

CDC News (November 2008)

The 29th CDC Meeting was held on 14 November 2008. Salient points of the discussion are as follows:

Report on the development of the Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide and its Navigation Guide

- The Navigation Guide was designed to help different readers to refer to individual booklets on specific topics in accordance with their roles in schools. Principals and teachers with different roles might read through the suggested booklets to get the full picture of the new senior secondary student programme. The suggestions in the Navigation Guide were used to illustrate possible reading routes for specific groups of professional staff in schools. Notwithstanding this, professional staff were encouraged to read through all booklets to enhance their professional knowledge.
- Members supported the routing of the Navigation Guide but recommended a more consistent level of reflective questions in the booklets
- Members were informed that the printed version of the Senior Secondary Curriculum Guide would be released in May 2009.

Reference Manual for Implementing Gifted Education in School – Acceleration Programmes

- Members were informed that the Reference Manual was endorsed by the Curriculum Development Council Committee on Gifted Education on 17 October 2008.
- The Manual aimed at recommending factors to be considered in providing accelerated learning opportunities for high-ability students and facilitating schools to meet the increasing demands for catering for learner diversities in the new senior secondary curriculum. The Manual, nevertheless, was not meant to be a guidebook for schools.
- Grade-skipping and advanced placement in selected subjects were highly regarded by members and it was proposed to make them available to gifted students.
- As regards credit-bearing courses, they would be recognition of the ability of those gifted students who completed a course with academic rigour similar to that of first-year university courses.