



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

All students regardless of race, age, gender, or by virtue of their dignity as human persons, have a right to an education that is suited to their particular needs and adapted to this ability.

(Declaration on Christian Education, 1965)

Mater Dei College celebrates the diversity of our school community and fosters the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of each member. The Academic Excellence Program at Mater Dei College seeks to provide an education that is intentional, engaging and challenging. Opportunities are offered for our highest achieving students to extend and enrich their studies, and in doing so, demonstrate excellence across the curriculum to maximise their true potential. Like-minded academically talented students are encouraged to collaborate in a positive and supportive learning environment to develop 21st century learning skills, empowering them to achieve success at school and beyond. Through students' involvement in curricular and co-curricular activities, the program aims to:

- Develop the God-given gifts and talents of each student.
- Provide a positive and supportive learning environment in which each student is engaged and challenged in their personal pursuit of excellence.
- Provide varied and unique learning experiences that meet the individual needs of every student, and enable spiritual, emotional, physical, intellectual, social and emotional gifts to be revealed and nurtured.
- Develop students' confidence, emotional intelligence and self-awareness.
- Encourage purposeful and self-directed, inquiry-orientated learning and problem solving.
- Enhance students' higher order, abstract, and critical and creative thinking skills.
- Foster a growth mind-set and love of life-long learning.
- Foster a culture where students delight in each other's success and community members celebrate the achievements of all learners.
- Engage in collaborative partnerships with families, universities and the wider community.

The Mater Dei College Academic Excellence Program comprises three main components:



Identification

Students are invited to participate in the program after being identified through a range of quantitative and qualitative measures including: standardised testing (AGAT, NAPLAN, PAT); academic reporting; student surveys and teacher, parent or student nomination. Students may be identified and invited to participate in the Academic Excellence Program at any stage of their schooling.

Fostering

The Coordinator of Academic Excellence is responsible for communicating the academic and pastoral data for each student involved in the program with subject teachers and pastoral care teachers. This information will be used to inform appropriate differentiation and extension in the classroom. In addition, students are provided with opportunities to participate in a wide range of academic co-curricular activities including clubs, incursions, excursions, tours and competitions throughout the year.



Monitoring

The well-being and academic progress of each student is monitored throughout the year, and relevant support provided by the Coordinator of Academic Excellence, together with the College's team of educators. To maintain a place in the Mater Dei College Academic Excellence Program, students who are invited to participate are required to:

- Maintain his or her good standing status.
- Maintain academic honours status.
- Maintain an average 95% attendance rate.
- Attend periodic meetings with the Coordinator of Academic Excellence.
- Demonstrate a commitment to participating in academic co-curricular activities.

Examples of academic co-curricular opportunities include but are not limited to:

National and International School Tours	
NASA Space camp	Language Tours (Japan/Indonesia)
Academic Competitions and Programs	
Tournament of the Minds	ICAS English Competitions
Australian Brain Bee Challenge	Tim Winton Young Writers Competition
STAWA Science Talent Search	Rotary Three Way Speaking Competition
ASI Big Science Competition	United Nations Evatt Debating Competition
ASI Chemistry and Physics Olympiad	Premier's Anzac Student Tour
BHP Science and Engineering Awards	Simpson Prize
National Science Youth Forum	Francis Burt Law Society Competition
RACI Titrations Stakes	Australian History Competition
World Robotics Championships	Australian Geography Competition
Robocup	Economics Competition
Robogals	\$20 Boss Entrepreneurial Competition
First Lego League (FLL)	World Skills Competition
Pedal Prix	PALS
Excellence in Science Program (ESP)	UNDA Cultural Decoding
Australian Maths Competition	Speak for Faith Competition
Mathletics	Angelico Catholic Arts Awards
Catholic Performing Arts Festival	WA Japanese Speaking Competition
College Production	Engaging Asia Competition
AFL Specialist Program	Yohfest

Although the Academic Excellence Program is available to selected students, opportunities to participate academic co-curricular activities is available for all students.