



# Erskine Park High School

*Pride In Achievement*

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## Letter of Invitation – Higher Ability Selection Test

15/2/2018

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

At Erskine Park High School we are dedicated to delivering the highest quality educational and enrichment opportunities to our students. Our extensive Gifted and Talented (GAT) programs are specifically designed to cater for the unique characteristics and learning needs of those students. Our Gifted and Talented team work cooperatively with faculties, the teaching and learning centre and staff to coordinate programs, support student welfare monitor performance and manage student identification and placement into the GAT classes and programs.

To ensure transparency and to ensure all interested students are considered, we invite parents to submit your expression of interest for placement into the GAT class. You may register your child at the school's administration office by **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018** using the form available. You may access this form in your information package or on the school's website.

Our Identification process takes into consideration teacher evaluation, parent input, student performance and recommendations from primary school staff and executive. However, to gauge a more comprehensive understanding of individual student capacity, we also ask that students complete the Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST) which the school purchases through the highly reputable Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER). Details of the selection test and its structure are available at the ACER website <http://www.acer.edu.au/hast>

Parents of students wishing to complete the HAST test can register their children by paying the fee to the Schools Administration office. **The cost determined by ACER for the Year 7 2019 HAST Test (and feedback package to parents) is \$66.00 (including postage).** All tests are posted back to the Australian Council of Educational Research to be marked and responses evaluated. Rates and timelines are all determined by ACER and a straight payment per test is made by us for the cost of them producing, providing and marking the test.

**Only students who have registered will have a test ordered for them.** This test is a 2 hours 40 minute test comprising of Reading Comprehension, Written Expression and Mathematical Reasoning components. **It will take place at 8.30am until 11.20am on Wednesday June 6<sup>th</sup> in Term 2.** It will take place in the Erskine Park High School main hall and be supervised by Erskine Park High School staff.

Parents are asked to drop their students off at 8.20am at the high school (where they will be met by our staff between the Main Office and the school hall). Parents are asked to pick their children up at 11.20am from the same location.

**ON THE DAY, STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BRING:**

- two HB or B pencils for the multiple-choice tests
  - a good quality eraser
  - a pencil sharpener
- two blue or black pens for the Written Expression test.

**No other equipment will be needed. For example, you will not require a ruler, paper or calculator.**

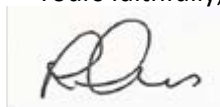
When results are known, the Gifted and Talented Team will place students into the appropriate classes according to the results of the identification process and the HAST test. Test feedback information will be posted to parents later in 2018 and **classes for Year 7 2019 announced at the usual times, day one of 2019.**

Based on the identified criteria, selected students will be also invited to join our Gifted and Talented Withdrawal Program which meets three times a fortnight. Placement will be determined by the Gifted and Talented Team.

Throughout Year 7 2019, our staff will be working closely with each of these students to extend, challenge and inspire them in their learning. Annual reviews of student placement via teacher discussion and reports are conducted to ensure student engagement, focus and commitment is sustained. Ongoing support will be provided to ensure all students continue to have their academic and socio-emotional needs met.

Once again, we thank you for your interest and support.

Yours faithfully,



Leiza Lewis  
Principal