

# Canberra High School Inspire Program Policy and Procedures

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## Policy

This policy and the associated procedures are developed in line with those of the [ACT Directorate of Education](#). In particular, the work of François Gagné in his [Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent 2.0](#), as this highlights the process by which a gifted student, with the chance of a developmental process can develop talents to serve them in life.

Canberra High School provides gifted students a developmental process in the form of the Inspire Program. This Program values the processes of hard work, cross disciplinary understanding, and the willingness to try and fail, as this leads to valuable life lessons.

To achieve these values, the Inspire Program has the following policies:

- Students are selected for the Program based on testing and/or school performance (see procedures).
- Students choose at least one subject from the core selection of maths, science, English and the humanities, on which to focus and undertake enhancement activities (see procedures). They are encouraged to undertake more than one subject as their Inspire subject and can select all four from Year 8 onwards.
- Students stay in the program based on effort on the subject components they select. This means they may receive a B grade for the subject but will stay in the Program if their effort and achievement on the Inspire aspects are of standard (see procedures).
- Students are expected to perform across the core subjects. If a student receives C grades in all subjects outside their Inspire subject their participation in the Program can be ceased (see procedures).
- Students are offered a Philosophy class where ideas can be explored with no consequence on the academic record. This class is about enhancing the Program and as such, only students in the Program can participate.
- Progress of the students in the Inspire Program are reported to the student and families each Semester.

## Procedures

Below are a range of procedures that are followed in relation to the Inspire Program. These procedures also outline the expectations and requirements for students. If these are not followed, participation in the Program can be ceased.

### Selection for Inspire Program

To enter the program there is a multi-faceted selection process which includes:

- Primary school recommendations and/or involvement in primary school G&T programs
- Parental-questionnaire for year 7 students and parental recommendations for yrs 8, 9 and 10
- Secondary school teacher recommendation to identify possible underachievers (sleepers)
- Academic excellence over the course of a semester (A grades in the core subjects of Maths, Science, English and/or the humanities. There must be at least two A's and then teacher support for selection)
- OLSAT/NAPLAN, PAT, other testing tools

### Expectation requirements

At the end of each semester student achievement for grade level and for Inspire components are reviewed. Depending on the outcome of this review, students may be asked to cease in the Program but are able to return to the program after a semester if they meet the academic excellence criteria as per above. Alternatively, students may be placed on probation which lasts for six months and provides an opportunity for students to have additional support to meet the requirements.

Decisions on the review are based on the following matrix:

Subject Grade	Inspire Achievement	Inspire Effort	Response
A		U/C	Remains in program
A		S/R	Question if program is meeting their needs
B	O/H	C	Remains in program
B	O/H	U	Probation
B	S/D	C	Probation
B	S/D	U	Cessation
B	O/H	S/R	Cessation
B	S/D	S/R	Cessation
C*	Any	Any	Cessation

\* Subject to conditions such as twice gifted students

**Achievement Reference:** Outstanding High Satisfactory Developing

**Effort Reference:** Consistently Usually Sometimes Rarely

The reason an A grade is not required to remain in the program is to encourage students to attempt subjects outside their gifted area and possibly not achieve to their usual personal goals. So long as the student have achieved and attempted in the Inspire aspects, they remain in the program.

Students who receive an A or B grade for their Inspire subject but then three C grades for the other core subjects in a Semester, will be placed on probation. If it occurs twice in a row, they will be ceased in the program. This is to encourage an understanding of the need to operate at a cross disciplinary level and the positive outcome of hard work.

Students in the Inspire Program are expected to adhere to the CARES values of the school. Repeated non-compliance with the CARES values may result in removal from the Program.

Where a student undertakes more than one Inspire subject and is does not meet the requirements of one of those, they will not be permitted to undertake that subject the next semester. This gives them a break and an opportunity to reflect on how to manage time and effort across more than one subject area.

There may be circumstances where consideration of a students' particular situation is required in relation to compliance with any of the requirements. On these occasions, liaison with the Gifted and Talented Liaison Officer, family, student, and Executive will occur to decide on the most appropriate course of action. This may result in some students staying in the Program irrespective of compliance. These will be exceptional circumstances and only upon agreement with all parties.

### Subject requirements

Different subjects have different expectations to be met. Students are to ensure they meet all the requirements for each of the subjects they select for Inspire.

#### Mathematics

INSPIRE students in Maths can expect:

- Tasks or activities that will enable them to pursue in greater depth a rich task/concept/topic.
  - These tasks will range from assignments, puzzles, problem solving, investigation, and open-ended questions. These could be tasks that may take a few weeks or a short one that only requires one lesson to complete. The idea is to provide students with a variety of task types.
  - Students are expected to complete tasks each term. Teachers will record the number of tasks completed, types of tasks selected etc.
  - Tasks will be marked and feedback will be given on each task.
- Tests that may have “Inspire” options where relevant.
- Students can choose to do an independent study in a mathematical topic of their choice in negotiation with their teacher

INSPIRE students in Maths are expected to:

- Complete the Extension questions on assessment tasks to a satisfactory standard.
- Enter at least one of the following enrichment opportunities **and complete to a satisfactory standard:**
  - Maths Challenge in Term 1
  - Maths Enrichment in Term 2 & 3
- Enter at least one of the following competitions:
  - CAT Competition in Term 1
  - Maths Competition in Term 3
- Complete all assessment tasks at a minimum B level standard
- Complete any homework tasks or Inquiry-based tasks set by the teacher

Year 10 Maths Inspire students are encouraged to complete the Advanced Maths Elective either in Semester 1 or 2

NB: Students not currently in Inspire are encouraged to attempt all differentiated assessment tasks and competitions as this can lead to successful selection into the program.

## Science

INSPIRE students in Science are given the opportunity to extend themselves by developing their skills in reading and writing scientifically and/or conducting an individual original research project. The aim of completing a self-directed project is to investigate real world problems to try and understand how Science is relevant and important to the world we live in whilst building skills in the scientific inquiry process. This project can be completed in lieu of other assessment pieces, as negotiated with the student's Science teacher.

INSPIRE students in Science are expected to:

- Fully engage with all Science Inspire tasks
- Participate in the 'Big Science Competition' (Term 2) <https://www.asi.edu.au/programs/big-science-competition>
- Complete all assessment tasks to an A/B level

### Semester 1

For all year groups, Inspire will commence in Week 8 of Term 1 and the submission date is Week 5 Term 2.

In Semester 1, students will read and analyse a short series of articles on one topic. They will answer prompt questions about the articles to guide thinking about effective scientific communication. They will then synthesise what they have read in a short article supplemented by additional research.

### Semester 2

#### *Juniors (years 7 & 8)*

Year 7 and 8 students will all complete an independent research project designed to further develop skills in the scientific inquiry process. In year 7, students will be provided with a topic to investigate (investigating parachutes) and will be provided with a template for their report. In year 8, students will also be provided with a topic (designing and testing a solar oven), however students who have successfully completed Science Inspire in year 7 will also have the option to develop their own inquiry question, subject to approval by their Science teacher. Students wishing to choose their own topic should discuss with their Science teacher in Semester 1.

#### *Seniors (years 9 & 10)*

Year 9 and 10 students will have the option of the Inspire Project or Inspire Lite. The Inspire Project is an independent research project designed to further develop skills in the scientific inquiry process. In years 9 and 10 students will have free choice of a topic to investigate, although some guidance will be given to ensure topics are achievable.

Alternatively, students may choose to complete Inspire Lite - an extended version of the communication task completed in Semester 1. In this task, students will be provided with fortnightly articles to read and reflect upon and one article of their choosing. Reflections will be due each fortnight starting from Week 1 Term 3 with the final reflection due in Week 10, Term 3.

Students will then be required to create their own piece of scientific writing, based around the Science Week theme for the year. This final piece will be due in Week 5 of Term 4 and can be started at any time from Week 1 of Term 3.

Semester 2 projects submitted Week 5 Term 4 (Year 10) and Week 6/7 Term 4 (Years 7-9)

## *English*

INSPIRE students in English can expect:

- All essays have at least one more challenging option which is open to all students, but compulsory for those who have elected English as their Inspire subject. Students are told the more challenging options provide them with greater scope to analyse in greater depth. Students have the option to negotiate their own question/thesis statement.
- All creative responses and most oral presentations are open ended, allowing students in the Inspire program to extend themselves with regard to set topics taught in class.

INSPIRE students in English are expected to:

- Attempt the Inspire option on all assessment tasks, or negotiate an alternative approach with their classroom teacher.
- Enter a variety of competitions, such as (but not limited to) LitLinks, Write4Fun, Chief Minister's Reading Challenge, The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, and the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards. These opportunities will be advertised through ACE daily notices and in English by classroom teachers in person and on google classrooms

NB: Students not currently in Inspire are encouraged to attempt all differentiated assessment tasks and competitions as this can lead to successful selection into the program.

## *Humanities (HaSS)*

INSPIRE students in HASS will have the opportunity to complete:

- Differentiated assessment tasks at certain times throughout the Semester.
- Differentiated tasks may be differentiated through any of the following:
  - different inquiry question or student-developed question with a focus on one of the cross-curricular priorities.
  - different and/or additional test questions
  - Inspire rubrics.
  - an Inquiry project that may be based upon outside competitions.
- Enrichment questions on classroom walls and/or a dedicated google classroom, with opportunities to have lesson time to work on these enrichment questions.
- Opportunities to participate in external competitions, including National History Challenge, Australian History Competition, Simpson Prize, Australian Geography Competition and Parliamentary debating.
- Opportunities to work with a teacher-mentor for external essay and creative competitions.

INSPIRE students in HASS are expected to:

- Participate in the National History Challenge where they will have to complete either a creative task or create an essay question, OR in year 9 the Simpson Prize, where they will respond to an essay question.
- Complete assessment with the intent to meet the Inspire standard on rubrics.
- Complete Inspire questions on all assessment items including tests.

NB: Students not currently in Inspire are encouraged to attempt all differentiated assessment tasks and competitions as this can lead to successful selection into the program.

### Philosophy Classes

Classes will be held approximately every fortnight to enable Inspire Program students the opportunity to try completely new activities and possibly fail. This encourages students to attempt new things and then learn from the process. There are no grades for this class, so the risks are lower, creating a space of encouragement. However, it is a class designed for the experience of Inspire Program students. As such, only Program enrolled students are eligible to attend.

Executive endorsed: 24 July 2023

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