



Amaroo School's Gifted and Talented Program



The **Apollo ProgrAM** is Amaroo School's Gifted and Talented Program and is available to students from Kindergarten through to Year 10.

The name of our program represents the ancient Greek God Apollo, the God of Light and Learning, and therefore, represents literature and the humanities. It also represents the sciences and mathematics, as the name Apollo is associated with the first successful lunar landing. These learning areas represent our program's academic focus on English, humanities, languages, sciences and mathematics.

The ACT Education Directorate's Gifted and Talented Policy aims to ensure gifted and talented students receive developmentally appropriate provisions and strategies. Research over the past 30 years has indicated that it is important for gifted learners to have the opportunity to work with other students who think like them (Benbow 1991, 1998; Feldhusen and Moon, 1992; Kulik & Kulik, 1992; Rogers, 1991, 2007). Rogers 2019 and Van Tassel-Baska support this research indicating that when gifted students experience ability grouping, they experience substantial academic gains and improvements in attitude and motivation. The Apollo program aims to address these findings through strategic class placements (clustering of like minded peers) and differentiation of the curriculum and instruction.

Our program identifies students through a range of objective and subjective measures which inform our judgement about the most appropriate placements for students' learning. Students identified for our program will be grouped according to giftedness as well as giftedness and talent (see below for definitions). This is important because we recognise that some students are gifted but do not necessarily demonstrate their talents. Consequently:

- Students identified through external tests and teacher identification in K-2 are clustered with like minded peers
- Primary classes, from Year 3 - Year 6, will be grouped according to giftedness or giftedness and talent in one class or in clusters across mainstream classes
- Subject acceleration and year level acceleration are rare, however in some instances the school may suggest this as an option to cater for the needs of an individual student. This *may* also be used as a strategy instead of clustering the student with like minded peers. Students in this situation will have a targeted Individual Learning Plan (ILP)
- Students in Year 7 onwards, who are identified for our program, will be grouped, for giftedness or giftedness and talent, in either:
 - English and humanities classes
 - Mathematics and science classes
 - Or, alternatively, in English, humanities, mathematics and science classes.

These groupings will depend upon numbers of students reliably identified through our identification process. It is important to note that students identified through our process will remain in our Apollo Program which aims to develop the whole child in their time at Amaroo School.

For further information about this topic we encourage you to consult [The ACT Education Directorate's Gifted and Talented Policy](#).

Definitions:

Giftedness designates the possession and use of outstanding natural abilities, called aptitudes, in at least one ability domain to a degree that places an individual among the 10% of age peers (Gagne, 2016).

Talent designates the outstanding mastery of systematically developed abilities, called competencies (knowledge and skills), in at least one field of human activity to a degree that places an individual at least among the top 105 of age peers who are, or have been, active in that field (Gagne, 2016).

If you have any queries please contact:

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