

Frequently Asked Questions about the Inspire Gifted and Talented Program

What is Inspire?

Inspire is the name given to Canberra High School's gifted and talented program. The view of the program is that giftedness is a special need, so rather than it being a competitive, segregated program we have tried to make it inclusive.

How does it work?

This shares three general underlying themes.

1. granted genuine extension opportunities built into the curriculum, but not necessarily added to the curriculum.
2. supported to participate in competitions and unique excursion opportunities.
3. extended both culturally and socially through philosophy classes held regularly with their peers.

What subjects are offered?

The program runs across Maths, English, Science and SOSE where a student may choose to focus on one or more of these core subject areas and they will be given enriched learning tasks. In year 7 the students may choose Mathematics, English, Science or SOSE. In later years students can change their Inspire subjects or add more subjects. Classroom teachers work in collaboration with the Curriculum coordinator and G&T Liaison Officer to provide genuine enriched extension opportunities for Inspire students on all major assessment tasks. This may take the form of a different task, self-directed inquiry based task, different rubric for the same task, or an additional component on the same task.

What types of competitions are offered to Inspire Students?

Whilst it is the policy of the school to ensure that all students can participate in subject specific competitions and special programs it is expected that Inspire students who have chosen a particular Inspire subject *must* participate in any competitions and or special programs if available. This includes competitions such as National Botanical Gardens photography competition, Young Chefs, Battle of the Bands, History Competition, Geography Competition, ANZAC completion, English competitions, Short story , Poetry, Maths Enrichment, Rio Tinto Science Competition, etc...It also includes special programs like the Da Vinci Decathlon, Tournament of the Minds and Parliamentary Debating.

What are the philosophy classes?

Whilst the Inspire program is built on the premise that it is not competitive nor segregated, it is acknowledged that students benefit by coming together on occasion. This occurs on a regular basis with all Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Inspire students attending Philosophy. The idea behind the small group is to give Inspire students with differing interests the opportunity to discuss philosophical issues. Google Classroom will also be used as a platform for online philosophical discussions to continue.

What is the Purpose of the Philosophy Classes?

Philosophy for Children (P4C) emphasises the importance of the following in the process of education:

- enquiry and questioning skills
- imaginative and meaningful dialogue
- careful reasoning and reflection.

It also:

- develops children's thinking skills
- encourages collaborative working and learning
- advances social and emotional development.

How are students selected to be in the Inspire program?

The selection process involves a multifaceted approach and includes the following:

- Primary school recommendations and/or involvement in primary school G&T programs
- Parental questionnaire for year 7 students and parental recommendations for yr 8,9 and 10
- Secondary school teacher recommendation (academic excellence within their teaching subject.
- Academic excellence in all subjects
- OLSAT, Naplan other psychometric diagnosis.

How are successful students notified?

Toward the end of Term 1 successful students are posted an invitation. Following this the Gifted and Talented Liaison Officer will contact parents and/or carers to organise a follow up interview time. The interviews take place toward the end of Term One and /or the beginning of Term 2. Following this classroom teachers will be notified to let them know that the Inspire Student has chosen their subject.

How is student performance monitored?

Student's report will include an Inspire section. This has taken the form of an Inspire outcome for both performance and effort. Teachers will also provide Inspire comments on assessment tasks.

What do they need to do to stay in the program?

As the program is an academic excellence program students will be required to obtain an A' or 'B' grade in chosen Inspire subject or subjects. If they obtain a 'B' grade they must also demonstrate a consistent effort toward the Inspire components. Students will also be required to be involved in subject specific competitions and or special programs. They must also have regular attendance to philosophy classes.

Can students still get into the program after the initial selection?

Absolutely, some of our best Inspire students have entered the program after the initial selection process. This could be based on academic excellence and/or teacher recommendation. It is also important to remember that even if students are not in Inspire, they can still attempt enriched learning tasks and/or enter any of the available competitions.