

30 January 2006

About This Release:

Some important new features contained in this release are:

- SMS messaging is now available for A+.
- Two new reports have been added...
 - "Attendance Review" for Year Level Co-ordinators. It lists, period-by-period, the attendance of students.
 - "Attendance Alert" to pinpoint students who may regularly be missing particular subjects.
- Two reports have been amended...
 - More options for the columns in the report have been added to "Attendance Rate".
 - "Reason Summary" has been completely overhauled, giving you many more options. It now encompasses "Reason Summary By Period".

There have also been some major changes to First Class Web:

- It is now possible to print class lists and form lists, with some of the options that are available in First Class, directly from First Class Web.
- The "Show Report" option for timetable viewing has been more meaningfully renamed "Create Report" and enhanced to allow for Landscape printing.
- The menu bar remains visible when a report has been generated.

Any Other Ideas?

Remember, we depend on the feedback of our users to determine the enhancements to be included in our software. If you have any brilliant ideas, (or even not so brilliant, but important), give me, Robert Bakker, a call on 1300 301 931, or email me at rob@humanedge.biz.


Coming Soon:

The focus of development has now shifted to the new SQL version of First Class. We are looking forward to completing this exciting new platform, and to introducing you to some of the great new changes made possible by this move.






Electronic Roll Marking Software

If you need any further information about enabling electronic roll marking in First Class, please call Gary Stoneham on 1300 550 765.

First Class		
A+	Reports – Student Absence Reason Grid	The Absence Reason Grid has been renamed Student Absence Reason Grid.
	Reports – Detailed Attendance By Student	The Attendance By Student has been renamed Detailed Attendance By Student.
	 Reports – Attendance Review	<p>The Attendance Review report displays, using characters for each type of absence, a summary of attendance for each period both in core classes and in blocked classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This information can be saved electronically. • Has the ability of grouping by gender. • Can be utilised by Year Level Co-ordinators/Home Group/Form Assembly teachers to review student attendance.
	Reports – Reason Summary	<p>This report has had a complete makeover. It tallies up the number of times a particular reason is used within the date range. The options are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using tree-views and/or checkboxes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Select all students, by year level, form, or from the list of individual students, those students to be reported on. ○ Select the subjects to be reported on. • Set a date/date range. • The tally can be summarized into one list, or have a separate list for each day. • The reasons can be generalized into the four reason groups. • There are filters for student groupings, subjects and periods, and you can report on only certain reasons. • The report can be split into years, forms, periods, students or subjects, and combinations of up to three of these. • If one or more of the previous splits are used, you can have sub-totals at the end of each split and a grand total can be shown at the end. • Report on all periods, marked or unmarked (“unmarked” treated as “Present”), or only report on marked classes. • To save paper, the report can print in two columns.

30 January 2006

<p>Reports – Reason Summary By Period</p>	<p>As the functionality of this report is now included in the new Reason Summary report, (see above), the Reason Summary By Period report has been removed.</p>
<p>Reports – Student Attendance Rate</p>	<p>The name of this report has been changed from “Attendance Rate”, and there has been one minor terminology change. The term “By Subject” has been renamed “By Class” and has been moved so that, instead of being at the bottom of the screen, it is now near the top under the date range. It still performs the same function. Extra options have been added to the drop-down list for the four columns that can be printed.</p>
<p> Reports – Attendance Alert</p>	<p>This is an alert for students who have had a number of absences from a particular subject. The options are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a date range. • Set a minimum number of absences for a subject. • Select the reasons to report on. • Order the entries by form.
<p> SMS Messaging</p>	<p>SMS messages can be sent using First Class. In the first instance, this would be used to SMS parents concerning unexplained absences within a particular day. However, it could also be used to send bulletins, reminders, and general information to parents and/or students. A merge file is needed (possibly a modified version of the one used for explanation letters), with certain data about the parent/student contact details.</p> <p>The options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create your own message, with merge field from the associated file. • Determine whether the message goes to parents or students, and whether it’s sent to particular forms, year levels, or houses. • In the case of SMS messages by absent student, you can determine the reasons, periods, and year levels to be notified. <p>To enquire about enabling the SMS service and pricing, please contact Joe Konynenberg at joe@humanedge.biz.</p>

First Class Web		
Explorer		<p>There is a new item on the “Explorer” menu – “Reports”. You can print the following lists from this option...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class Lists. <p>There is a tree-view to select the class lists you wish to print, with the facility to select or deselect all boxes. You can choose to print allocated or unallocated students, sort the lists by subject or line, print a class per page, omit the students’ codes and/or print tick boxes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form Lists. <p>Similar options are available to those for class lists. The obvious differences are that there is no Allocated/Unallocated or Sort by subject/line options.</p>
	General	<p>When a report or PDF is generated, either in the timetable viewer, or from one of the new reports, the menu bar remains visible now.</p>
		<p>When a report is generated from the timetable viewer, there is now an option to print in landscape orientation.</p>