



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills. Additionally, Academic Program of Excellence students will have access to other online platforms that provide personalised and enhanced learning opportunities. 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 Universities and visits from educational speakers. Not only do Browns Plains State High School Academic Excellence students engage in these programs, they excel, in 2021 students participated in the Australian Mathematics Challenge scoring within the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile, meaning they were above 95% of students taking part in this competition. The same year students took part in the International Chemistry Quiz

with some students achieving a high distinction in the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile. 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 different sources are assessed to provide an overall picture of student achievement and potential for achievement. The 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.

The information collected is 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.

To submit an EOI for the 2023 Academic Program of Excellence, please review pages 5 and 6. Once received, all applications will be reviewed on an individual basis and you will receive a decision promptly.



# Academic Program of Excellence Application Form

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

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

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:

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## 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	
<b>Office use</b>			
Date submitted			