



MELVILLE
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

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**Gifted and Talented
Information
Handbook**



UN Youth



Semester Awards



Camp Fairbridge



Gifted Awareness Week



Tournament of Minds



WA School Chess League

Contact Us

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Gifted & Talented

Selective Academic Program

What is Gifted & Talented?

According to the Department of Education's Public School's Policy in Gifted & Talented, *gifted* is defined as; *The possession and use of outstanding natural abilities, called aptitudes, in at least one ability domain.*

Talented is defined as; *Outstanding mastery of systematically developed abilities, called competencies (knowledge and skills), in at least one field of human activity. Talent emerges from ability as a consequence of the student's learning experience.*

Simply put, Melville Senior High School Gifted & Talented Program works to propel gifted students into manifested talent.

Gifted & Talented Program at Melville Senior High School

Through the Department of Education, Melville Senior High School is a participating school providing a Gifted & Talented Selective Entrance Academic Program. Selection into the program is based on the results of the Academic Selective Entrance Test (ASET). Students who accept entrance into the program after testing are allowed from outside of Melville SHS's catchment.

Melville SHS is one of the fourteen public secondary metropolitan schools with a Gifted & Talented Selective Entrance Academic Program. Programs vary from school to school, distinguished by the extension, enrichment and extracurricular activities offered.

Students selected in the Gifted & Talented Program (GaT) study Mathematics, Science, Humanities and English together as a unified group from Years 7-10. Melville SHS's Gifted & Talented Program is distinguished from mainstream in MESH subject area curriculum extension and/or enrichment and the variety of opportunities offered that take place outside the classroom.



CURRICULUM

Curriculum Extension

Gifted & Talented students are extended in their core subjects' curriculum while following curriculum standards according to SCSA and ACARA. 'Extension' concerns the depth of students and the ability to apply or integrate one's knowledge at a deeper level of conceptualisation.

At Melville SHS, the Gifted & Talented Program does not skip foundational curriculum material; instead, it attains this material at a student-guided pace while matching the complexity and depth with the readiness and motivation of the class. This means that some concepts may be attained in less time, and students may then be ready to examine content at a deeper level. In MESH subjects, Gifted & Talented students follow the same course and assessment outline as the mainstream cohort, in addition to extension in investigations, cross-curricular concepts, critical thinking, using information to create, take information apart and explore relationships. Extension activities are not used as additional work, but more appropriate work based on the ability of the students.



Curriculum Enrichment

Depending on the learning area and year level, GaT teachers may use enrichment to broaden student knowledge, understanding and application. Enrichment concerns broadening content by understanding processes and skills beyond the core curriculum and at the level appropriate to the student's development.

Our specialty-trained Gifted and Talented teachers use the enrichment approach to broaden students' knowledge, understanding, and application capabilities. Enrichment concerns broadening students' breadth of knowledge by building processes and skills beyond the core curriculum and at the level appropriate to the student's development.

The GaT Program at Melville SHS uses enrichment activities and opportunities in conjunction with MESH subjects' content to provide new experiences for students. This is evident in incursions/excursions organised by the GaT Coordinator that involve, but are not limited to, visiting historical sites, engagement in outreach workshops/programs with universities, team-building camps, and engaging in state and national competitions.

In the GaT classrooms, enrichment may take place in MESH subjects, emphasising the development of processes and skills associated with the content. For example, a GaT classroom may place more emphasis and variety in the way content is learned (i.e., small group investigation, focus on cooperative skills, independent research, visiting museums and historical sites). In addition, enrichment in GaT places the central focus on skills learned (i.e., exercising logical thought and problem-solving, using communication to present an idea, and attending workshops/Masterclasses).

Gifted students are expected to learn the same concepts and curriculum as mainstream students. However, differentiated instruction is necessary for gifted students due to their ability to learn at a faster pace, have greater independence in study and thought and increase complexity and depth in content. Our GaT teachers may take into account these considerations when teaching gifted students:



Maths	English	Science	HaSS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on building confidence to explore thinking processes • Tying content to creative skills and engagement • Weekly investigations to build problem-solving and cross-curricular connections • Focus on algebraic skills in middle school and preparation for Mathematics Specialists and Methods for those gifted in maths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use essential or overarching questions to guide learning • Synthesising ideas and concepts • Project-based learning and exploration of concepts • Using advanced terminology Student-driven exploration and examination of concepts • Reading texts in more than one way (close readings) • Preparation for a Literature Pathway in Senior School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More investigations by critically examining information • Explore and learn coding and other programmable devices using robots • Exposure to different areas of the subject that is not part of the curriculum (coding, biology, other areas of physics, health sciences) • Preparation for Physics and/or Chemistry in Senior School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth exploration of content that nurtures analytical skills in history and interpretation of data in geography • Investigations that understand the mitigation and sustainability of local land environments • Project-based learning in business and entrepreneurship • Preparation for Economics, History, and Business in Senior School

OPPORTUNITIES & TUITION

Excursions & Incursions

A key component of the Melville Senior High School's GaT Program is the enriching learning opportunities outside the classroom. From Years 7-10, students will partake in an excursion exclusive to their Gifted and Talented class. Year 7 students are welcomed into the program with a team-building overnight camp. This camp has proven successful in helping students establish relationships with each other early on and find friends as they navigate through high school. In Year 10, students experience a similar camp and can bond one last time before concluding their time in the GaT program. In Year 8 and Year 9, students partake in excursions that strengthen their relationship with each other and provide a learning experience in team-building, communication, historical knowledge and problem-solving.

Other excursions and incursions are organised in conjunction with MESH learning areas. These include competitions, workshops with universities, tours, short programs, guest speakers and masterclasses. The GaT Program may subsidise students' fees, organise aspects of the event or provide additional support to these experiences.

Non-academic excursions/incursions organised & subsidised by GaT

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transition Camp, Fairbridge (Week 4, Term 1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Escape Room, Bowling & Lunch (Term 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Escape Room, Bowling & Lunch (Term 2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team-building Camp, Fairbridge (Week 1, Term 4)

Academic excursions/incursions subsidised or partly subsidised by GAT and/or in collaboration with MESH

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Mathematics Comp. WAJO (Maths competition) Numero RoboCup Have Sum Fun Wise Women Book in a Day Big Science Competition WaterWise Mundaring Weir Excursion Tournament of Minds Chess Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Mathematics Comp WAJO (Maths competition) Numero Have Sum Fun Wise Women Book in a Day Big Science Competition RACI (Nearer to Nature Native Program) Democracy in Action - UN WA Youth Speaker Program Tournament of Minds Chess Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Mathematics Comp. WAJO (Maths competition) Numero Have Sum Fun Robocup Seek Out Science Incursion @ Murdoch Wise Women Book in a Day Big Science Competition Piney Lakes Wetlands Program/Sustainability Law Courts / Parliament House Indigenous Tour of Perth Girls & Engineering Tomorrow Tournament of Minds Chess Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Mathematics Comp. WAJO (Maths competition) Numero Have Sum Fun Seek Out Science Incursion @ Murdoch Wise Women Book in a Day Big Science Competition RACI Shark Tank Masterclasses with Murdoch, Curtin Mock Trial UN - Evatt Competition Coastal Erosion Case Study Tournament of Minds Chess Club



At the 2024 RoboCup Junior WA competition

Tuition

Melville SHS's GaT Program understands that the gifted student is not always exceptional in all areas of academics and will need support in one or more MESH subjects. It is also important for students in the later years to have tuition that prepares them for more rigorous Senior School pathways, such as ATAR. The GaT Program may also subsidise external tuition for students (ie, Academic Group).

Years 7-10 Study Club

Every Wednesday from 3.00 pm-4.00 pm in the Learning Resource Centre (Library), GaT students have an exclusive space to study, work with their peers or get help from their teachers.

Years 11-12 MESH Tuition

In Senior School, all MESH subjects provide tuition support in their ATAR classes. These sessions are held throughout the week, before or after school.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply for the Gifted and Talented Program?

All applications must be lodged online through the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit website. Applications are open for the intake of Years 7, 9, 10 and 11. There are no applications accepted for Years 8 and 12. The selection process starts when students are in Year 5, testing in Year 6, with placement from Year 7. Limited vacancies may also be available for entry into Years 9, 10 and 11 only.

Parents/carers are strongly encouraged to register their interest to receive further information about Gifted and Talented programs, including an email announcing when applications open. You can register your interest between March and October each year. A registration of interest is not an application for Gifted and Talented.

My child was in a Primary Extension and Challenge (PEAC) Program, does this mean they gain automatic entry?

No. Students who participate in a differentiated program, such as PEAC, do not have automatic entry to a Gifted and Talented Selective Program, and must still follow the application process set by the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit.

How many schools' programs can I apply to?

Gifted and Talented Academic, Arts and Languages Programs are available at 24 select public secondary schools in Western Australia. During the application process, you can select up to three school preferences. Once you have received your child's ASET Performance Report, you will have approximately 7 days to change your child's preferences before the first round of offers.

What is the duration of the program?

Melville SHS's Gifted and Talented Program is from Years 7-12. Students from Years 7-10 are in a discreet class for their subjects: Mathematics, English, Science, History and Social Sciences. In Years 11-12 students are integrated back into the mainstream, however, students still have continuing opportunities in extension and enrichment.

Are there any extra costs?

Students in the Gifted and Talented Program from Years 7-12 may incur additional costs for tuition, excursions, incursions, events and extra-curricular activities. In Years 7-10 for Mathematics, English, Science, History and Social Sciences students incur a higher class cost to cover online subscriptions, resources or enrichment opportunities.

Does the program follow a separate curriculum?

Melville SHS's Gifted and Talented Program follows a common course and assessment outline for their subjects in Mathematics, English, Science, History and Social Sciences. However, this curriculum is heavily differentiated to support extension and enrichment of gifted students. This may occur in curriculum compaction, utilising higher-order thinking skills, more abstraction, and external opportunities to support in-depth learning.



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*Achieving excellence today and
building bright futures for tomorrow.*

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