

28<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Dear Parent or Carer,

The **Validation of Assessment 4 Learning and Individual Development (VALID)** for Year 8 students will be attempted during Period 3 and 4 on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016**. Students now complete VALID in years 6, 8 & 10. As the accompanying letter describes, this is a fantastic opportunity for students to measure their progress near the end of the Stage 4 Science course and it provides you with a comprehensive report on that progress. In addition to this, the Science Faculty receives vital statistical data that is used to inform teaching of your daughter in future years and evaluation of teaching programs. This test will **not** be part of the internal Science assessment program for school reports.

Each student will need to bring

- Their fully charged laptop

*Please remind your daughter to have any technical issues rectified by the ICT helpdesk well before the test date.*

- A set of headphones or earbuds

*Earbuds for an iPod or portable player are suitable.*

Any student who is absent on **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November** should be prepared to complete the test on their return to school and should contact myself to arrange an alternative time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional information about the ESSA program.

Regards,



David Little  
**Head of Science**

Dear Parent or Carer

The *Validation of Assessment for Learning & Individual Development* (VALID) test for Year 8 students will be held between **Wednesday 2 November** and **Friday 11 November 2016**. The test takes approximately 70 minutes. The *VALID Science 8* test is an interactive, multimedia test completed entirely on a computer.

*VALID Science 8* contains multiple choice, short response and extended response tasks that are grouped around real-world issues, including scientific investigations. This is a diagnostic test, with tasks framed on Stage 4 outcomes and essential content in the *NSW Science Years K–10 Syllabus*.

Students will be tested on their:

- knowledge and understanding of science
- understanding and skills in the process of scientific investigation
- ability to evaluate evidence, make judgements and think critically
- ability to access information and communicate scientific ideas.

Students also complete a survey about their opinions, attitudes and values about science.

Since students complete *VALID Science 8* on a computer, each student needs to bring **headphones or earbuds** that plug into a school computer. Earbuds for an iPod or portable player are suitable.

If your child has a disability that needs special consideration or has been educated in English for less than one year, please contact your child's school to discuss special provisions or possible exemption from the test.

Results of the test will be available during Term 1 2017. Information about each student is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that the right to privacy of all students is maintained. A personal report for each student will be sent to parents/carers to describe the science knowledge and skills demonstrated by the student in the test. There will also be information about how your child's results compare with overall performance of all students in the test.

The principal of your child's school is able to provide you with more details about the VALID program if you require additional information.

Yours sincerely



Bruce Inwood  
**R/Director, High Performance**  
Department of Education