

LEEMING SHS SPECIALIST PROGRAMS POLICY

The Specialist Programs at Leeming SHS that operate across Years 7-10 are:

- Academic Extension Program (AEP) for English and HASS
- Science and Technology Academy (STA) for Maths and Science and
- Japanese Specialist Program

These programs are designed to cater for the needs of our academically talented students, providing them with enrichment opportunities that broaden the curriculum and extension activities designed to engage students deepening their learning. Opportunities to collaborate with like-minded peers, challenges our students to develop their critical and creative thinking, fosters complexity appropriate to students developmental needs and celebrates the academic rigour and excellence of our students.

Vision Statement

The Specialist Programs at Leeming SHS create vibrant and challenging learning experiences that promote problem solving, higher-order thinking skills and creativity. Teachers provide the ongoing support, encouragement and direction needed for students to identify and explore their own specific interests and talents.

The aim of our program is to focus on:

- Encouraging students to achieve excellence through intellectual inquiry
- Establishing a collaborative and supportive learning environment
- Developing partnerships with external state, national and international bodies.

Entry to Specialist 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 in science understanding, numeracy, literacy and general capabilities for all programs.

Year 8, 9 and 10 entry into Special Programs is based upon both student achievement in school-based assessments, teacher recommendations and availability of positions. Students who are achieving consistent marks over 80% in relevant subjects are considered to be suitable candidates for entry into Special Programs

Performance Review Process and Engagement

Members of the Specialist Programs are required to maintain academic and behavioural good standing, and engage in the additional opportunities provided to them whilst in the program. This includes, incursions, excursions, competitions, after school activities, term challenges and hosting exchange students.

Throughout the semester, teachers will contact parents if concerns of academic performance in individual Learning Area assessments arise. Records of concerns will be documented in Compass.

The academic achievement and behaviour of all students within the programs is also regularly monitored and reviewed by the relevant Special Programs Coordinator in consultation with the Teaching and Learning Coordinator. Classroom teachers will contact parents if a student's performance in individual learning areas assessments is of concern throughout the semester. Students who have not met the academic and behavioural expectations set by the school and the Special Programs Policy, will engage in a Performance Review Mentoring Process. This process has been designed and implemented to support students through reflection, goal-setting and check-ins over a semester period so that they are best placed to achieve a positive outcome. Parents will be informed in writing of any concern prior to the commencement of the review, they will also receive a copy of the review documents at its commencement and be informed of the final outcome. Outcomes could include:

- student has demonstrated improvement, remains in the program and the review process is not extended
- student has not demonstrated improvement and is removed from the program
- review process is extended under exceptional circumstances

School Expectations

Special Programs classes will be taught by fully qualified, highly skilled teachers. Pre-service teachers will have the opportunity to carry out classroom observation and participate in co-curricular activities with Special Programs classes, however they will not have the opportunity to teach. This does not preclude teachers of Special Programs classes from mentoring pre-service teachers.

Heads of Learning Area can consult with the program coordinators in relation to student placement however, the movement of students between Specialist Programs and mainstream classes will be determined and managed by the relevant Specialist Program Coordinator and the Teaching and Learning Coordinator.

LEEMING SHS SPECIALIST PROGRAMS CODE OF CONDUCT

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

- It is expected that all Specialist Program students will achieve above the expected standard in the relevant subject(s). Students need to display socially acceptable behaviour at all times and maintain Good Standing.
- As a member of these programs, students will be role models for their peers and ambassadors for the school, and as such their conduct must be exemplary.

Specialist Program students are required to adhere to the following:

1. Strive to achieve to the best of their ability.
2. Follow the Leeming SHS school rules and maintain Good Standing at all times.
3. Demonstrate the qualities of cooperation, team work and honesty.
4. Display consideration and respect towards all staff and students.
5. Participate in extra-curricular events that are organised for Special Programs.
6. Adhere to the Leeming ICT policy.

Signatures

I, _____ agree to abide by the Specialist Programs
(Student Name)

Code of Conduct at all times. I understand that failure to do so will result in a Performance Review and/or removal from the Program.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____