



MARSDEN
HIGH SCHOOL



**HIGH POTENTIAL & GIFTED
EDUCATION PROGRAM
2023**



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HPGE PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS CLOSE WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST 2022.

Marsden's talent development program for academically high performing students includes the Pinnacle program in years 7 and 8 and the Horizon program in years 9 and 10. These programs aim to stimulate higher order learning by exploring contemporary, relevant issues within a multi-disciplinary framework, across the subjects of English, Science, HSIE and PDHPE.

Students will experience an innovative approach to learning instruction that focuses on key skills for success on the modern world know as the five C's:

- Collaboration
- Creative thinking
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Citizenship skills

Teachers deliver the curriculum at a level, pace, degree of abstraction and complexity beyond learning expectation for their age peers. Students follow the same curriculum as their year level, with tasks that demand higher order thinking skills, and will be expected to produce work of exceptional depth and complexity.

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN.

The components of the application process include an application form to be completed by the student and a parent, teacher references, student portfolio and an interview.

Students who wish to apply for the Pinnacle or Horizon program should see Ms van der Kley for more details.

Further information can also be found on the Marsden web site:

www.marsden-h.schools.nsw.gov.au

APPLICATIONS CLOSE WEDNESDAY 31 AUGUST 2022



HIGH POTENTIAL & GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMS - PINNACLE & HORIZON

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the HPGE program?

The HPGE program is a talent development program for academically high performing students, in years 7-8 for Pinnacle and years 9-10 for Horizon. The program aims to stimulate higher order learning by exploring contemporary, relevant issues within a multi-disciplinary framework with a focus upon creative, critical, collaborative and communicative skill extension.

Who can apply for the Pinnacle or Horizon programs?

All 2022 Year 7-9 students are invited to apply for the 2023 programs. You do not have to be in the Pinnacle program to apply for Horizon or already in the Year 9 Horizon program to apply for Year 10. It is expected that students applying will be able to show a high level of academic achievement, and an ability to work independently on complex concepts and tasks.

What subjects are included in the Horizon program?

The Horizon and Pinnacle programs cover the following subjects:

- English
- HSIE - History and Geography
- Science
- PDHPE

Mathematics is graded separately and high potential in Mathematics is catered for with the 5.3 subject stream and the Accelerated Maths elective in years 9-10. We also offer Accelerated Science for Year 9-10 students.

Electives and other subjects will run as normal with the rest of the year group.

How will students be selected for the programs?

The selection of students will be based on the student's application and performance at the interview and critical reasoning assessment.

The application includes student information, assessment samples, two teacher references and a student portfolio, showcasing the student's academic results and performance in extra-curricular and other relevant activities.

Once all applications have been reviewed, a number of students will be invited to attend an interview and complete a critical reasoning assessment. Once all interviews and the assessment have been completed the selection panel will determine the successful applicants.

How will the HPGE classes be different to the other classes?

Students in the program will follow the same set curriculum for their Year level, however they will be expected to produce work of exceptional depth and complexity; on tasks that demand higher order thinking skills, in which they undertake sustained independent research and exercise creativity, and self direction.

In seeking greater challenge and complexity, students may be required to access external expertise and stimulus. For example, they may attend special university workshops; participate in programs and partnerships with mentors in academia; join scientific and business interest groups. They may work on real products and engage in research on external projects.

What should be included in the student portfolio?

Your portfolio should include the following:

- Semester 1 school reports
- Any awards or results for academic competitions/tests that are relevant to your application (eg. English competition, Geography competition etc.)
- Two samples of Assessment tasks that you have completed over the past year that showcases your ability and potential. These assessments should be from Science, History, Geography, English or PDHPE and should showcase your ability to be creative, think critically, communicate and/or collaborate.

Examples of assessment tasks include narratives that you have written, images of assessment tasks where you have had to construct something like the Medieval Castle or a science experiment.

Please do not include originals of any of your documents - take a photo/copy and include the copy only.

Which teachers should I use for my teacher references?

Your first teacher reference should be one of your 2022 teachers from the following subjects - English, Geography, History, Science or PDHPE.

Your second teacher reference can be any of your 2022 teachers.

Choose a teacher that is able to comment on your ability and suitability for the program and is happy to recommend you.

You must **ask your teacher to complete the Teacher Reference Google form by Friday 26 August**. Once they complete the form, responses will be automatically sent to Ms van der Kley.

What happens if I join the program but I find it's not suitable for me?

The pace and intensity of the class will not necessarily benefit all students.

There may be opportunity for students to move out of the program at particular points - typically, at the end of a semester or a year – if they find the work too challenging or are not suited to the pace or style of learning.

If I don't get into the program for one year can I still apply for the next year?

Yes, all students will need to reapply each year and you may be successful in a later year, if you have demonstrated capabilities required to succeed in the program.