technical-requirements.html>.