

# The Unicorn Program for Gifted and Talented Students

Wednesday 22 May 2019



ALFRED DEAKIN  
HIGH SCHOOL

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Excellence, Responsibility, Community, Respect



# Program Overview

# So what is “Gifted and Talented”?

- **Giftedness** refers to a student’s outstanding **natural abilities** or **aptitudes**, located in one or more domains: intellectual, creative, social, perceptual or physical, placing that student in the **top 10%** of peers.
- **Talent** is the outstanding **performance** or **competency** in one or more fields of human activity that places a student in the **top 10%** of peers in that field.

# Unicorn Aims



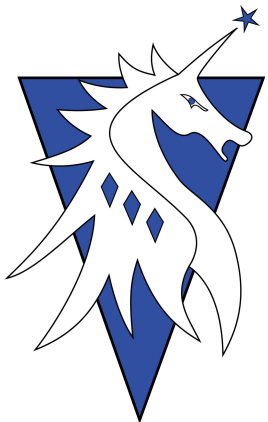
- To provide a **stimulating** high school education in a **supportive** environment
- To create **opportunities** which **promote knowledge, concept** and **skill acquisition**
- To promote **independent** student **inquiry** and **learning**
- To encourage students to **develop** or **realise** their **potential**
- To foster an **environment** where students **respect** the **successes** of others and have **pride** in their own **achievements**
- To instill a **love of learning** and develop skills for **lifelong learning**

# We challenge students through:



- **Enrichment activities** in the academic, social, physical and creative arts curriculum
- **Independent** student **inquiry** and **learning**
- Faster **pace**
- Access to **curriculum above age level**
- Chances to **pursue content** at a **deeper** or **broader** capacity
- **Creative** and **critical thinking** through expanded opportunities for **discussion** and **debate**

**To be eligible for the Unicorn  
Program, students must be  
enrolled at Alfred Deakin High  
School first**



**ALFRED DEAKIN  
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# Gifted Coordinator's Role



- **First point of contact** for parents/carers
- **Identification** of gifted students
- **Support** and **advocate** for G&T students
- **Monitor** academic **results** of all gifted students
- Create and promote **enrichment opportunities** for G&T students
- Ongoing **evaluation** of the program
- **Communicating** with students, parents/carers and staff
- **Supporting** and **training** school staff



# Opportunities for Gifted Students at ADHS



# Gifted & Talented Opportunities at ADHS

## Academic

Unicorn Classes in Year 7-9

- English
- Science
- HaSS
- Maths

Unicorn students are streamed with other students in Year 10 as part of their guided transition to College.

Contact Kellie Williams, GaTLO,  
kellie.williams@ed.act.edu.au

## Creative

Unicorn Classes in Year 9-10

- Unicorn Performing Arts (UPA): by audition
- Unicorn Visual Arts (UVA): by portfolio
- Unicorn Music Class
- (UMC): by audition

Contact Rechelle Turner, SLC for  
Arts/Technology,  
rechelle.turner@ed.act.edu.au

# Gifted & Talented Opportunities at ADHS

## Physical

Elective classes in  
Year 9-10

- Outdoor Education
- Advanced Outdoor Education
- Sports Science
- Dance

## Physical & Leadership

Year 9-10

- ELEMENTS  
(girls program)  
PE and English
- PANTHERS  
(boys program)  
PE and English

## Leadership

Year 10

- Youth Leadership Program:  
mentoring
- Disability Awareness Program (**DAP**): in conjunction with Woden School
- Advance Program: school events
- Student Executive Group (**SEG**): year 7-10



# Identification

# 2019-2020 Identification & Testing

## Year 6

- **Cognitive** testing
- **NAPLAN** results
- **Other** literacy and numeracy **testing**
- Information from **primary school teachers**
- Information **from parents**

*We are continually **building our network** and maintaining connections with PEA Primary Schools There is **some correlation** between primary school G&T programs and ADHS.*

## Years 7-10

- **New Students**
- **Teacher** nomination
- **Cognitive** testing

# 2019-2020 Identification & Testing

## Other Identification

- Our **cognitive testing** is **major** part of the **identification** process- These tests **cannot be studied** for
- **Other** relevant **tests** undertaken by psychologists
- **Previous enrolment** in a G&T program is **considered** but does **not equate to enrolment** in Unicorn

*All of this information, plus anything you feel would help us make a decision, is used to determine class placement and eligibility for the Unicorn program.*



# Placement

# Academic Classes @ ADHS



**Year 7-10 Streamed Classes**

**Year 7-10  
Program**

**Mainstream**

**Extension**

**Unicorn**

*In English, Maths, Science and HaSS*

# Placement



- If identified, students are **invited** to join the program via a **Letter of Offer**, emailed out to parents in **November**.
- Year 7s are **placed** in Unicorn for **all or some** academic classes: English / HaSS / Maths / Science.
- **Not all** gifted students find themselves **suited** to the Unicorn Program.
- **Placement** is determined by **student wellbeing, academic interests** and in partnership with the **family**.
- **Placement** is fixed for a **year** after letter of offer is accepted and can then be **reviewed** at any time





What Else?

# Additional Enrichment Activities

- National Competitions in Maths, History, English, Geography and Science
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- Workshops at ANU, CSIRO and Canberra Theatre
- Engineering Games (ANU)
- Maths Enrichment and Maths Challenge activities
- Inter-Parliamentary Debating
- Acceleration opportunities
- ANU Mentoring (Coursera)
- Rio Tinto Big Science Competition
- RACI Chemistry Quiz



Live Examples!

**Georgia & Liliana**

*Year 9 Unicorn*

**Dev, Zann & Antonio**

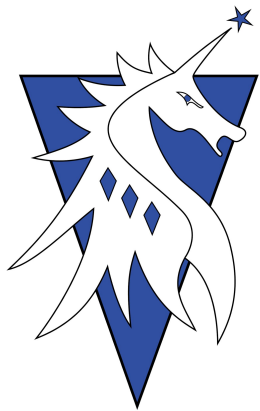
*Year 7 Unicorn*

# And finally ...

When gifted children are asked what they  
MOST want, they frequently answer:

“A friend”

(Silverman, L. 1993)



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Q & A

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