



ENRICHMENT AND ACCELERATION POLICY

Purpose

Mount Waverley Secondary College believes that the provision of enrichment, enhancement and acceleration opportunities recognises the particular needs and special abilities of high potential students and challenges them to further develop their talents and potential capacity. Enrichment offers students experiences both beyond their age and class level. It differs to acceleration which tends to be focused on students rapidly acquiring knowledge whereas the enhancement experience is focused on skill development including critical thinking.

At Mount Waverley Secondary College, students are offered enhancement subjects and in addition enrichment activities are developed within a subject and provide the opportunity to study topics in greater depth or on occasion as a special program which enhances the curriculum.

Mount Waverley Secondary College offers a range of enrichment and acceleration opportunities across the year levels as outlined below.

Opportunities for students

Where possible, the college offers students access to a range of programs and extra-curricular activities and opportunities.

This will vary from year to year but include; access to Monash Technical School programs, academic competitions, leadership activities, programs and camps, High Ability programs, specialist camps and trip, for example, Music and STEM.

Year 7 and 8

Enrichment Class

The Year 7 enrichment class involves a two-stage selection process. All Year 7 students offered a place at Mount Waverley Secondary College are invited to sit the HAST (High Ability Selection Test). Forty students who achieved the highest HAST scores are invited for an interview with the expectation they bring a portfolio. Based on both the interview and HAST scores 26 students are offered a place in this class. This program provides opportunities for students to access both enrichment and enhancement opportunities.

Enhancement offers students experiences both beyond their age and class level. It differs to acceleration which tends to be focused on students rapidly acquiring knowledge whereas the enhancement experience is focused on skill development including critical thinking.

Accelerated Mathematics

The Accelerated Mathematics Program is offered to high achieving Year 7 students. By the end of Year 8 students will have completed Year 9 Mathematics. Students are selected based on teacher recommendations, Year 6 testing results as well as high level achievement in a mathematics test aimed



at identifying high achieving mathematics students. Access to this program allows for a pathway which continues onto acceleration into VCE Mathematics.

Students in the Accelerated Mathematics Program complete three years of Mathematics in two years.

Year 9 and 10

English Enhancement

This subject is offered to year 9 and 10 students. Students are selected for this class based on high level achievement in English based on their results in the previous year.

Mathematics Enhancement

This subject is offered to students in the accelerated Mathematics class. Students are able to access a VCE Mathematics subject in Year 10 as part of this program.

VCE Enhancement

A wide range of VCE Unit 1 & 2 subjects are offered as enhancement subjects to students who have demonstrated high level skill at Year 9. Year 10 students are able to select ONE subject. Students are required to apply and the decision to accept the application is largely determined by Semester One CAT and exam results, as well as a personal statement. The academic requirements for selection into a VCE enhancement course are set out in the Year 10 Subject Handbook which is updated each year and available on the college website.

Northern Hemisphere Timetable

A small number of VCE subjects are offered as part of the Northern Hemisphere Timetable (NHT) with Unit 1 beginning in Semester 2.

Year 9 students who were deemed as being not ready to undertake a VCE subject at the end of the Year 9 may apply to be accepted into the NHT intake. Students who have demonstrated steady, high level growth are able to apply.

Year 10 students who have achieved outstanding VCE Unit 1 results may wish to apply to undertake an additional NHT VCE subject. A number of NHT subjects (not all subjects are offered by VCAA as part of this program) are offered and will proceed if there are sufficient numbers of eligible students.

Year 11 Enhancement

Students who have demonstrated high level results at Units 1 and 2 are able to continue with Units 3 and 4 in Year 11. Students may also be able to access a NHT subject in Unit 3 at the start of Semester Two.

University Enhancement

At Year 12, students are able to undertake a University Enhancement Subject which will boost ATAR scores while allowing credit for first year university studies. Students are to apply directly to Monash,



Melbourne or Deakin universities. Successful applicants to these courses will complete the university subject in lieu of a VCE subject.

Appeals

In the case of parents or students disputing a decision, the final decision will be made by the relevant Campus Principal or the College Principal.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated in October 2021 and is scheduled for review in October 2024.