Public to get a say on how the arts are taught in national curriculum

By Eva Tejszerski

IT HAS been a year-long process of brainstorming and countless creations perfected through trial and error, but finally the work is done.

Year 12 students in Sutherland Shire have completed their HSC projects and must now wait for the results.

The artworks are the major practical components of the visual arts exam, which they will sit next month.

One of the standouts is by William Livingston, a student at De La Salle Senior College, Cromulla.

His creation, *Fleetwing*, was inspired by the run-down Coomes Garage at Cromulla.

“When I saw the council demolition sign go up, I knew I had to capture the memory before it was gone,” William said.

“I like working with oil crayons, depicting old industrial buildings.

“Some of the factories at Taren Point that I drew have already been bulldozed.

“Pictures of ordinary things will be greatly appreciated one day because they won’t be there forever.”

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority announced the arts would be given a central place in the new national curriculum when it released the final paper in August, which sets out how drama, dance, music, visual arts and media arts will be studied in schools.

The paper was developed following a consultation period earlier this year.

Under the new curriculum, students will be able to start specialising in one or more of their favourite art subjects when they start high school.

Byron Hurst, a visual arts teacher at De La Salle, said allowing schools to tailor teaching hours to suit individual needs was better than making it compulsory for students to study all five areas of the arts.

But he said it still had a “one-size-fits-all” approach, rather than respecting each one as a distinct discipline.

The authority will use the shaping paper to guide the writing of the Australian Arts Curriculum, which will be released for public consultation next year.

Once it is endorsed by states and territories it will be implemented from 2013.

*See more on the Coomes site, page 5.*