

## **What is ACES?**

The Academic Challenge and Enrichment Studies program at Darling Range Sports College is a school-based program of enrichment for academically able students. Based and formulated around the Renzulli triad model, where academic ability, creativity and task commitment combine to define “gifted” students. We select students based on their academic ability, then foster their creativity and use their task commitment to measure success in the program.

## **Selection for the ACES program**

Students are selected for the ACES 1 or ACES 2 stream depending on Primary teacher reports and recommendations, NAPLAN results and Selection testing. The ACES coordinator will be in regular contact to determine placements and movements in the ACES class.

## **What is the curriculum like for ACES students?**

Students in the ACES program are enrolled in one or more of the following subjects: English, Maths, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences (MESH). Teachers extend, enrich, and accelerate the curriculum for students in a flexible (not prescriptive) way. Extension may occur at various times (perhaps teachers may allocate one lesson a week, or a block of time during the term). Extension can be a defined program such as Project Based Learning, can be based on a competition or outside activity or some other creative way. ACES classes will integrate STEM skills including collaboration, communication, research, problem solving, critical thinking, and creativity. Students will have opportunities to showcase their work to the community through ACES Exhibitions.

Programs and assessments will look different to mainstream classes, and the places where teachers have compacted and expanded the curriculum will be evident. However, reporting will be based on the SCSA grade related descriptors just like every other student and therefore all final grades can be compared within a year cohort.

Students in the ACES 1 stream will have opportunities to work with universities on projects and will be offered opportunities to visit the different universities in each year group. For example, Curtin UniReady and UWA Aspire program.

Students can combine a specialist sporting program with the ACES program. Participation in the ACES program should not impact on a student’s training regime, its focus is more on challenging and enriching experiences within the learning environment designed to encourage the students to think more deeply about the topics presented.

## **Pathways for ACES students**

Students should be guided towards an academic pathway in upper school, but also supported in all endeavours that will result in a positive end to their schooling. The ACES coordinator, together with the Associate Principal of that year group, will assist students and parents with academic advice and general support. Students will have individualised course counselling during their senior school pathway selection. All health and well-being concerns will be directed to the Student Services team.

### **Academic and Behavioural Standards**

Students need to maintain at least a B grade in their MESH ACES subjects. Additionally, they need to consistently demonstrate the 5P's, including a positive attitude towards academic success and engagement with the curriculum. Students are monitored regularly by classroom teachers, Head of Learning Areas and the ACES coordinator for early intervention if needed.

### **Movements in and out of the ACES program**

Teachers will provide parents with regular updates to their child's progress. If there are concerns, it is important for parents to speak with teachers and the ACES coordinator as we have several strategies to assist both parents and students with any concerns. If students fall below the required standard of the program, they may be placed on probation. This provides students with a chance to improve their attitude, behaviour and effort. The ACES coordinator manages probation and will work with students and parents to ensure academic success in ACES classes. Please note ACES 2 students can be moved into a mainstream class without a probation period if they are not adhering to the academic and behavioural standards.

Further details about this process can be found in the **ACES Policy** document.