

## **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 likeminded 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 from Year 7 to 10. 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:**

- Encourage students to achieve excellence through intellectual inquiry
- Establish a collaborative and supportive learning environment
- Develop partnerships with external state, national and international bodies.

### **Entry to Specialist Programs**

Entry is by merit selection through a written application followed by academic testing held at Leeming SHS. Dates for applications and testing are available on the school website and are for current Year 5 students who will be entering Yr 7. Testing incorporates a full range of diagnostic tests in science understanding, numeracy, literacy and general capabilities for all programs.

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

Parents and students should understand that acceptance of a place in a Specialist Program implies an ongoing commitment to the opportunities and activities offered across the full 4 years of these 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 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 cocurricular 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 and out of Specialist Programs and mainstream classes will be determined on an individual bases 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 always display socially acceptable behaviour 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.
- As a Specialist Program student, I understand that I must:
  1. Commit to the program from Yr 7 to Yr 10
  2. Strive to achieve to the best of my ability.
  3. Participate in Specialist Program extra-curricular events
  4. Display the school values of Harmony and Excellence and always maintain Good Standing.

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.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_