

---

# English

---

The Association of Independent Schools

Term 1 1999

---

## *Contents*

<b>Welcome</b> .....	<b>2</b>
The Year Ahead .....	2
Your Committee .....	2
Term 1 Arrangements .....	3
<b>Professional Development Report for 1998</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>The Annual Conference in 1999</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Contributions</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>AIS PD On The Web</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>AIS University Study Program</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Sydney Writers Festival</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Save the Children's Voices and Visions Competition</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Creative HSC at UTS</b> .....	<b>6</b>



---

# English

---

The Association of Independent Schools

Term 1 1999

---

## Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

As the new Convenor for the AIS English/ Drama Professional Development Committee, may I join with you all in ringing in a new year of professional enrichment after what I hope has been a relaxing and sufficiently loin-girding holiday break. This year, our millennial expectations of the Board of Studies are great, as we prepare ourselves for the new-look HSC; change always brings a degree of pressure, in a very pressured profession, but I hope that the new Stage 6 Syllabus will not only provide fresh avenues for the talents of our students, but also a stimulus for teachers as we rise to the challenge of the new.

### The Year Ahead

The Stage 6 Syllabus will be a major preoccupation for teachers of English in 1999; the draft is due in March, and will have strong implications for earlier Years. We have therefore focussed the annual AIS Conference on these issues. It is entitled *The Challenge of Change*, and will be held at Tara Anglican Girls' School on Friday 26 March 1999. May I encourage you to attend.

You will find more details on the attached flier, but the Conference should be of particular value not only to teachers of Years 11 and 12, but also to Years 7-10, as there will be sessions on assessment design for the new School Certificate literacy test, as well as programming across the secondary years. We will have updates from the Board of Studies, and presenters have been asked to address the practicalities of classroom programming, as well as looking at theory.

As Convenor, I would like to expand the activities of the English Committee, to cater even further for the needs of teachers. One area which I think is important is programming for the new Year 11 and

12 courses, and I will be looking at the possibility of providing more inservicing there. I would be delighted to receive any further suggestions you may have.

Tina Sharpe and Karen Stapleton will be providing in-service courses over the year, on the senior and middle school syllabuses; these are always well-attended, so make sure you book early.

The AIS HSC Study Days, for 2/3 Unit students, will be held on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 July, at St Andrew's Cathedral School; these are highly appreciated by students, and provide a wonderful professional development opportunity for teachers to meet with colleagues and workshop favourite texts with committed students. If you are interested in presenting, please let me know.

### Your Committee

I owe a great deal of thanks to the hard-working members of the English/ Drama Committee; they give their time freely and unflinchingly, and are happy to hear from you with ideas and suggestions for professional development. Please feel free to contact them. They are:

Ian Keast (Barker), Michael Smith (Hills Grammar School), Karen Stapleton (Masada), Deidre Coleman (PLC Croydon), Magar Etmekdjian (St Aloysius), Rachel Morgan (SCSEGGs Darlinghurst), Jane Meenahan (SCEGGs Darlinghurst), Joan Levi (Tara), Richard Clarke (Shore), Kim Elith (Shore).

A special welcome to our new members, Magar, Rachel, Jane, Karen, Joan and Kim (re-joining us).

## Term 1 Arrangements

As I will be on long-service leave in Term 1, Deidre Coleman has agreed to stand in for me then. This is kindness personified, as it includes running the Conference. I am most grateful to her. Please direct any enquiries during Term 1 to Deidre at Presbyterian Ladies College, telephone: (02) 9745 2666, fax: (02) 9744 0519.

My best wishes for a rich and rewarding year!

**Robert Dickins**  
**Convenor, English/ Drama**  
**Trinity Grammar School**  
**Tel: (02) 9581 6118**  
**Fax: (02) 9799 9449**

# Professional Development Report for 1998

The AIS offered a number of courses for English this year and all received very positive evaluations. The *Preparing for the School Certificate English Literacy Test* was a very popular course and was conducted in three Sydney venues and in Armidale. In total over 100 teachers attended this course. The focus of the first session was to give teachers some background into the changes at the School Certificate level with both the format of the English Literacy test and use of competency based descriptors for school assessment. The listening session examined the demands of listening tasks and how to design a listening task while the reading session focussed on strategies to teach students how to answer questions. A critical framework for teaching how to describe visual images was presented and participants commented on how useful it was to have a technical language to describe visual images as this is an increasingly important area in media studies.

The *Essay Writing for HSC English* was also repeated due to popular demand and focussed on developing strategies for teaching students how to write effective response essays. Another new course

*Reading the Media* extended the media component of the *Accessing Critical Literacy and the Media course*. It focussed on practical strategies to teach news stories at Years 7-10 level and also examined ways of analysing texts across the different media. There was also a component for studying the images and text in the HSC reading and writing paper.

Karen Stapleton from Masada College offered two inservices that showed very practical approaches to teaching film as text. Teachers who attended were very enthusiastic about the extensive teaching notes Karen provided and expressed confidence in applying her strategies to film study in their classes.

All the courses mentioned will be offered again for 1999 with some modifications that respond to Board of Studies information regarding School Certificate results and Higher School Certificate English syllabuses.

**Tina Sharpe**  
**AIS Consultant**

## *The Annual Conference in 1999*

As Robert Dickins has mentioned, **Friday 26 March, 1999**, is the date of our Ninth Annual Conference. This year the conference will be held at **Tara Anglican School for Girls**, Masons Drive, North Parramatta, and will be entitled *The Challenge of Change*. The focus of the conference will be the Stage 6 Draft Syllabus and a range of presenters will include representatives from the Board of Studies as well as experienced classroom practitioners who will endeavour to assist

participants to interpret the Draft Syllabus into realistic lesson plans and strategies. School Certificate matters will also be covered in the course of the day.

Registration forms are published later in this Newsletter so complete one now and book yourself a place at this exciting professional development activity.

## *Contributions*

Finally, the regular reminder that contributions to this newsletter in the form of papers, workshop notes, reviews and reports on professional development activities are always welcome. You will not be surprised to learn that classroom teachers would probably be most grateful for nominations of *New Texts that Work*.

Enjoy the term. See you at the Conference!

**Richard Clarke**  
**Editor: English PD Newsletter**  
**SCEGS**  
**Phone: 9923 2277**  
**Fax: 9922 2689**

## *AIS PD On The Web*

The AIS Professional Development program is now easier to access with all of our professional development course information and newsletters going on line.

No longer will you have to wait for your colleagues to finish reading each term's newsletters to find out the latest!

No longer will you be the last to hear details of the very professional development course you have been looking for .....

Why not visit us at:

[www.studentnet.edu.au/aispd](http://www.studentnet.edu.au/aispd)

.... for the latest in professional development!

Updated each term will be:

- The AIS Newsletter for your teaching area
- AIS Course Calendar for your area
- Course Details - just roll over the item on the

calendar that interests you and click! You will be taken straight to the course details and to a registration form. You can email your registration form straight to us, or print it out and fax it in the usual way.

- School Consultancy - read about the many ways in which we can tailor make appropriate support for your faculty, classroom, students or parents.
- Programs - details of a number of the programs

you can access through AIS are available. For example, have a look at our new Road Safety Education site at:

[www.studentnet.edu.au/aispd/rse](http://www.studentnet.edu.au/aispd/rse)

We look forward to welcoming you to the site!

**JULIE THOMPSON**  
**Director: Professional Development**

## *AIS University Study Program*

1998 saw the piloting of the AIS University Study Program with the very successful conducting of a course on information technology management for Teacher Librarians by the University of Technology Sydney.

That course will be offered again in 1999 along with a course in Educational Leadership offered by Sydney University.

If you are currently undertaking post-graduate study or would just like to learn more about this important area, please see the information attached to this newsletter.

Last year's participants really enjoyed the support and stimulation of their 4 days together and recommend it to you!

## *Sydney Writers Festival*

### **Special Events at the 1999 Sydney Writers' Festival School Days**

The Sydney Writers' Festival will once again feature two School Days. They will take place on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 1999** at the **Seymour Theatre Centre** at the University of Sydney. A venue that offers theatres of varying sizes, work rooms and large foyers that are useful for both marshalling school groups and for use as specialist work spaces. The Seymour Theatre

Centre is accessible by public transport (train and/or bus) and also has safe bus drop off areas and a significant amount of parking.

These days are targeted at students from Years 7 through 12 and will feature books and writers on the HSC reading lists such as James Bradley and Jennifer Compton through young adult writers such as Archimedes Fusillo and Garry Disher and international writers, Melvin Burgess, Martha Brooks and Kate de Goldi.

# Save the Children's Voices and Visions Competition

Does your school house any budding poets? Is there an undiscovered artist in your midst? Now is the time to give your creative students the opportunity to shine in the Save the Children New South Wales Voices and Visions competition. Save the Children is Australia's oldest child rights organisation and through this competition, we hope to give voice to the views of young Australians.

Students in New South Wales are invited to submit either a poem or artwork of any nature on the following topics:

What do I care about?

The things that make me happy

In a perfect world ...

This competition will be judged in two categories:

age 8-12yrs, 14-18yrs.

The winning students in each category will be invited to a prize-giving ceremony during Save the Children week, 2-8 May, at an official Sydney venue. They will receive an award and the overall winner will receive a Save the Children trophy for their school.

For teachers' briefing sheets and competition details, please contact Kate Cotton on (02) 9299 1711, by fax (02) 9262 2360, or visit the Save the Children National Website for competition details on [www.scfa.asn.au/aust.htm#link1](http://www.scfa.asn.au/aust.htm#link1)

## Creative HSC at UTS

The Centre for Research and Education in the Arts at the University of Technology, Sydney, is committed to enhancing the profile of the arts, including literature, music, visual arts, design, drama and dance, within the life of the university and the broader community. The 1999 Creative HSC program which presents a range of dramatic productions of selected HSC texts is particularly aimed at senior school students. These productions developed by literature and drama academics at UTS, all of whom have previously taught in schools, provide insight into the works through dramatic re-enactment and some commentary. Enacted by the UTS Drama and Dance Companies, these presentations are aimed at enriching the high school students' understanding and appreciation of the works which they are studying in their classrooms. Input from schools and practising teachers is also

being sought, particularly for the HSC Schools' Day. The program for 1999 follows:

**15<sup>th</sup> April**, 9.30, 11.00 & 7.30

*Mary Shelley's Monster*, with scenes from the novel, *Frankenstein*

**6<sup>th</sup> May**, 10.00, 1.00, 7.30

*The Fall of the House of Oedipus*, the Oedipus cycle of plays featuring *Antigone*

**27<sup>th</sup> May**, 9.30, 11.00, 1.00

*Voyage Within you: Exploration, Discovery & Identity*

**24<sup>th</sup> June**, 9.30, 11.30, 1.15

*Tales from Chaucer*: A middle English production of the *Prologue* and *Wife of Bath's* and the *Pardoner's*

*Tales*

**12<sup>th</sup> August**

HSC Schools Day: presentations

**19<sup>th</sup> August**, 9.30, 11.30, 1.15

*The Fatal Flaw*, featuring Shakespear's *Othello* and

*Macbeth*.

**9<sup>th</sup> September**, 9.30, 1.00 & 7.30

*History & Hysteria* - commentary with scenes from  
Arthur Miller's haunting play, *The Crucible*.