



MARSDEN
HIGH SCHOOL



HIGH POTENTIAL & GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM 2025

HIGH POTENTIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Marsden High School provides high quality engagement and challenging educational programs for every student across the intellectual, creative and social-emotional domains.

The High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) program is a talent development program for academically high performing students.

Students will experience an innovative approach to learning instruction that focuses on key skills for success in the modern world known as the five C's:

- Collaboration
- Creative thinking
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Citizenship skills

Pinnacle Program

Marsden's Pinnacle Program is a merged curriculum Stage 4 (years 7 and 8) program focused on student enrichment. The program targets students who are inquisitive in their learning and have a variety of talents. Students are committed to learning, demonstrate a growth mindset and are determined to achieve their best at all times.

The Pinnacle Program merges the Stage 4 curriculum outcomes and expectations of the Core subjects - Mathematics, English, HSIE, Science and PDHPE. It is designed to provide an educational environment that enables high potential and gifted students to develop to their full potential. Students also participate in the mandatory Technology, Music, Visual Arts and Languages.



Modifications are made to the speed students complete the curriculum. Through flexible pacing and curriculum compacting, increasing the depth and abstraction of content covered, the program provides students with intellectual challenge and choice within an environment that encourages creativity, problem solving and analytical expression while stimulating higher-order thinking.

Horizon Program

Horizon is Marsden's talent development program for academically high performing students in years 9 and 10 (Stage 5), following on from the successful Pinnacle program in years 7 and 8. The Horizon program stimulates higher order learning by exploring contemporary, relevant issues within a multi-disciplinary framework, across the subjects of English, Science, HSIE and PDHPE.

Teachers deliver the curriculum at a level, pace, degree of abstraction and complexity beyond learning expectation for their age peers. Students follow the same curriculum as their year level, with tasks that demand higher order thinking skills, and will be expected to produce work of exceptional depth and complexity. They will be expected to undertake sustained independent research and exercise creativity and self direction.

High Potential in Mathematics

Stage 5 students that are high performing in Mathematics will complete the Core and Advanced Pathway of Mathematics as their core subject and also have the option to choose Accelerated Mathematics as an elective.

Accelerated Mathematics enables selected students to begin a Stage 6 or HSC course instead of a traditional Stage 5 elective. Students complete the Year 11 course in Year 10 and the Year 12 course in Year 11. They receive HSC credit for their outcomes and completion can count towards their ATAR. Single course acceleration provides students with an opportunity to study an extra subject for the HSC or finish a HSC subject in Year 11.

HOW TO APPLY

Pinnacle (year 7)

The components of the application process for Pinnacle are:
An application form to be completed by the student and a parent / carer, a student portfolio and an assessment day.

Application forms and further information can be found on the Marsden web site.

Pinnacle (year 8) & Horizon (years 9 & 10)

The components of the application process for Pinnacle (year 8) & Horizon (years 9 & 10) include an application form to be completed by the student and a parent, teacher references, student portfolio and an interview.

Students who wish to apply should see Ms Van der Kley for more details.

Application forms and further information can also be found on the Marsden web site.

Mathematics Accelerated Course

Students wishing to undertake the Mathematics Accelerated course must complete a comprehensive selection process undertaken by the Head Teacher Mathematics in consultation with the Principal. Participation in the accelerated program will require attendance of lessons outside of traditional class times (Period 0 or Period 5) and students will also need to work in their own time to meet the demands of a Year 11/HSC Course.

More information is provided as part of the Stage 5 Subject Selection process.

