



marsden high school

2021

HORIZON PROGRAM

HORIZON PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2020

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

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

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.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN.

The components of the application process 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 for the Horizon program should see Ms van der Kley for more details.

Further information can also be found on the Marsden web site:

www.marsden-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER**



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HORIZON PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Horizon program?

The Horizon program is a talent development program for academically high performing students in years 9 and 10. This program aims to stimulate higher order learning by exploring contemporary, relevant issues within a multi-disciplinary framework with a focus upon creative, critical, collaborative and communicative skill extension.

Horizon is a two-year program, designed to run across Year 9 and 10, however there is scope for students to join or leave the program if required. In 2021 there will be a one-year program run for Year 10.

Who can apply for the Horizon program?

All 2020 Year 8 and Year 9 students are invited to apply for the 2021 Horizon program. You do not have to be in the Pinnacle program to apply for Horizon. It is expected that students applying for the Horizon will be able to show a high level of academic achievement, and an ability to work independently on complex concepts and tasks.

What subjects are included in the Horizon program?

The Horizon program covers the following subjects:

- English
- HSIE - History and Geography
- Science
- PDHPE

High potential in Mathematics is already catered for with the 5.3 subject stream and the Accelerated Maths elective.

Electives for Horizon students will run as normal with the rest of the year group.

How will students be selected for the Horizon program?

The selection of students will be based on the student's application and performance at the Horizon interview.

The application includes a student survey, a parent survey, two teacher references and a student portfolio, showcasing the student's academic results and performance in extra-curricular and other relevant activities.

Once all applications have been reviewed, a number of students will be invited to attend an interview. Once all interviews have been completed the selection panel will determine the successful applicants.

How will the Horizon classes be different to the other classes?

Students in the program will follow the same set curriculum for their Year level, however they will be expected to produce work of exceptional depth and complexity; on tasks that demand higher order thinking skills, in which they undertake sustained independent research and exercise creativity, and self direction.

In seeking greater challenge and complexity, students may be required to access external expertise and stimulus. For example, they may attend special university workshops; participate in programs and partnerships with mentors in academia; join scientific and business interest groups. They may work on real products and engage in research on external projects.

What should be included in the student portfolio?

Your portfolio should include the following:

- Last year's Semester 2 and this year's Semester 1 school reports
- Report reflections
- Any awards or results for academic competitions/tests that are relevant to your Horizon application (eg. English competition, Geography competition etc.)
- Two samples of Assessment tasks that you have completed over the past year that showcases your ability and potential.

Examples of assessment tasks include narratives that you have written, images of assessment tasks where you have had to construct something like the Medieval Castle or a science experiment.

Please do not include originals of any of your documents - take a photocopy and include the copy only.

Which teachers should I use for my teacher references?

Your first teacher reference should be one of your 2020 teachers from the following subjects - English, Geography, History, Science or PDHPE.

Your second teacher reference can be any of your 2020 teachers.

Choose a teacher that is able to comment on your ability and suitability for the Horizon program and is happy to recommend you.

You must give the teacher reference forms to your chosen teachers by Tuesday 13 October. They will then fill out the form and return the completed reference to Ms Van Der Kley.

What happens if I join the Horizon program but find it's not suitable for me?

The pace and intensity of the class will not necessarily benefit all students.

There may be opportunity for students to move out of the program at particular points - typically, at the end of a semester or a year – if they find the work too challenging or are not suited to the pace or style of learning.

If I don't get into the Horizon program for Year 9 can I still apply for Year 10?

Yes, there may be limited opportunities for students to join the Horizon program in Year 10, where the student has demonstrated the capabilities required to succeed in the program and there are spaces available.



HORIZON PROGRAM APPLICATION

Dear Parents and Carers

Please find attached an application form for the **Marsden High School Horizon Program**.

The Horizon Program is a Year 9 and Year 10 program that offers extension activities to high achieving and high potential students, for the subjects of English, Science, HSIE and PDHPE. Please note that Mathematics is graded separately and is not part of the Horizon program.

If your child is interested in applying for this program, please fill out the application form and return to Marsden High School by **Friday 16 October 2020**.

THE PROCESS:

1. Submit application by **Friday 16 October 2020**.
2. Selected students will be invited to attend an interview on **Friday 30 October** or **Monday 2 November 2020**.
3. Successful applicants will be notified by **Thursday 21 November 2020**.

If you require any further information, please contact sarah.vanderkley1@det.nsw.edu.au

Yours sincerely

Ms Sarah van der Kley
High Potential & Gifted Education Coordinator

Please present the following application to school reception or post or email to Marsden High School. If students are submitting the application it should be given to Mrs Muller at the Student Services window at the front office.

MARSDEN HIGH SCHOOL
22A WINBOURNE STREET, WEST RYDE NSW 2114

POST:
PO BOX 432, WEST RYDE 1685

EMAIL:
marsden-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

will be considered for placement on the basis of the following information:

- The Application
- Teacher References
- Student Portfolio
 - Please do not include any original documents in your portfolio, copies only
- Performance at the Horizon interview

Teacher References:

- Your first teacher reference should be one of your 2020 teachers from the following subjects - English, Geography, History, Science or PDHPE.
- Your second teacher reference can be any of your 2020 teachers.
- Teacher reference forms must be handed to your chosen teachers for completion by **Tuesday 13 October 2020**.



HORIZON PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

STUDENT INFORMATION:

FIRST NAME:

SURNAME:

YEAR GROUP:

STUDENT SIGNATURE:

PARENT / CARER INFORMATION:

FIRST NAME:

SURNAME:

PHONE:

EMAIL:

PARENT SIGNATURE:

Out of school,
which activities
does your child
participate in?
What are your
child's special
hobbies or
interests?

HORIZON PROGRAM

APPLICATION FORM - STUDENT SURVEY

STUDENT NAME:

YEAR GROUP:

1. STUDENT PORTFOLIO:

Students are to include a portfolio supporting their application. This portfolio should include:

- This year's Semester 1 report and last year's Semester 2 report and report reflections
- Two samples of assessment tasks that you have completed over the past year that showcase your ability and potential.
- Any awards or results for competitions/tests you have received that are relevant to your Horizon application.

2. SCHOOL PARTICIPATION:

Please indicate:

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| SRC | Environment Team |
| STEM | Writers Club |
| Robotics | Chess Club |
| Dance | Library Monitor |
| Debating | School Sport representation |
| Science Club | Social Justice team |
| Other _____ | |

QUESTIONS

1. Is there a time when you overcame a challenge? Please describe the challenge and how you dealt with the situation.

2. If you could invite 3 people to dinner who would they be and why? (dead or alive)

3. If you could improve one thing about the world you live in what would it be?

What part can you play in making this happen?

Please name the two teachers you have chosen to complete your teacher reference forms:

Teacher 1:

Teacher 2:

HORIZON PROGRAM

TEACHER REFERENCE 1

STUDENT NAME:

TEACHER NAME:

SUBJECT:

English

Science

Geography/History

PDHPE

CHARACTERISTICS:

Please mark the category you think best describes the student.

| | Most of the time | Often | Occasionally | Rarely |
|--|------------------|-------|--------------|--------|
| Is open to other opinions | | | | |
| Is an independent learner | | | | |
| Can look at a problem from different perspectives | | | | |
| Is not afraid of making mistakes | | | | |
| Is resourceful and can improvise | | | | |
| Doesn't give up easily | | | | |
| Can learn anywhere | | | | |
| Can reflect and think about their learning | | | | |
| Works well with others | | | | |
| Able to follow complex directions | | | | |
| Sets high goals for self | | | | |
| Has advanced vocab; clear, fluent expression of self & ideas | | | | |

On a scale of 1 to 10, how highly would you recommend this student as a Horizon candidate?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Would not recommend

Would highly recommend

Do you have
any additional
comments on
this student's
applicability for
the Horizon
Program?

TEACHER SIGNATURE:

Please note: This reference form must be handed to your chosen teacher no later than Tuesday 13 October. You do not need to collect the completed form, teachers will return the forms to Ms van der Kley directly.

HORIZON PROGRAM

TEACHER REFERENCE 2

STUDENT NAME:

TEACHER NAME:

SUBJECT:

CHARACTERISTICS:

Please mark the category you think best describes the student.

| | Most of the time | Often | Occasionally | Rarely |
|--|------------------|-------|--------------|--------|
| Is open to other opinions | | | | |
| Is an independent learner | | | | |
| Can look at a problem from different perspectives | | | | |
| Is not afraid of making mistakes | | | | |
| Is resourceful and can improvise | | | | |
| Doesn't give up easily | | | | |
| Can learn anywhere | | | | |
| Can reflect and think about their learning | | | | |
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