

## **LEEMING SHS SPECIALIST ACADEMIC PROGRAMS POLICY DOCUMENT**

The Specialist Academic Programs place like-minded students in a challenging and rigorous environment designed to celebrate academic excellence and enable your child to reach their full academic potential.

The needs of academically talented students are specifically catered for through our Specialised Programs which operate in English, Mathematics, Science, HASS and Japanese in Years 7-10. The classes include enrichment and extension activities, with enrichment referring to the broadening of curriculum to develop knowledge application, critical thinking skills and our aim is to foster a degree of complexity appropriate to the students' development level, and extension involving the deepening of students' knowledge, understanding and skills.

The Academic Extension Program provides special, discrete classes for students who have been selected on the basis of their performance in these subjects. Courses studied are, in many cases, similar to those provided for the most academically able students in mainstream classes, but the Academic Extension students are often required to complete extra courses of study and are offered a variety of learning experiences designed to develop their skills and competencies while providing challenging and motivating learning experiences.

### **Vision Statement**

The AEP programs at Leeming SHS create a vibrant, challenging education environment focussed on achievement, originality, problem solving, higher order thinking skills and creativity. The teaching programs provide the ongoing support, encouragement and direction needed for students to identify and strengthen their own specific interests and talents. Students will have the opportunity to work cooperatively with peers of similar abilities and interests, and they will gain experience in independent research and critical and reactive thinking; crucial skills for success in Higher Education and beyond.

### **The aim of our program is to focus on:**

- Encouraging students to achieve excellence
- Establishing a positive working environment
- Scaffolding learning through explicit criteria frameworks
- Negotiating and engagement through collaborative learning
- Valuing and promoting intellectual inquiry
- Constructing a relevant and connected curriculum
- Facilitating student learning
- Creating a climate where students can take risks and make mistakes

Leeming Senior High School has developed partnerships with Scitech, Curtin and Murdoch Universities, Gin Gin Observatory, NASA, CSIRO, The National University, Kagoshima Immaculate Heart University Language Assistant Internship program, and the Gold Intercultural Learning for Japanese Homestay program to provide co-curricular and tour opportunities for students.

The teachers who are engaged in the Specialist Academic Programs all have a deep understanding and possess cutting edge knowledge of their chosen subject. They present content that is related to broad based issues, themes or problems and integrate multiple disciplines into the area of study. They present mutually reinforcing experiences within an area of study. In order to develop complex, abstract and higher order thinking skills in our students.

## **Entry to the Leeming SHS Specialist Academic Programs**

Entry is by merit selection through a written application and academic testing process. Applications open in February and close mid-May for Year 6 entry into Year 7 the following year. Academic testing takes place in early June utilising a full range of diagnostic tests.

Year 8, 9 and 10 entry into Specialist Programs is based upon student achievement in school-based assessment and teacher recommendation. Students who are achieving consistent marks over 80% in Maths and Science, English, HASS or Japanese are considered to be suitable candidates for entry into Special Programs.

## **Student performance, participation, tracking and support**

The performance of students within any of the programs will be tracked and reviewed at the end of each Semester by the relevant Specialist Program Coordinator.

There is an expectation that all students will participate and perform at a higher level, achieving a minimum B grade in their Specialist Program subjects. Participation in a minimum number of co-curricular activities is also mandatory for all Special Program Students.

If, by the end of Semester One a student is not meeting the minimum requirements, the parents will receive a Letter of Concern from the relevant Program Coordinator outlining the concerns. The student will then engage in a mentoring program with the Program Coordinator through Semester Two. If there is no improvement in performance or participation by the end of Semester Two, the student will be removed from the program.

## **School Expectations**

Academic Extension Program (AEP) classes will only be taught by fully qualified, highly skilled teachers. Pre-service teachers will not have the opportunity to teach AEP classes, but will have the opportunity to carry out classroom observation and participate in co-curricular activities. This policy does not preclude teachers of AEP classes from mentoring pre-service teachers.

The movement of students between Special Programs and mainstream classes will be managed by the relevant Program Coordinator and the Deputy in charge of Special Academic Programs. Heads of Learning Area will not be able to move students into or out of AEP classes.

## LEEMING SHS SPECIALIST ACADEMIC PROGRAMS CODE OF CONDUCT

Successful selection into a Specialist Academic Program should be viewed as a privilege. Remaining in the program is dependent on maintaining the following standards:

- It is expected that all Academic Program students will display a willingness to improve and maintain their academic levels across all learning areas. Students need to display socially acceptable behaviour at all times in the school.
- As a member of these elite programs, the students will be role models for their peers and ambassadors for the school, and as such their conduct must be exemplary.

Academic Program students are required to adhere to the following:

1. Maintain high levels by striving to achieve to the best of your ability in all classes.
2. Follow the Leeming SHS school rules and maintain Academic Program Good Standing at all times.
3. Demonstrate qualities of cooperation, team work and honesty with your fellow AEP/STA/Japanese students.
4. Display consideration and respect towards all staff and fellow students.
5. Participate in the majority of extra-curricular events that are organised for Specialist Academic Program students.
6. Adhere to the Leeming IT policy regarding BYOD and Connect.

School reports and the BMIS system will be monitored to track academic progress and behaviour. To retain your position in the Academic Program, you must maintain high standards.

Signatures

I, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to abide by the Academic Program

(Student Name)

Code of Conduct at all times. I understand that failure to do so will mean a review of my place in the Academic Program.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_