Success in senior study

Leona Smith

Senior student attendance at Macquarie Sports High School has improved after the introduction of a new way to take the HSC. The school's new senior studies program allows students to start the HSC in Year 11 and complete three HSC courses in that year. The remaining three HSC courses are then completed in Year 12. At most other schools, students study six courses concurrently for two years and then sit six exams all at the same time.

Deputy principal Sara Smith said the students had embraced the new program, which started in term four last year. “Attendance rates for years 10 and 11 have improved significantly with students still attending right up to the last day of school leading up to Christmas,” she said. “Year 12 students mentor Year 11 as they study courses together and sit the same exams.” Students had greater subject choice and there was less stress for students and parents as students attempted only three HSC exams each year, she said. “Students take senior studies in Year 11 more seriously because they see real goals throughout the year,” she said. “They are able to concentrate more on each course because they usually have no more than three courses to study each year. They also get results earlier and can plan changes in their learning program to match their emerging skills and interests.”

The program was introduced after extensive consultation and overwhelming endorsement of the school community. It is approved by the Board of Studies and NSW Department of Education and Training.

What do you think of this approach to the HSC? Tell us at southerncourier.com.au.