What is SEAL?

SEAL stands for Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program.

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development aims to provide opportunities for all Victorian students to achieve their potential as fully as possible by maximising the development of their abilities and talents. In this context, the Department introduced the Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program (SEAL) into selected Victorian schools to help meet the needs of gifted, high-achieving students. There are approximately 40 schools in Victoria that are accredited to deliver the program.

Selection for SEAL is by entry examination and interview; it is not based on zoning or the residential address of the student.

Why be involved in the SEAL?

Keilor Downs College acknowledges the individual differences and needs of all students and seeks to encourage them to actively involve themselves in achieving excellence by developing to their full potential. The College aims to provide a curriculum which offers a broad range of experiences with access to specialist programs to meet the needs of all students.

In this regard, students who require a challenge in their academia are encouraged to apply for the program.

How is the SEAL different from mainstream schooling?

SEAL accelerates the curriculum so that the usual four years of schooling (Year 7, 8, 9 and 10) is compacted down into the first three years (Year 7, 8 and 9). In Year 10 SEAL students may take up to three VCE classes (with recommendation).

SEAL students are expected to learn a musical instrument through the instrumental program at the College in Years 7 and 8. They also have opportunities to participate in various competitions such as the Rio Tinto Big Science Competition and the National Maths Competition. SEAL students also participate in school community events such as the swimming and sport carnivals where they can compete against others in their Year Level.

What is needed to get into the program?

Grade 6 entering into Year 7.

Register details for SEAL testing on the appropriate form downloadable from the website (http://www.kdc.vic.edu.au/). Forms can also be obtained from some primary schools closely affiliated with Keilor Downs College, or from the office at the College.)
Take the completed registration form with $60* (amount needed to take the test) to the College office. (*This amount is subject to change by KDC)

Closer to the testing date you will receive a letter outlining what will happen on the testing date and what is required.

Testing day: Formal testing takes place in reading comprehension, maths, abstract reasoning and writing skills. Tests will be the ACER Higher Ability Selection Tests (HAST) and are conducted at Keilor Downs College on a set date. This usually takes approximately three hours to complete. Tests are assessed by ACER and results are returned to us together with a comprehensive report.

On the basis of results and other information, a shortlist is developed for interview.

Selected students are invited in for an interview with their parents. They bring with them a portfolio containing samples of work and any other relevant information. Documents required will be outlined in a letter sent by the school.

On the basis of all the above, offers of placement are then made.

*Year 8 entering into Year 9 (Year 9 SEAL Scholarship Entry)*

A limited number of places become available each year for Year 9 SEAL entry for the following year. Testing for these places is available to currently enrolled Year 8 students, as well as external students.

A scholarship of $250 is payable to the successful applicants.

**TIMELINE**

- **Approximate dates for SEAL**
  - Term 1
  - Test registration opens for Grade 6 students
  - May
  - Registration closes April
  - ACER test at the College May
  - June/July
  - Results from test sent home
  - Interviews are requested and completed
  - Class is selected
  - Acceptance letter sent home
  - Term 3
  - Test registration opens for Year 8 students
  - Test at college for Year 8 students (Thursday 11th September)
*These are approximate dates and may be subject to change Approximate dates for SEAL

*Higher grade levels:*

If students wish to enter into the program this can happen one of two ways

1. Teachers recommend the student based on performance in class and observations made.
2. The student (or parent) contact the SEAL coordinator and express interest.

The following need to be presented to the SEAL coordinator for examination:

- Recent school report.
- A piece of written work done for school by the student.
- A written paper on why they want to enter into the program.
- A list of interest and hobbies/ communities the student is involved in.
- Any recent awards won by the student.

The student is then tested, and interviewed for entry into the program.

**How many students are selected to be in the program?**

Keilor Downs College has recently been uniquely accredited to deliver two SEAL classes from the commencement of the 2014 school year. From 2014 there will be 50 SEAL places at Year 7 and currently one class of 25 students at each year level Year 8 to Year 12.