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# EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS

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COMPONENTS OF THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

TERRACE

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

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**2017**

# EXCEPTIONAL LEARNERS

## COMPONENTS OF THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM



[TERRACE WEBSITE LOGIN](#)

### TERRACE HONOURS PROGRAMS

These are extension courses which have been designed to challenge academically able students to reach their full potential. The classes, where possible, expand on classroom content and allow students to experience more complex activities to extend their learning. To be eligible for any of the **THP** classes' students must attain an A in their area of interest. This provides a strong starting point for teachers to move quickly through the more complex content. The programs have been designed to allow students the opportunity to work independently in their normal classes when needed.

### TERRACE HONOURS PROGRAM - MATHS

The **Terrace Honours Program- Maths** (THP-Maths) meets the needs of talented Mathematics students in Years 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 and is a joint initiative of the Faculties of Mathematics and Exceptional Learners. The **THP – Maths** offers further academic rigour. It challenges students in the areas of problem solving and enriches mathematical concepts & understandings. Year 5 students are invited to attend for Term 4 based on their Maths results throughout the year.

Students are selected to participate in the **THP – Maths** using test results, previous reports and/or an expression of interest from a student, parent, peer or previous teacher.

The **THP – Maths** primarily follows the Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) enrichment program called "Maths Challenge for Young Australians ". It consists of a "Challenge Stage" and an "Enrichment Stage" - further information can be found on their [Website](#).

Students are withdrawn from class for one lesson each week with the exception of the last two weeks of term. In this lesson they receive specialised support in learning new skills. They are then able to work on their extension in class if all the coursework and pre-tests of the current chapter have been completed. Please discuss this flexible arrangement with your son's Math teacher.

Students are also able to be involved in many other competitions. Before school training sessions are held for competition preparation to any students who are interested. It enables Maths to be experienced in a competitive and fun forum.

## TERRACE HONOURS PROGRAM -- ENGLISH

The Terrace Honours Program –English provides extension for students in Years 7 -10 and has been devised to dovetail in with the current English program. Students in the program are withdrawn from class for three planned lessons a term, one a fortnight.

Content will be delivered in the first lesson, with an intensive focus; the second lesson supports this with further consolidation and expansion; and in the third lesson, students share finished work with the peer group. Their work receives teacher feedback and they are awarded with acknowledgement of course completion on their school report. Students are able to email or meet with their **THP-English** teacher when needed whilst working independently between planned lessons.

The Years 5 and 6 program is **Terrace Writers**. This is a creative writing program where students are provided with intensive skill workshops in the elements of creative writing. They then plan and draft their writing with individual feedback on their drafts. These are published and shared with their peers at the end of the year.

Creative writers from other Year levels are also welcome to contribute.

## TERRACE HONOURS PROGRAM -- DRAMA

The Terrace Honours Program-Drama has been designed to allow highly proficient Drama students an opportunity to extend their talent in the performance sphere. Successful students train with All Hallows' students to allow for a greater variety in script choice. Students are taught specific skills beyond the current classroom curriculum via the exploration of advanced performance methodologies using age appropriate scene studies, whilst also being taught industry processes and standards.

The students are empowered to take stronger ownership of their creative ability, which in turn is reflected in their other subjects through enhanced literacy, creativity, aesthetic and empathetic empowerment.

This program runs after school on a Thursday afternoon from 3.30-5.00pm. Students must already be a Drama student at either school and submit a written application as well as complete an audition.

The **THP-Drama** classes are offered in both semesters to different year levels. The Year 10-11 students apply in Semester One and the Year 8 and 9 students in Semester Two.

## HISTORY CHALLENGE

Students with a passion for History nominate for this group and meet each week. They are coached by a History teacher and explore a greater variety of topics. These students are also provided an opportunity to participate in the prestigious **Simpson Prize** competition.

## FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVING PROGRAM (FPS)

This is a competition which provides extension for very able students by providing them with future scenarios and following a set process to provide solutions to the underlying problem. There are no prerequisites for this competition and students nominate themselves and train in teams.

Over the years Terrace has competed in the Future Problem Solving Program with success at the Australian and International level. Many students have benefitted from the experience. Students compete in four different sections of the Future Problem Solving Program

- **Global Issues (booklet competition)** - Students research current global challenges and compete using a six step problem solving process. Booklet teams complete this process in a two hour time frame for the qualifying problem
- **Scenario Writing** - Students write a 1500 word narrative based in the future on one of the topics in the Global Issues Program.
- **Scenario Performance** – students need to write and create a 5 minute recording of their response to one of the topics from the Global Issues Program.
- **Community Problem Solving** - Teams decide on a problem in their community and use the six step process to solve the problem. They are required to report on the process and, develop a display and have an interview on their topic should they reach the Australian finals.

## EXTENSION FOR STUDENTS

A differentiated curriculum promotes the extension of students at Terrace. Tasks for extension may be included on Moodle, the school's interactive online learning facility. Many faculties also offer entry into competitions and these can extend learning in specific areas of passion learning. There can sometimes be early entry to university courses. This option needs to be supported by the Dean of Studies and initial queries can be directed to the Exceptional Learners Faculty.

The College also offers a comprehensive range of extra curricular activities, including music, debating, film making and chess for students with exceptional abilities in these areas.

The College is aware of the different ways in which giftedness is presented in students and can also develop **Individual Challenge Plans** where needed. Please contact the Gifted and Talented Coordinator to discuss this possibility with your son.

## CLUSTER PROGRAM

These sessions are offered by specialist teachers at various venues to engage like minded students from different schools to work together at a faster pace on a diverse range of topics.

## ALL HALLOWS' CLUSTER

This cluster program connects students from St Joseph's College and All Hallows' School and is offered three times a year. Each school hosts different sessions targeting different year levels each time.

## EDMUND RICE EDUCATION SCHOOLS

Following the same principles as above these students have an opportunity to participate in a **Day of Excellence** with other Brisbane EREA schools. The other schools involved are: St Laurence's, St James, St. Edmund's, and Nudgee College, both Junior and Senior campuses.

## TERRABOTS

This is a lunch time Robotics program using Lego Mindstorms NXT 2.0. The students explore programming and experiment to achieve different outcomes. This is in preparation for the Robocup competition.