



IGNITE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM



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Program Overview

AIM

The Ignite Academic Excellence program challenges students to reach their highest academic potential through an innovative curriculum creating a unique pathway from high school to university. The individual talents of each student in the program are nurtured by our specialist teachers, providing support to a high level curriculum that encourages students to become leaders in their field of interest and ability.

CURRICULUM

The Academic Excellence program, beginning in Year 7 through to end of year 9, focuses on developing, extending and accelerating knowledge acquisition and thinking in the core academic subjects of Maths, English, Science and Humanities. Students' core knowledge is then culminated in a specialised STEM elective focused on project based learning encompassing creative and critical thinking skills.

The Ripley Valley State Secondary College Academic Excellence program strives to develop each student as a life-long learner so that they become:

- A knowledgeable person with deep understanding
- A complete thinker
- A creative person
- An active investigator
- An effective communicator
- An independent participant
- A reflective and self-directed learner

The program includes special projects and participation in extension activities at both the regional and national level. Students' learning and progress will be regularly monitored and enhanced through regular academic coaching conversations and programs.

INTEGRATED LEARNING PROGRAM

Students entering the Academic Excellence program have the unique opportunity of being able to apply for a class that will be engaged in an Integrated Learning Program. Integrated learning is a cross-curricula study of English, Humanities and Science. Where possible we combine key concepts across these subject areas to promote deep learning through an inquiry-based process that encourages connections between subjects and the application of skills in multiple areas.

Students will spend each term engaged in a combination of guided and self-directed learning in order to understand important problems, identify unique solutions and create authentic responses to the problems in a specialised STEM elective, called 'Ignite'.

Within the STEM elective our specialised teachers have integrated contemporary educational trends involving rich, complex learning experiences that support the development of higher order thinking, collaboration and other 21st century skills. This learning environment is responsive to students' needs and interest and well-suited to extending the learning of highly able students. Also incorporated in these units of study are new emerging technologies along with entrepreneurial education and value creation. Community engagement and collaboration is also included within curriculum and through extracurricular activities. The Ignite Excellence Academy has established itself as a recognised presence in projects relating to the Ipswich community.

Students studying in the integrated program will continue to be exposed to all of the essential components of each subject of the Australian Curriculum, and achievements within each discrete subject will be reported on. Students applying for the Ignite Academic Excellence Program are unable to complete certain elective subjects due to line structure, however, can be invited to join specific extra-curricular activities if they desire. Students accepted into the Ignite program are able to participate in the Instrumental Music Program.

Due to timetabling restraints, students electing to apply for other integrated learning programs and/or excellence programs (i.e. Football Excellence Academy).

THINKING SKILLS

The teaching of thinking skills is fundamental to providing students with opportunities to develop the higher order thinking that is necessary for them to attain their optimum potential.

Skillful thinking is neither natural nor as common as we would like, and because it is not likely to develop automatically in every student, we have made it an integral part of the Academic Excellence Curriculum by incorporating the development of thinking skills into our core subjects and putting them into practice through our specialised STEM elective.

CLASS SIZES

Class numbers in the program are limited to a maximum of 24 participants per year level.

ACADEMIC COACHING

Students accepted into the Ignite Academic Excellence Program will participate in regular activities that help them monitor their academic progress and develop effective time management, organisational and well-being skills. Students involved in the program have regular meetings with an academic coach and their parent / carer to monitor progress and inform future development through a Personalised Learning Plan (PLP)



Program Pathways

YEAR 7-9

Year 7 IGNITE

In Year 7-9, the IGNITE elective is a full-year program which replaces two standard electives.

Year 8 IGNITE

Year 9 IGNITE

YEAR 10

Extension Science



Extension Maths

YEAR 11

IGNITE Excellence Academy Students will have the same pathways available to them as all other year 11/12 students. However, IGNITE students will also be given further opportunities to link in to different universities and programs, receive opportunities to complete University units during year 11 and 12, receive STEM Scholarship opportunities and be provided with further career support by Industry mentors through their senior years. .

YEAR 12

External Partnerships

Ignite Excellence Academy students will be provided with a wide range of opportunities to engage with external partners to provide them with the best possible pathways as they move through their schooling careers. Through external partnerships, Ignite works alongside universities, local businesses, community groups and industry partners to build first-hand, real-world experiences in STEM and community fields. We have established strong partnerships with the following groups and look forward to continue working alongside them to support our Ignite students' futures.



PROVIDENCE

Selection Process

Ignite Academic Excellence entry is competitive. For entry into the Ignite program, applicant students sit a higher ability selection test, made up of three subtests:

- Reading Comprehensions
- Mathematical Reasoning
- Thinking Skills

These take approximately 40 minutes for each test, and is completed prior to your child's acceptance. Testing is offered across Excellence Academy Trial Days in Term 1, 2 and 3 each year.

Please note:

In selecting suitable students for the Academic Excellence program intake, several factors are taken into account. The results from three different sources are triangulated to give an overall picture of student achievement or potential for achievement. In school reports we look for achievement at or above a 'B' level, but understand that this can vary considerably from school to school. NAPLAN results (reading, writing and numeracy) are used as they are external assessment pieces where grades are very consistent. Students who are able to achieve in the top two bands in these domains display a level of literacy/numeracy that is needed to engage in the Advanced Programs offered by the Ignite Academy at Ripley Valley State Secondary College. However, we also understand that this 'point in time testing', the results of which are nearly 12 months old.

The entry testing process that conduct gives a very reliable, recent assessment of students' current knowledge base in Reading Comprehension, Mathematics and Reasoning Skill.

In addition, the HAST General Ability test gives insight into innate ability and intellect and is not dependent on what students have been taught. Again, this test is 'point in time' and we understand that for whatever reason, a student might be having a bad day and not perform in line with expectations. No single one of these sources gives a perfectly accurate picture of a child's ability and it is for this reason that we collect as much information about them as possible and look for commonalities across them. Please, if you have any additional supporting documentation, particularly from external sources (eg ICAS results, subject specific competition results, psychometric testing etc) attach it to your child's application.

Don't be concerned if you don't have all of the information that we require. We are able to make a judgement based on what is supplied to us, however, the more information we have, the more accurate that judgement will be.

Merit based selection

The three sets of information collected (NAPLAN, HAST results and Report Card) are used to triangulate data in order to make an informed decision regarding each applicant's suitability for the program. Triangulation helps validate data through cross-verification from more than two sources. It tests the consistency of achievements obtained through different instruments.

Students who are unable to submit all three sets of desired information are not disadvantaged in the application process, however it does make it more difficult to make a valid judgment of suitability, especially if there is no corroboration between the two sources provided. These applications are assessed on merit. Any additional assessment results such as psychometric reports or recent ICAS test results in relevant areas, are of assistance in making judgments of merit based applications and are welcome to be included with all applications.

Maintenance of Position in Program

Student performance is monitored regularly. Students must maintain high academic achievement as well as display suitable behaviour and effort across all subjects, whilst in the program. The College Principal reserves the right to withdraw students from the Academic Excellence program at any time.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Where necessary, measures will be undertaken to accommodate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, students from non-English speaking backgrounds, and economically disadvantaged students. Please contact the school if you believe that your child identifies with any of these categories. Where such students satisfy entrance requirements, we will endeavour to assist their pathway as required.

PROGRAM COSTS

A fee of \$150 for year 7 and 8, and \$200 for year 9, additional to the Student Resource Scheme (SRS), is payable upon acceptance into the program and in each subsequent year that the student is part of the program. These funds are used to provide additional resources and enhancement exclusively for students within the program. Such funds provide greater curriculum resources, master classes, University visits and programs, and entry fees to Regional and National competitions.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ripley Valley State Secondary College is proud to offer scholarships to students with outstanding ability that will cover the cost of the Ignite Academy.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS are available for students that demonstrate high academic performance [APPLY HERE](#)

HOW TO APPLY



Complete the In Catchment or Out of Catchment enrolment process

[CLICK HERE](#) to view process and complete Enrolment EOI. If an out of catchment enrolment please state in the application letter that you have applied for the IGNITE Academic Excellence Program.



Complete Application Form [HERE](#)

Ensure you have included all required documentation including report cards, NAPLAN results, any ICAS results etc.



Attend the IGNITE Test date as emailed to you.

We will email you within a fortnight of the test date to advise the outcome of your application.



If accepted, finalise enrolment and pay required fees as set out in the IGNITE handbook.

If not accepted, students are welcome to re-apply in the following academic year.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting James Dunn, HOD Junior Pathways on 3819 5333 or via email at excellence@ripleyvalleyssc.eq.edu.au