

## *The Minister for Education's statement about the formation of Lachlan Macquarie College*

"From 2008, the Lachlan Macquarie College will commence operation on the site, specialising in Maths and Science teaching and learning to benefit students and teachers in schools across the Parramatta area," Mr Della Bosca said.

### **The new Lachlan Macquarie College will include:**

- *A Centre for Applied Maths and Science* to deliver intensive courses for public school students (Years 7-12) who require specialist skills to undertake a trade or other vocation.
- *A Centre for Specialist Maths and Science* for public school students (Years 7-12) to undertake extension courses with the intention of further study at university.
- *A Centre for Maths and Science Teaching*. This faculty would be used by local science and maths teachers to develop new teaching materials and strategies and to share best practice. Students at the College would be the first to trial and benefit from these innovations.

Local schools invited to submit expressions of interest to participate in the maths and science specialties at Lachlan Macquarie College from 2008 will include:

- Cumberland High School
- Parramatta High School
- Arthur Phillip High School
- Macarthur Girls High School
- Northmead High School

I am pleased to announce that an upgraded science laboratory and technology facilities will be built at the College to support its new role," Mr Della Bosca said.

Science and maths are the building blocks of many careers including electrical trades, engineering, plumbing, medicine and teaching," Mr Della Bosca said.

"I am sure that this investment in the future of Western Sydney students will reap rewards for decades to come.

"This new College will ensure that the history of public education excellence that has been part of the Macquarie Boys' High tradition will continue," he said.

Students were advised of the decision at a special school assembly this afternoon and letters have been sent home to their parents.

Students currently in Years 10 and 11 will be able to undertake their HSC on the current Macquarie Boys' High site.

With spare capacity in almost all nearby schools, students will be offered assistance to transfer either in 2010 or beforehand if they choose. This will include financial help to cover the cost of new uniforms or other expenses.

By retaining the site in public ownership and continuing to use it for secondary education, the Department will be well placed to respond to changes in demographics in the future.

It is anticipated a section of the site will be used to run bridging courses to university courses in disciplines such as IT, engineering, business, maths and English literacy, and tertiary study skills delivered through the University of Western Sydney. Upon completion, students will be eligible to apply for undergraduate study with credit for the work they have completed.