

MAKING KNOWLEDGE WORK

TO Deans of Schools
Associate Deans (Learning and Teaching)
Chairs of Boards of Examiners
Heads of Department
Schools and Departmental Administrators
M J Wilson, Academic Affairs Officer, Students' Union,
Professor G Layer (Pro-Vice Chancellor L&T)
Academic Standards Administrators in ASSU
SAINT Support Team
SAINT Data Stewards
SAINT Implementation Board members
SAINT Users (by email)

FROM **Chris Toft, ASSU**

DATE **27/04/2007**

E:VISION MARK AVAILABILITY

Problems were encountered by some Schools last year prior to the Boards of Examiners meetings when some students had viewed their marks via e:vision and then telephoned their Schools to ask questions about their progress. As the Boards had not yet met, this disrupted work in administrative offices at a very busy period. In order to avoid this happening again, it has been agreed that the default setting for e:vision mark availability will be "on" (i.e. modules and marks available to students) for most of the year, with the setting moved to "off" (modules and marks not available) for all campus based students for a period in May-July and in August-September each year, starting at the beginning of the formal examination period and ending after the last formal date for Boards of Examiners meetings.

When the mark availability has been switched back on again following Boards of Examiners meetings, there could potentially be a problem if all students at the University log into the system at the same time to check their marks. It is unknown at this stage what the impact of such mass access might do to the system, although it is anticipated that this will cause a slow down of the system at the very least, and a complete crash at the worst, thus affecting other processes around the University. It has therefore also been agreed that mark availability should be switched back on over a period of time so that the volume of students accessing e:vision is staggered.

A notice will be placed on e:vision to inform students why there may be no marks visible. Students will be informed by email that the mark availability will be switched off on the given date, and that their Schools will inform them of their switch on date.

The following dates have been set for the current academic session:

Summer

Switch off e:vision mark availability

Friday 4th May 2007

Switch on e:vision mark availability

On request* (default is on or after Monday 16th July)

Supplementary

Switch off e:vision mark availability

Monday 20th August 2007

Switch on e:vision mark availability

On request* (default is on or after Thursday 13th September)

- * Schools should inform the SAINT Support Team (by means of an email to ictservicedesk@bradford.ac.uk) of the dates that they require their marks to be switched back on again, by course code. This can be at any point and Schools do not have to wait for the full duration of the suggested period before switching on; equally they can request a later switch on date. This is entirely flexible at the request of Schools. Any Schools that have not notified the SAINT team of their required switch on date will have their marks switched back on automatically on or after the indicated date but **are strongly advised to set a date that is different to this** to avoid serious system problems (see previous page).

Schools who do not wish to have marks switched off at all, or who wish to switch off collaborative provision courses which are not included in this arrangement, can do so by request.

If you require any further clarification or advice, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the SAINT Support Team.