

For discussion on 10 July 2012

## **Legislative Council Panel on Education**

### **Final preparation in the run-up to the release of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education Examination results**

#### **Purpose**

This paper aims to report on the final preparation in the run-up to the release of the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) Examination results on 20 July 2012 (720), including the arrangements for the release of results and application for rechecking and remarking.

#### **Background**

2. The result release of the first HKDSE Examination is scheduled for 720. We have last reported to the Panel on Education on 20 April 2012 on the delivery of the HKDSE Examination and the progress in preparing various stakeholders for the release of the examination results. This report will include an account of the latest development of the action plan in the run-up to the result release day.

#### **Administering the release of HKDSE Examination results**

##### ***Arrangements for the result release and application for rechecking and remarking***

3. The preparatory work for the release of HKDSE Examination results of the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority (HKEAA) is on schedule. School candidates can get their 2012 HKDSE Examination result notices from schools on 720. Private candidates can access their examination results via the HKEAA Examination Online Services. Candidates can submit applications for rechecking and remarking within five days after the examination results are released. The application procedures, fees and timelines for rechecking and remarking are published in the 2012

HKDSE Handbook for Candidates which has been distributed to all candidates in December 2011. The information is also posted onto the HKEAA website. A leaflet on rechecking and remarking has also been published to disseminate information related to rechecking and remarking.

### ***Financial assistance for needy students sitting for public examinations***

4. Needy students are provided with financial assistance to sit for public examinations through the Examination Fee Remission Scheme administered by the Student Financial Assistance Agency and the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme administered by the Social Welfare Department. Both schemes do not provide automatic assistance for non-essential supplementary examination services such as rechecking and remarking. It is worth noting that the fees for rechecking and remarking will be refunded to candidates who get an upgrade in the examination result after the review.

5. Furthermore, needy students can apply to HKEAA for consideration of partial waiver for fees on rechecking and remarking if there are genuine needs. HKEAA will consider the applications for fee waiver on a case by case basis. In processing the applications, a number of factors are considered, including the reasons given by the candidates and the financial situation of the Authority. Whether candidates are beneficiaries of CSSA has been an important factor considered by HKEAA.

### **Co-ordinated preparation in the run-up to 720**

6. The Education Bureau (EDB) has been and will continue to maintain close communication with various stakeholders in preparing for the orderly delivery of events on 720. An overview of the supportive services provided to various stakeholders in the run-up to 720 is at [Appendix 1](#).

### ***Conveying key messages and managing expectations***

7. From May 2012 onwards, EDB has continued to disseminate the key messages to promote paradigm shift from the traditional selective education system to the new system that develops and recognises the potentials of all

students by catering to their diverse interests, aptitudes and abilities. There is no pass or fail. University is not the only option and students can meet their aspirations through the diverse pathways available to them. These messages will continuously be disseminated, more frequently nearer 720, through APIs (TV and radio), advertisements (bus, tram, digital), newspaper supplement and articles, etc.

### ***Support to schools, students and parents***

#### *Symposia for schools*

8. Following the broad principles that most of the services required by students, such as career counselling and guidance, should be handled best by their school teachers who have the best knowledge of their own students, we believe that it is crucial to start the support services from schools.

9. As a continuation to the symposia held in late 2011, EDB has organised four identical symposia in May and early June 2012 for some 2,100 school leaders, Secondary 6 class teachers and careers and guidance teachers. With the theme “starting the support from schools, leveraging all-round backup”, we aimed to better prepare the schools in helping their students meet their own aspirations for work or further studies in accordance with their abilities, aptitudes and interests. We are pleased to note that participating schools have gained insights into the critical issues and better planned their own strategies in managing expectations and risk management on the result release day.

#### *Useful tools for students*

10. EDB has specifically produced the “Three valuable tools for 720: navigator, map and compass” for Secondary 6 graduates and their parents to assist their career planning.

11. The pamphlet *Compass@720* provides essential information for 720, including admission arrangements at various institutions, important dates, telephone hotlines and other support services offered. The electronic version of the pamphlet has been uploaded to EDB’s website and hard copies will be sent to schools by 13 July 2012. Schools have been strongly advised to hold a briefing and distribute the pamphlet before 720 so as to engage their students and parents and offer timely counselling and assistance.

12. An electronic tool, *e-Navigator: Multiple Pathways Under the New Academic Structure*, jointly developed by EDB and the Hong Kong Association of Careers Masters and Guidance Masters, has been launched since February 2012. The smart phone application (APP) is available for download via smart phone or at the e-Navigator website from 18 May 2012. Students can use this one-stop APP to search for over 3,000 local programmes from JUPAS, iPASS and Qualifications Register. They may also enter their expected or actual HKDSE Examination results to conduct advanced search for programmes. This would enable them to make more desirable plans for future studies as well as other contingency plans if necessary. Programme information will continuously be updated.

13. To provide easy access to the latest information on all pathways nearer 720, a designated web-page (<http://www.edb.gov.hk/720>) will be activated, with direct links to respective web pages of post-secondary institutions and organisations.

14. A consolidated list of key dates on the release of admission results, acceptance of offer, registration of various universities and post-secondary institutions has been prepared for students (and a separate list for schools in parallel) as a check list to remind them of the necessary action before and after the result release.

15. We have also produced a DVD which includes a range of success stories of students as authentic cases to illustrate their lifelong learning to celebrate multiple pathways. The DVD will be distributed to schools alongside with the *Compass@720* for their deployment at briefings for students and parents. The DVD in Youtube version has also been launched in mid-June 2012.

#### *Seminars for parents*

16. We have been actively engaging parents to disseminate positive messages, updates on multiple pathways and success stories through seminars and meetings with a territory-wide coverage. The recent seminar for parents of Secondary 6 graduates held on 13 June 2012 at Queen Elizabeth Stadium attracted over 1,000 participants. Taking the opportunity, EDB has invited representatives from various stakeholder groups, who have been our close

partners in implementing the New Academic Structure (NAS) over the years, to jointly launch the electronic version of *Compass @720* as a signage of our continuous support rendered to the first cohort of students and their parents.

### **Support services to be provided on 720**

17. The concerted effort across the sectors is critical to make 720 a success. EDB will continue to co-ordinate the decision-making and dissemination of information close to and on 720 through the communication backbone set up for the purpose. A Rapid Response Team, convened by EDB and comprises representatives from HKEAA and sectors that have to make prompt decisions and take consequential actions on admission in case of contingency, has already met in late June 2012 to map out strategies to cope with unforeseeable situations. The mechanism will help to deliver clear messages to students and all stakeholders under such circumstances.

18. Taking into consideration the experiences of the release of public examination results in the past and to cope with that of a new examination, EDB will strengthen our support services during the 10-day period before and after 720 to supplement schools' services in providing information/counselling to students and parents in need.

### ***Call and Enquiry Centres***

19. EDB will operate telephone and face-to-face enquiry centres to provide information on multiple pathways, as follows:

- (a) a Call Centre with 20 telephone hotlines operating from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm daily from 18 to 27 July 2012 (including Saturday and Sunday) at Wu Chung House, Wan Chai;
- (b) enquiry service centres at EDB's four Regional Education Offices (i.e., Hong Kong, Kowloon, New Territories East and New Territories West) during normal office hours from 18 to 27 July 2012, including Saturday and Sunday; and
- (c) an information display on multiple pathways, providing information on programmes offered by various post-secondary institutions and organisations, at the Resource Library of EDB's Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre. It will be open from

Monday to Saturday during the period from 9 to 31 July 2012, and will open specially on Sunday, 22 July 2012.

20. In parallel, HKEAA will extend their enquiry service hotlines and counter service during the period from 20 to 27 July 2012 to answer enquiries on issues regarding the HKDSE Examination. The JUPAS office will be operating 24-hour hotline to answer enquiries on JUPAS applications, arrangements and procedures for the modification of programme choices. Over 20 non-government organisations will be providing counselling services via hotlines, face-to-face counselling, APP, facebook and website.

21. All relevant details are included in the *Compass@720* and available on EDB's website.

### ***Support and advice on career planning and employment***

22. To offer support and advice on career planning for the secondary school leavers who desire to join the workforce, EDB, with the support from the Employees Retraining Board, is setting up three service centres at Kwun Tong, Cheung Sha Wan and Tin Shui Wai from 23 to 27 July 2012. The services include:

- one-on-one career guidance to help students set their career goals;
- preparatory workshops for employment to enhance their employability;
- careers talks delivered by employers;
- preliminary recruitment conducted by employers who have immediate vacancies; and
- a designated job corner at each service centre posting job vacancies suitable for fresh secondary school leavers

### ***Other Preparations***

23. To ensure the dissemination of clear and consistent key messages about the release of results across the sectors, we have already compiled background information, line-to-take and FAQs for deployment of all stakeholder groups. Multi-sector meetings would be held on need basis to discuss the operational details on 720 to facilitate the communication among different parties.

## **Application and admission to post-secondary studies and other programmes**

24. For the 2012/13 academic year, in total, over 75,000 locally accredited post-secondary places and around 35,000 continuing education/vocational education training places will be available to the secondary school leavers. The provision is generally sufficient to meet the demand of the 103,500 school candidates in the double cohort year of 2012. To facilitate the articulation of school leavers to further studies, application and admission procedures have been streamlined and processed on-line as far as possible. Other than the long-established Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS)<sup>1</sup>, the launching of the E-APP in early 2012 provides a common application platform for students to lodge advance applications for locally-accredited sub-degree and degree programmes not covered by JUPAS<sup>2</sup>. Institutions, including the 63 Mainland higher education institutions participating in the Pilot Scheme for exempting Hong Kong students from taking the Joint Entrance Examination for Universities in the Mainland (“Pilot Scheme”), have been making conditional offers to students from February onwards. It is guesstimated that some 50% of the students would have obtained some conditional offers before their examination results are announced. These offers would greatly enhance students’ decision-making on 720.

25. A schedule of the critical dates before and after 720 on **Admission Result Release / Acceptance of Offer / Registration** is given in Appendix 2. In fact most of the procedures such as institutions’ announcement of offer results, students’ modification of programme choices, claiming of offers, application for rechecking and remarking, registration, etc are to be conducted in the next five days after 720. As for the Yi Jin Diploma programme, students may make online enrollment application through a web-based registration system from 1 June onwards.

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<sup>1</sup> Including the eight institutions funded by the University Grants Committee, and the Open University of Hong Kong.

<sup>2</sup> Except those offered by the Hong Kong Shue Yan University and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts as participation in E-APP is on a voluntary basis.

## **Conclusion**

26. We believe that the joint efforts of HKEAA, EDB and various stakeholders have contributed positively to the success of the NAS and the HKDSE Examination. We are committed to getting our students prepared for the result release of the first HKDSE Examination so that all of them can make the right choice for their pathways and realise their aspirations.

27. Members are requested to note the latest developments.

Education Bureau  
Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority  
July 2012

### Overview of support services provided to various stakeholders in the run-up to 720

Support services provided	Period of service	Stakeholders catered for			
		schools	students	parents	general public
1. <u>Updated information on multiple pathways</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e-Navigator</li> <li>• Designated web page for 720</li> <li>• Compass@720</li> <li>• DVD with successful authentic cases</li> <li>• Information display (by EDB)</li> </ul>	on-going; to be updated on 20 July from 13 July 13 July (e-version since 14 June) 13 July (Youtube since mid-June) 9 – 31 July	✓  ✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	✓    ✓
2. <u>Hotline and Enquiry services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• by HKEAA on HKDSE Examination issues</li> <li>• by JUPAS on procedures and arrangements</li> </ul>	on-going; extended services provided on: 20 – 27 July 21 – 23 July		✓ ✓		
3. <u>Call and Enquiry centres (by EDB)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 telephone hotlines and at the four Regional Education Offices</li> </ul>	18 – 27 July, including Saturday and Sunday	✓	✓	✓	
4. <u>Counselling services for 720 (by over 20 NGOs)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotlines, face-to-face, facebook, web</li> </ul>	during the run-up to and after 20 July		✓	✓	
5. <u>Employment related services</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three service centres at Kwun Tong, Cheung Sha Wan and Tin Shui Wai</li> </ul>	23 – 27 July		✓		
6. <u>Publicity on recognition of NAS &amp; HKDSE</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APIs (TV &amp; radio)</li> <li>• TV (five one-minute episodes)</li> <li>• Yahoo/facebook</li> <li>• Bus body/tramcar</li> <li>• Posters at 350 ISD poster sites</li> <li>• Newspaper supplement/advertisement</li> </ul>	on-going; more frequently in July & August 16 – 20 July 1 July – 12 August 4 July – 14 August May – August July & August			✓	✓

**Important Dates – Admission Result Release / Acceptance of Offer / Registration**

<b>Institution/ Organisation</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event</b>
Hong Kong Shue Yan University	28 June 2012	Announce conditional offer results
	20 July 2012 onwards	Confirm offer to students who meet the requirement of conditional offer / admission
	25 July 2012	Deadline by noon for payment of enrollment deposit
	17 – 18 August 2012	Registration and payment of tuition fee for acceptance of offer
The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts	Early July – before 20 July 2012	Make conditional offer to suitable applicants
	20 July 2012 onwards	Announce subsequent round offer results
	25 July 2012	Deadline by noon for payment of enrollment deposit
	Early August 2012	Complete registration for acceptance of offer
Participating institutions of E-APP	9 February 2012 onwards	Students suitable for self-financing programmes receive conditional offer
	20 July 2012 onwards	Institutions confirm offer to students who meet the requirement of conditional offer / admission
	25 July 2012	Deadline by noon for payment of enrollment deposit
	26 July 2012 onwards	Subsequent rounds of offer and registration commence
Vocational Training Council	20 – 21 July 2012	Announce offer results to HKDSE candidates
Joint University Programmes Admissions System (JUPAS)	17 August 2012	Announce Main Round Offer results
	3 September 2012	Announce Clearing Round Offer results
	10 September 2012	Announce Subsequent Rounds Offer results (1st round)
	13 September 2012	Announce Subsequent Rounds Offer results (2nd round)
JEO*	Before 15 May 2012	Announce conditional offer results of Pilot Scheme through online system
	3 August 2012	Announce offer results of Pilot Scheme on web
	4 – 5 August 2012	Acceptance of offers through online system
	7 – 8 August 2012	Application for supplementary enrollment through online system
	Before 20 August 2012	Announce final offer results of Pilot Scheme
Federation for Self-financing Tertiary Education - Yi Jin Diploma programme	Before 30 July 2012	Applicants will be informed of the admission result by email

\* “JEO” stands for Co-Office of the Mainland Chinese Universities and College of the People’s Republic of China for the Joint Examinations and Enrolment of Students from Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese-Resident Areas and Countries.