



GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Trinity Grammar School Gifted and Talented Education Programme is designed to meet the learning needs of intellectually gifted and talented boys. It reflects one of our core educational principles, "to develop each boy's academic ability to the full." The aim is to provide for academic excellence and to cater for the needs of the individual.

The academic provision for Gifted and Talented students complements the extensive opportunities offered to boys in co-curricular programmes, which recognise that gifts and talents are not just restricted to the classroom. Students have the opportunity to develop in the Creative and Performing Arts, Oratory, Debating, Chess, Adventure, Service, Leadership and Peer Support. Coupled with this is an Elite Sporting Programme that caters for talented boys across a range of individual and team sports.

IDENTIFICATION

Our identification process is based on current research in the field of gifted education and is multifaceted. We use a variety of methods to better understand the learning needs of the individual. The process is ongoing, supporting boys who develop at different rates. Some of the identification methods include:

- standardised aptitude tests;
- standardised achievement tests;
- records of achievement;
- teacher and parent information; and
- independent psychometric testing where appropriate.

PATHWAYS

The School acknowledges the importance of implementing rigorous core curriculum opportunities which are differentiated and meet the needs of individual students. Professional development for members of the teaching staff in the field of differentiation and provision for gifted students is highly encouraged and opportunities are provided for staff to increase their knowledge and skills. The Practice of Teaching at Trinity programme (POTT), focussing on developing effective and innovative teaching methodology, enables the School to provide learning experiences that meet the needs of Gifted and Talented boys.

There are also different pathways available in the School for gifted and talented boys to achieve their potential.

Preparatory and Junior Schools

At the Preparatory and Junior Schools, boys are offered opportunities to extend their learning through the open-ended, inquiry based global approach to learning in the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. This framework for delivering curriculum provides a natural pathway to appropriate curriculum differentiation. Students encounter learning experiences that are engaging, relevant, challenging and significant, in learning environments that are stimulating and provocative. Students are encouraged to be curious and inquisitive, to ask questions, explore and interact with the environment physically, socially and intellectually. Students are supported in their quest for mastery and control on their journey to becoming independent, autonomous learners.

A PYP classroom is a reflective and intelligent place where thoughtful consideration of issues, problems and successes is valued highly. Easy options are seldom sought within the classroom environment and expectations are high. It is an environment in which learning knows no limits. Learners are on a journey, which in the primary years culminates in The Exhibition where students demonstrate engagement with the five essential elements of the programme: knowledge, concepts, skills, attitudes and action.

In addition, a number of enrichment strategies exist for gifted and talented learners. In all Year groups, English and Mathematics instruction is differentiated to ensure that boys are challenged at a level just beyond their current skill level. Classes from Year 2 to Year 6 are grouped for the Number strand in Mathematics and Reading/Literature groups in English according to academic need. The opportunity to extend and enrich learners is a key goal within the units of inquiry undertaken at each Year level.

Middle and Senior Schools

For boys whose talents are more specialised, or who have exceptional ability in particular subject areas, we provide Year 7 **Honours Classes** in English, Mathematics and Science from the middle of Lent Term, and a History Honours Class from the commencement of Year 8. In the Honours Classes the curriculum is fast paced and extended beyond the core curriculum required in that particular subject. Boys enter the Honours Class through high academic achievement in one or more of these subject areas. The Honours Class also recognises that some boys are late in developing their academic potential and therefore from Year 7 to Year 10 (Year 8 for History) students can attain places in an Honours Class based on academic achievement.



For many boys, the broad range of opportunities offered in the main stream is the most appropriate way to undertake studies for Years 7 to 10. However, some boys are prepared to sacrifice some of the choices, and to accept additional requirements, to be able to extend themselves in core academic subjects, and to achieve course outcomes at a higher level. Trinity's **Extension Class** is designed for boys who are both talented and focussed academic all-rounders, and who will enjoy and benefit from the challenge of subjects taught at a very demanding level. The Extension class formed in Year 8 will carry through until the end of Year 10.

In Years 11 and 12 the breadth of curriculum for the **Higher School Certificate**, the **International Baccalaureate** Diploma and the **Trinity Vocational Academic Course (TVAC)** enable boys to choose the right pathway for their particular gifts and talents, preparing them for their future academic or career opportunities post school.

ACCELERATION

The opportunity exists to accelerate individual students identified with exceptional ability where appropriate. This is a process of investigation with the family and School working together towards the best educational outcomes for the student. When acceleration is considered as an option for boys at Trinity, it is within a framework which assesses not only their academic suitability but also balances the social and emotional needs of the individual student.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION STAFF

A number of Trinity staff members have pursued post-graduate qualifications in the area of Gifted and Talented education, including the full Certificate of Gifted Education or the Mini-COGE professional development workshop series. The School also has trained staff assigned to work with gifted and talented boys and their teachers across all campuses to ensure their needs are catered for within the academic programme.