



CBSE/ACAD/CP/2015

Circular No. Acad-01/2015

Dated: 1st January, 2015

All Heads of Institutions
affiliated to the Board

Subject: New Year Greetings 2015!

Dear Principal,

Season's Greetings from CBSE and let's usher in the New Year on a welcome note!

At the dawn of the year 2015, CBSE thanks all its stakeholders for their support, co-operation, sharing of professional insights, and the successes achieved together in the course of providing quality education. Today, as 2015 unfolds, we need to strive further to render accessible, quality, and holistic education to all students, which is the real implementation of the basic human rights to education, inclusive learning assessments, and a safe learning environment for all children.

The schools affiliated to CBSE have raised the levels of socio-environmental consciousness through participation in the CBSE-Expressions Series, the CBSE-Anti-tobacco Campaign, promotion of Gender Sensitive Education, Heritage Education, Values Education, Life Skills Programmes, Clean India Campaign and celebration of National Education Day in their institutions, participation in the CBSE-National Level Science Exhibition, School Sanitation Ratings, CBSE-Wildlife and Environment Quiz competitions and campaigns.

In the New Year 2015, the Board commits itself to take forward the following initiatives:

1. School Quality Assessment and Accreditation (SQAA): SQAA refers to assessment of schools through standardized instruments of internal [self] and external [peer review] assessments to facilitate a sustained qualitative improvement. Those who do not get accredited in the first instance get a School Quality Enhancement Report (SQER) with an opportunity to improve in the next six months as there is no ranking of schools. Certification is based on the assessment of the school's functioning on the basis of performance in the domains of Scholastic Processes and Outcomes, Co-Scholastic Processes and Outcomes, Human Resources, Infrastructure, Management and Administration, Leadership and Beneficiary satisfaction. It is now mandatory to apply for Accreditation. Those schools who get accredited will retain their status for the next 5 years.

2. Empowerment Programmes for Principals and Teachers: The Board continues to be involved with the capacity-building of School Heads and Teachers with a focus on the use of technology. Online platforms for e-governance and capacity- building, as well as e-learning, are in the process of realization. The In-service Training Programmes for teachers would, therefore, focus on developing competencies in the areas of implementation of School- based assessment, readiness to use ICT effectively in the classroom, effective pedagogic techniques to make the teaching- learning process more effective and joyful, Gender Sensitivity, Values Education, Life Skills Development, Effective communication skills,

Formative Assessment, building leadership capacities and competencies to deal with the needs of learners and society effectively, and sensitizing teachers towards the needs of disabled children.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Empanelled Agencies: The M&E benchmarks have been developed to capture both adequacy (*in terms of numbers and value*) and appropriateness to ensure reliability, reproducibility and validity of quality standards in teacher training. There is a provision for ranking and comparing the rating benchmarks of the various agencies and courses/ programmes against the best domestic and international practices to encourage the agencies to adopt the best industry practices and provide a strong impetus to improve their standards. Each agency's programme is evaluated on the following bases:

- a) Relevance: the extent to which its program is suited for the objectives set out
- b) Effectiveness: the extent to which the program attains its objectives
- c) Efficiency: the correlation between the outputs (qualitative and quantitative) and the inputs

4. Sensitizing students about the culture and Heritage of the North Eastern States of India: As per the recommendations of the Bezbaruah Committee Report, the Board is adopting themes for the development of course materials and project-based activities based on North Eastern States. The Board has approved the introduction of four new languages in the curriculum for the benefit of students in the state of Sikkim. The languages are to be offered by the school from the academic session 2015-2016, namely, Rai (131), Gurung (132), Tamang (133) and Sherpa (134).

CBSE has included 25% questions on North Eastern States of India in 14th All India CBSE Heritage Quiz 2014. CBSE Heritage Quiz Brochure also has center page on *The Marvels of North – East India* with Questions and Answers on North East. CBSE Film Making Competition 2015 is being organized and the topics are as follows:

- ✓ North East India – Land of Enormous Beauty
- ✓ Vibrant / colorful festivals of North-East
- ✓ North East India Tourism – Travel Attractions
- ✓ Crafts of North-East
- ✓ Flora and Fauna of North-East

5. CBSE - UDAAN Project: To address the teaching gap between school education and engineering entrance, as also to enrich the teaching and learning of Science and Mathematics at School level, the Udaan project aims at addressing the lower enrolment ratio of girl students in engineering colleges. The aim is also to enrich and enhance teaching and learning of Science and Mathematics at Senior Secondary level for the students by providing them free and online resources at the classes XI and XII levels. The online lectures in Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics are available on the CBSE YouTube channel- Udaan Class XI and Udaan Class XII.

6. Saransh -School Self-review Tool: The Board has launched an on-line facility called 'Saransh' (सारांश) from where schools can instantaneously access the performance of their students of class X over the last 7 years and of the class XII from the year 2009. In this way, *Saransh* caters to schools by providing valuable information to enable teachers, heads, and the management to have a focused discussion about the quality of learning and strategies to improve the overall teaching and learning process. All the performance metrics are presented through numbers as well as in charts/ graphs for easy understanding of student performance at various levels i.e., All India, regional, state and within their school category (*government, private, JNVs, KVs, and CTSA*).

7. CBSE-Expressions Series: The Expression Series are a part of the several activities CBSE conducts to provide opportunities for the holistic development of students. These series promote the writing, research and communicative skills of students and also provide them a platform for sharing their ideas. The scope of these series extends to the entire nation as schools affiliated to CBSE as well as state boards also

participate in the series in all 22 scheduled languages, and English. I am pleased to share with you, that the series have drawn a record number of entries from across India, where students' opinions and creative self-expression found a voice. More than **three lakhs students** have participated in 10 such series held so far. The Board is also giving prizes to students ranging from ₹2,500/- to ₹25,000/-.

8. Problem Solving Assessment (PSA) for Classes IX & XI: With the objectives of assessing student's abilities to analyze given life situations, to comprehend and interpret written text and data, and to inculcate other essential higher order thinking and reasoning skills in them, the Board introduced compulsory Problem Solving Assessment (PSA) for students of Classes IX & XI from the academic session 2012-13. The PSA is done in three broad domains: Language conventions, Qualitative reasoning and Quantitative reasoning. The Question paper of PSA follows multiple choice question formats for 60 Marks. Previous year' question papers with answer key for each class can be obtained from the academic website of CBSE: www.cbseacademic.in

9. Creation of Inclusive Education Cell and Promoting Inclusive Practices: The Board's interactions with stakeholders, specialist educators and available research in the area of Inclusive Education, point to a multitude of variable contexts, which is our challenge. Therefore, the Board has constituted an Inclusive Education Cell to study these contexts, and propose policies and suitable programmes.

Further, the Board strongly urges schools to conceptualize their institutions as *inclusive schools* in terms of infrastructure and implementation strategies as expected in the Persons with Disability Act 1995 and the affiliation bye-laws of the Board.

10. Online support mechanism: An online support mechanism has been initiated by CBSE and is available through the link <http://online.cbsei.in/application/callcenter/>. This system will help the schools and students to submit their grievances or queries regarding CBSE using an online form that will be directly forwarded to the CBSE Call Center for support.

11. CBSE-International Curriculum: The Board has launched its international curriculum called CBSE-i which aims to carry forward the basic strength of the Indian educational system. The foundation of core skills in Mathematics and Science education continues in the international curriculum with a difference that Mathematics is provided at two levels –'Core and Elective' to cater to the different kinds of learners. Science education, in addition to the foundation, has an extension, or 'Breakthroughs' which primarily takes into account the latest advances in Science and Technology. The CBSE-i curriculum is a cross-curricular approach where Perspectives, Life skills, SEWA and Research Project form the Core. For the details about the CBSE-i curriculum, please visit the following website: <http://cbse-international.com/cbse-portal/auth/>. For queries related to *CBSE-i* and CBSE Main the Nodal Officer Dr. Kshipra Verma can be contacted at 011-23231067, email at kshipra.verma.cbsei@gmail.com

12. Assessment of Speaking and Listening Skills (ASL): English as a medium of communication has acquired an important role in bringing the world together. Although all language skills need to be integrated in the English language curriculum, speaking and listening should be fostered to equip children with better communication skills. Therefore, there is a formal testing of speaking and listening skills in English for Classes IX and XI with 20% weightage provisioned in the total weightage of SA I and SA II. The relevant material can be accessed on the academic website: www.cbseacademic.in under the tab 'ASL Gateway'

13. CBSE Channel on You-Tube: CBSE has a channel on You Tube: www.youtube.com/cbsechannel dedicated to the various activities conducted by the Board and its affiliated schools. The schools are invited to submit their original videos like short films, role plays, talks, discussions, debates, presentations or other such activities on any of the following themes to be uploaded on the CBSE Channel: Health and Wellness ,Gender Sensitivity ,Community Outreach ,Life Skills, Values Education ,Heritage, Disaster Management ,Social Issues ,Environmental Issues and Concerns and Innovative Teaching -

Learning Methodologies. Kindly refer to the notification available in this regard under the CBSE academic website :www.cbseacademic.in

14. New Electives: As a response to current social and economic demands, new electives in Legal Studies, Theatre Studies, Human Rights and Gender Studies, NCC and Library Science were piloted in class XI in 2013 and in class XII in 2014-2015. Schools may apply for introducing them for the session 2015-16.

Again, this year, extensive feedback received from all the stakeholders- through the 'Interact with the Chairman' link in the CBSE's academic website, have been incorporated in the 'FAQ's' Section of the CBSE website: www.cbse.nic.in. All teachers and students are urged to visit this section, in case they have any query. My earnest appeal to our stakeholders is that, they find the time to go through the contents of the website and update themselves about developments in the various scholastic and co-scholastic areas.

The journey with schools helped us gain a better understanding of the learning needs of students. Indeed, the Board has tried to give them the best opportunity for their overall development and hopes that together, we continue to provide a humane learning eco-system to students in future as well.

विद्या ददाति विनयं विनयाद्याति पात्रताम् ।
पात्रत्वाद्धनमाप्नोति धनाद्धर्मं ततः सुखम् ॥

[With knowledge you get humility, humility makes you worthy and worth helps you get wealth; wealth when invested in charity and utilized for doing good/righteous deeds will lead to salvation (you'll obtain eternal bliss)]

My best wishes to you for the year 2015. The Board looks forward to march ahead with greater understanding, dedication, and wisdom in the forthcoming year!

Dr. Satbir Bedi
Chairperson

Copy with a request to respective Heads of Directorates/KVS/NVS/CTSA as indicated below to also disseminate the information to all concerned schools under their jurisdiction:

1. The Commissioner, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, 18-Institutional Area, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg, New Delhi-110016.
2. The Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, B-15, Sector-62, Institutional Area, Noida-201309.
3. The Director of Education, Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Old Secretariat, Delhi-110 054.
4. The Director of Public Instructions (Schools), Union Territory Secretariat, Sector 9, Chandigarh-160 017.
5. The Director of Education, Govt. of Sikkim, Gangtok, Sikkim - 737101.
6. The Director of School Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar - 791 111
7. The Director of Education, Govt. of A&N Islands, Port Blair - 744101.
8. The Director of Education, S.I.E., CBSE Cell, VIP Road, Jungle Ghat, P.O. 744103, A&N Islands.
9. The Secretary, Central Tibetan School Administration, ESS Plaza, Community Centre, Sector 3 Rohini, Delhi-110085.
10. The Additional Director General of Army Education, A -Wing, Sena Bhawan, DHQ, PO, New Delhi-110001.
11. The Secretary AWES, Integrated Headquarters of MoD(Army), FDR Building No. 202, Shankar Vihar (Near APS), Delhi Cantt-110010.
12. All Regional Directors/ Regional Officers of CBSE with the request to send this circular to all the Heads of the affiliated schools of the Board in their respective regions.
13. All Associate Professor & Additional Directors/ Advisors/ Consultants
14. All Additional Director/ Joint Director/ Deputy Director/ Assistant Director, Vocational Cell, CBSE.
15. The Research Officer (Technology) with the request to put this circular on the CBSE websites.
16. All Assistant Professor & Joint Directors, CBSE
17. All Assistant Professor & Deputy Directors, CBSE
18. The Deputy Director (Examination & Reforms), CBSE
19. The Assistant Librarian, CBSE
20. The Public Relations Officer, CBSE
21. The Hindi Officer, CBSE
22. PS to Chairman, CBSE
23. PS to Secretary, CBSE
24. PS to Controller of Examinations, CBSE
25. PS to Director (Special Exams and CTET), CBSE
26. PA to Professor & Director (Academics, Research, Training & Innovation), CBSE
27. PA to Director (Information Technology)

Chairperson