



*Improving Learning*

## **PISA Based Test for Schools (PBTS) - Circular to Parents**

Dear Parents,

Greetings and best wishes from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). We are happy to advise that your child's school has been selected to participate in the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) **PISA Based Tests for Schools (PBTS) program.**

Following the success of PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) as the world's largest survey of students that assesses skills in reading, mathematical and scientific literacy, the OECD has now introduced the PISA-Based Test for Schools. The test is designed to help schools and students benchmark their performance to PISA. A comprehensive School Report with analysis of each school performance will provide invaluable insights to the school's achievement. ACER also will provide a very comprehensive individual descriptive Students Report to highlight their performance on this test.

As advised by MoE, all **Grade 11** students, are obliged to participate in the PISA-Based Test for Schools. Your child's school are fully aware of the importance of this project and have expressed their support to have the students participate as it will give them an opportunity to experience a world class assessment that is developed by the leading experts from around the world.

More importantly, through the descriptive Report that each student will receive, they will be able to compare their performance with the 72 countries that participated in PISA 2015 and get a clear indication of where they stand in relation to the skills and abilities of the top performing countries. This will be a valuable testimonial to add to their portfolio and profile. The Ministry of Education (MoE) views this as an extremely important assessment and urges all Schools and Parents to encourage their students to perform to the best of their ability on the PBTS Assessment as this will reflect the true picture of the education systems and subsequently help develop policies, direct resources and improve the practices of teaching and learning.

We earnestly solicit your assistance in achieving this objective as research indicates that high quality data is a direct result of high involvement of the Schools, Parents and Students.

The international assessment project teams join together to convey their appreciation for your cooperation and support to this project for getting the best results for our students and the country.

Yours Sincerely

Alan Egbert