EXTEND

High Potential & Academically Gifted Program

An Initiative of the Primary Principals' Councils, Wollongong & Shellharbour

20 February 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We're excited for our school to be a part of the HPAG Extend program, designed to offer extra enrichment for Year 5 students who show high potential and academic giftedness. This program has been carefully developed over 20 years, initially starting as a single class serving the entire Wollongong and Shellharbour areas, to now involving students from over 65 schools. Its goal is to boost academic and social skills, with a special emphasis on critical and creative thinking abilities.

Program Overview:
The HPAG Extend program gives opportunities for acceleration (working at a faster pace), enrichment (working through content of wider breadth than the normal curriculum), and extension (working in greater depth and complexity). It facilitates connections and collaboration between learners of similar ability levels, allowing a push beyond their current mastery levels. Units of work generally have students working in stage 4 (year 7 & year 8) outcomes and across a variety of subject areas including physics, chemistry, literacy, numeracy, creative arts, engineering, and more.

Structure:
In total, seven classes are held across host schools in the Wollongong and Shellharbour regions. Each class consists of 30 selected students from a variety of schools who attend a **host school** for one day a week. Classes start at 9am and conclude at 2:30pm, with transport organised by each student's family.

Finance:
The cost of the HPAG program is approximately $700 per student. This will be funded by the school, however, it is anticipated that parent support for additional expenses, such as excursions, may occur.

How do I apply?
Please complete the Expression of Interest form below and return it to school by **February 27, 2026.** After this, students will complete an online assessment in Week 6 at school, called the AGAT (Acer General Ability Test). Schools then enter each student's assessment score and a ranking for each student based on additional information and performance in previous years. All applications are forwarded to the selection panel who will make the final decision for placements.

Please note, the General Ability Test 2nd Edition is provided by ACER, who is a 3rd party provider, with necessary data stored on Amazon Web Services (AWS) in Sydney for online assessment systems. They have strict security measures in place following NSW privacy laws. Signing the permission form gives parental consent for your child to complete this test.

Expression of Interest High Potential and Academically Gifted Class

I …….. (parent/carer) wish to apply for a placement in the High Potential and Academically Gifted class 2025 for my child …….

I understand that my child will be required to complete the AGAT 2nd Ed (5) as part of the application. I acknowledge that the application will be reviewed by an Executive selection panel, who will consider academic achievement and school feedback around my child's suitability for the program.

Signed……. Contact telephone no……