

Keilor Downs College

Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program (SEALP) Parent Information



What is TAASS?

The Academy of Accredited SEAL Schools (TAASS) was established in late 2014 by the existing DET accredited schools. To maintain the high current high standards of the SEAL program these 39 schools decided to form the TAASS Academy

TAASS has been established to provide mutual support between SEAL program schools giving the schools opportunity for sharing of resources and curriculum initiatives together with professional development and peer quality assurance.

What are the features of Accelerated Learning?

- Differentiation based on student skills, aptitude and interest.
- Elimination of repetition and the practice of already mastered skills.
- Accelerated pace of learning.
- Higher order thinking is an integral component.
- Opportunities for in-depth learning and inquiry based learning.

What are the benefits of Accelerated Learning?

- Students feel challenged by curriculum that is sufficiently advanced and delivered at a pace that maintains student interest.
- Students are given an opportunity to complete a range of subjects with greater depth and breadth.
- The curriculum caters for the abilities of the students and provides opportunities for abstract thinking.
- Increased opportunity to complete VCE subjects in Year 10 and 11.

Who should apply?

A Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program will not suit every student who is academically talented. Students need to have a high level of maturity and commitment, and be capable of independent learning. It is important that parents do not pressure students unduly to participate in the program. The students should be eager to move ahead. SEAL participants will still be in a mixed ability classroom; however, the range of abilities involved will usually be narrower than is the range found in a mainstream class.

The Curriculum

Keilor Downs College aims to enrich and accelerate students in the SEAL program through a curriculum that emphasises

- Content of greater complexity and depth
- More abstract and challenging open-ended tasks
- Higher order critical and creative thinking and problem-solving skills
- Independent research and opportunities for active investigations with local and global citizenship focus
- A supportive environment that encourages learning and working cooperatively with likeminded peers

Instrumental Music

The Instrumental Music Program is an extra-curricular program that SEALP students participate in, in addition to their scheduled Music classes. Instrumental Music is an integral part of the Year 7 and 8 SEAL program. Lessons are compulsory and conducted once per week with a highly qualified Instrumental Music teacher. Lessons are timetabled on a rotating roster so students do not miss the same scheduled classroom subject each week. In addition to their weekly instrumental lessons, students take part in the band program. Bands rehearse once a week after school.

How are SEALP students integrated within the school?

SEALP Students are not isolated within the school and are encouraged to participate in a range of school activities where they are able to connect with the rest of their year level cohort:

- Students Making a Difference (SMAD)
- Whole school events (Swimming Carnivals, Athletics Days and Fun Runs)
- House Assemblies
- Inter-school Sport
- Camps
- Lunchtime Library Activities (chess, games and reading)
- Debating, Choir, Science Club

What are the expectations of SEALP students?

Ongoing commitment - Keep up with the demands of balancing an accelerated workload with external commitments such as sport, tutoring and cultural activities

To be motivated – Capable of independent learning and demonstrate a high level of motivation and show a high level of resilience

To be responsible – Accept responsibility for their own learning and demonstrate serious effort and persistence

To be organised – Students are expected to manage the increased workload through developing strong organisation skills.

Extra-Curricular Activities – Sport, Debating and SMAD are all areas SEALP students are encouraged to become involved in. They are expected to participate in a range of activities including leadership, public speaking, sport and science and maths competitions

Concerts – Music concerts occur throughout the year and students are expected to attend weekly lessons, after school practice and concerts

Exams – Students are expected to complete exams from year 9 onwards. These exams are held each semester at the same time as year 10 and 11 exams. They complete exams in English, Maths, Science and Humanities.

Note: In addition to their academic achievement, students will be regularly monitored to ensure that they remain committed to the program and that they are adequately supported in their ability to cope with the demands of the curriculum.

Selection Process

The process for selection into the SEAL Program includes:

- A 3 hour Test and Interview.
- The current test is an Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) High Ability Selection Test (HAST) test.
- HAST is an ability test used by secondary schools to identify academically gifted students for participation in accelerated learning and enhancement programs.
 - The HAST program delivers rigorous tests in reading comprehension, mathematical reasoning, abstract reasoning and written expression at all levels of secondary school including first level entry.
 - HAST is designed to measure innate ability and academic potential unlike curriculumbased tests which typically identify what a student has already learned.
 - The test material is presented in a wide range of contexts and includes some items that are highly verbal, some that require the ability to perceive concepts at an abstract level, others that require the ability to synthesise, extrapolate or make inferences and some that apply logical and strategic thinking to solving a problem.

Year 6 Testing

- Applications open in February and the test occurs on Saturday April 28th,
- Interviews are conducted in May.
- Parents can register and make test payment at the Keilor Downs College Office and will be given further information about the testing.

Year 8 Testing

- Applications open in Term 3 and the test occurs at the end of Term 3 during the school day, followed by Interviews and the Selection Process in Term 4.
- Parents register at the Keilor Downs College Office and will be given further information about the testing.

Recent SEALP Achievement

VCE

Over the last three years, SEALP students at Keilor Downs College have achieved extremely successful results, including:

- 72% of ATAR scores over 90.00 have been achieved by SEALP students
- ATAR scores of 99.9, 99.00, 98.25, 97.65 and 97.55
- Study score of 50.00 in Chemistry
- Study scores of 45+ in Maths Methods, Physics, Psychology and Physical Education □ 65% of SEALP students complete 2 or more VCE subjects in Year 10

Extracurricular

Music –

- Performance at Hamer Hall as part of the Western Region State Schools Gala
- Performance at local hospitals, shopping centres and feeder schools
- Successful academic achievement in Music Exams, including Honours and High Distinction in Woodwind
- Bi-annual performance at the College Winter and Summer Concerts

Debating –

- Several Swannie Awards received by SEALP students in the last 5 years (speaker with the highest average score in each grade across Victoria)
- Two successful entries to the Finals round of Debating

State-wide competitions

Maths and science competition results