



Academic Program of Excellence

Browns Plains State High School



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Academic Program of Excellence Overview

The Browns Plains State High School Academic Program of Excellence provides an opportunity for academically gifted and talented students to maximise learning opportunities, improve higher order thinking and problem solving skills and accelerate their learning. Students who are accepted into the Academic Program of Excellence will be grouped together to foster growth, encourage collaboration and explore authentic and creative solutions to a variety of new contexts. Throughout these experiences, students will contextualise learning to enhance knowledge acquisition and deepen understanding of the world around them. These like-minded peers will spend each term engaged in a combination of guided and self-directed learning to develop inquiry skills, shaping them into resilient, educated and well-rounded students who possess the character attributes to thrive in life and relationships. We hope that each student involved in the program will leave with significant progress in their personal growth, secure a pathway into future learning and be leaders in their chosen field of expertise.

A team of dedicated, specialist teachers deliver the program and support, motivate and challenge the students with enriching curriculum, differentiated from their peers by pace, level and depth of knowledge on topics. Teachers provide a supportive environment to develop student confidence and foster a love of learning so each individual can achieve their full potential. The learning environment, including a collaboration room used exclusively by our Programs of Excellence classes, is responsive to students' needs and interests and well-suited to extending the learning of driven students. To develop an adaptable learner with skills across a multitude of platforms, students will engage in a range of learning modes including online, direct instruction and collaborative inquiry. This means all successful applicants are required to have their own device that they bring to school daily. For those requiring assistance with this, the school is contactable to discuss options.

Key Aims:

- Provide a motivating, supportive environment where students are inspired to learn and grow
- Provide accelerated learning experiences and opportunities for extended, in-depth exploration
- Develop attitudes and values which enable students to achieve their aspirations and reach their full academic potential

Additional Educational Experiences

Involvement in the program provides additional educational opportunities that foster the growth and development of the students. Academic Program of Excellence students explore the Australian Curriculum topics on a more challenging, in-depth level introducing abstract applications and topics into their learning to better equip them for future years of study.

Targeted Enhancement Programs

The Academic Program of Excellence utilises an online platform to centrally store and distribute subject-specific content, creating increased learning opportunities for students. Parents have access to this platform to sight their student's work, access assessments and unit overviews to support their student's learning journey. The platform is also utilised as a tool for students to build organisational capabilities and collaboration skills as well as develop into autonomous, accountable learners with 21st Century skills. Additionally, Academic Program of Excellence students exclusively use the online Mighty Minds educational portal that provides personalised and enhanced learning opportunities. This online portal includes resources purposefully created for Mathematics, English and Science Australian Curriculum contents, and focuses on developing metacognition and higher order thinking skills. Further to this, students also utilise the 'Maths Online' program to cater for differentiation and accelerated learning. This online Mathematics program has the added advantages of video tutorials for students, extension worksheets and interactive questions with solutions and immediate student feedback. All of these online resources provide frequent practise testing reports and feedback which allows teachers to identify the strengths and areas of development for each student, customising learning and adapting future tasks based on individual student and whole class results.

Extra-Curricular

Teachers at Browns Plains State High School are constantly searching for new and challenging opportunities for students to demonstrate and broaden their skills. A selection of the many enriching education experiences afforded to Academic Program of Excellence students include the Debating team, STEAM challenges, ICAS competitions, visits to the University of Queensland and visits from educational speakers. Not only do Browns Plains State High School Academic Excellence students engage in these programs, they excel, winning awards in the Science and Engineering and Technology category of the 2019 STEAM Competition against our ENABLE schools. Another Browns Plains Academic Excellence student placed 1st for the most individual points accumulated across the whole junior Debating Competition during 2019. Students who engage, achieve and excel are valued and their efforts are celebrated by the staff and the school community.

Program Expectations

Student performance is monitored regularly with a formal review process each term to ensure students are meeting the expectations of the program. To remain eligible to continue participating in the Academic Program of Excellence, students are expected to:

- maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of a B or higher, measured across core subjects;
- maintain high standards of behaviour, effort, attitude, attendance, punctuality and dress code;
- abide by all school expectations, policies and procedures, including the Acceptable Usage Agreement for BYOD and ICT facilities;
- bring their own device to school every day;
- participate in National English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science related competitions and other extra-curricular activities when requested; and
- complete all assigned homework.

The school reserves the right to withdraw students from the program at any time. In most cases where students do not abide by the above expectations, they will be notified and given a term to rectify their performance. Failure to demonstrate sufficient improvement, as determined by selected Browns Plains State High School staff members, will result in removal from the Academic Program of Excellence. It is important to note that student outcomes across the entire year level are monitored closely, and despite having met all of the above expectations, students may be exited from the Academic Program of Excellence if their results are surpassed by students who are not currently enrolled in an excellence class.

Future Pathways

The program offers the opportunity for students to reach their highest potential through an innovative curriculum which prepares them for their transition from high school to university. Students can be accelerated through subjects to enable them the opportunity to undertake one or more university subjects or Vocational Education offerings during Year 12. The school also has a strategic alliance with University of Queensland, particularly in the area of Mathematics, and prepares the students for tertiary education through access to specialised subjects in Year 10. An example of this is Specialist Mathematics Preparation offered at the beginning of Year 10 to students to increase fluency and deep understanding of the concepts introduced in senior schooling.

Selection Process

When selecting suitable students for the Academic Program of Excellence for the Year 7 intake, the results from four different sources are assessed to provide an overall picture of student achievement and potential for achievement. The four sources are:

- School Academic Report
 - In school reports we look for achievement at or above a 'B' level. The report outcomes for behaviour and effort also play a vital role in the student's consideration as we value hardworking students who embrace learning.
- NAPLAN
 - NAPLAN results (Reading, Writing and Numeracy) are used as they are external assessment pieces where grades are very consistent. Students who achieve in the top two bands in these

domains display a level of literacy/numeracy that is suitable for the Academic Program of Excellence.

- PAT-R test
 - Provide objective, norm-referenced information about students' skills and understandings in reading comprehension skills, vocabulary knowledge and spelling.
- PAT-M test
 - Provide objective, norm-referenced information about students' skills and understandings in a range of key Mathematics strands.

The four sets of information collected are used to make an informed decision regarding each applicant's suitability for the program and provide an increased level of consistency. Students who are unable to submit Academic Reports or NAPLAN results are not disadvantaged in the application process, however it does make it more difficult to form a valid judgment of suitability, especially if there is no consistency between the sources provided. Please note: the PAT-R and PAT-M tests are completed by the students during our orientation period.

To submit an EOI for the 2022 Academic Program of Excellence, please review pages 7 and 8.

Academic Program of Excellence Scholarship Application Process

Scholarships may be offered to students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement or leadership skills. The recipients of the scholarships will be notified, via letter towards the end of Term 4, about their success in receiving full remission of the enrolment resource contribution fee for the following year.

The following scholarships are available:

Academic Scholarships

These scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate exceptional academic achievement. To be considered for an academic scholarship, Year 6 students entering Year 7 must submit a Scholarship Application Letter (see below) and any supporting documents to the school administration with their Program of Excellence Application. Students should include copies of awards for previous academic achievements and participation in co-curricular activities in the school or in the community (volunteer work, leadership positions etc.). For students in Years 8-12, their annual results will be reviewed and the highest performing students in each grade who have achieved personal excellence, and have demonstrated exceptional academic performance throughout the year, will be awarded academic scholarships.

Leadership and Community Scholarships – Year 6 into Year 7 Only

These scholarships are available to students who have demonstrated leadership qualities at school or in the community. In addition to the Scholarship Application Letter (see below), students applying for this scholarship must provide a letter of recommendation citing leadership qualities and/or leadership position (e.g. School Captain) from a teacher or leader at their school. Students should also include details of participation in any co-curricular activities at school or in the community such as volunteer work.

Scholarship Application Letter – Year 6 into Year 7 Only

A template for the application letter can be found on the next page for your convenience. The application letter must be written by the student, and should include:

- what type of scholarship the student is applying for e.g. Academic or Leadership and Community;
- the student's aspirations and interests; and
- the student's academic achievement and successes and/or their involvement in extra-curricular activities.

Contact

If you have any queries about the program, please contact the Head of Junior Secondary on 3802 6222 or email administration@brownsplainsshs.eq.edu.au.

Template for Scholarship Application Letter

Date [January 14th, 2022]

Dear Selection Panel,

First paragraph – Identify what you are applying for, why you are applying for it and how it will help your academic journey e.g. I am applying for a Browns Plains Program of Excellence Scholarship because (your reason for applying).

Second paragraph – Explain your goals and aspirations e.g. I want to pursue a degree in (career) at (University) because (describe your interests and goals).

Third paragraph – Talk about yourself, including additional achievements you have completed. Write about your involvement with the community or in extra-curricular activities and what you have learned from these experiences. You need to demonstrate that you are active, hard-working and driven.

Fourth paragraph – Summarise how you have met the requirements of the scholarship and what the scholarship would mean for your education. State that you agree to abide by the Browns Plains State High School Academic Program of Excellence and Scholarship Policies.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely

(your name)

(your signature)



Academic Program of Excellence Application Form

Information				
Student details	Full name			
	Address			
	Current school			
	Current year			
	Date of birth		<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
Year level applying for		<input type="checkbox"/> Year 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 9
		<input type="checkbox"/> Year 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Year 12
Parent/carer contact details	Full name			
	Phone number			
	Email			
	Address (if different from student)			

This application is to be filled out and submitted along with the Enrolment Forms.

As part of your student’s application for the Browns Plains Academic Program of Excellence, please fill out this form and sign on the following page. Please return this document, as well as the requested documents below, to the school Administration Office to ensure that your student’s application is processed. The approval of each application is at the discretion of selected Browns Plains State High School staff. You will be notified of the outcome prior to commencement of the following school year.

Checklist of attached items:

- Most recent school report card
- Most recent NAPLAN results

Any additional comments or information regarding this application:

Academic Program of Excellence Enrolment Agreement

Student Agreement

I acknowledge that by being accepted into the Browns Plains State High School Academic Program of Excellence I have been provided a special opportunity to continue with my schoolwork and engagement. I understand that:

- I will maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of a B, measured across all subjects.
- I will maintain high standards of behaviour, effort, attitude, attendance, punctuality and dress code.
- I will participate in National English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science related competitions and other extra-curricular activities when requested.
- I will complete all assigned homework.
- I will bring my own device to school every day.
- I will abide by all school expectations, policies and procedures, including the Acceptable Usage Agreement for BYOD and ICT Facilities.

I also understand that my place in the program is dependent upon my active pursuit of all stated expectations and conditions and I am fully prepared to accept the consequences that may result from my failure to comply with these standards, including removal from the program.

Parent/Carer Agreement

- I understand that my student's involvement in the Academic Program of Excellence has associated costs (e.g. competition entry fees) and that I will be invoiced with payment due dates in relation to these costs. Payment plans may be arranged through the school Administration. I also understand that should my student choose to leave or if they are excluded from the program, then no part of fees paid or invoiced to students will be refunded or removed from their account. I understand that non-payment will result in the inability for my student to represent the school and may lead to removal from the program.
- I acknowledge that a condition of the Academic Program of Excellence enrolment is that all school-associated costs such as subject levies, camps and others must be paid for continued involvement in the program.
- I acknowledge that a condition of the Academic Program of Excellence enrolment is that my student has their own device that they bring to school every day.
- I have read, understood and discussed with my student, all of the information and terms of enrolment listed in the student agreement above.

By signing this document, I agree that if selected, I/my student will be enrolled into the Browns Plains State High School Academic Program of Excellence. I agree to the conditions as set out above and in the Academic Program of Excellence document, and confirm that the information in this application is true and accurate.

Student signature		Parent/Carer signature	
Office use			
Date submitted			