

SEAL PROGRAM 2017

WHAT IS THE SEAL PROGRAM?

A Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) program aims to provide opportunities for all students to achieve their full potential, by maximising the development of their abilities and talents. The Department of Education and Training introduced the SEAL Program into selected Victorian schools to help meet the needs of gifted and high achieving students. In 2014, the 36 SEAL schools in Victoria formed The Academy of Accredited SEAL Schools. The Academy aims to maintain the integrity of the SEAL program through regular reviews and coordination of the overall course across member schools. The Academy also upholds the high standards and academic rigour required to gain the accreditation necessary to offer a SEAL program.

Rosebud Secondary College proudly offers the only accredited SEAL program on the southern Mornington Peninsula and is a member of the Academy of Accredited SEAL Schools.



This information booklet provides an overview of the SEAL Program at Rosebud Secondary College, how it caters for the educational needs of high achieving students and the process for students wishing to apply for the Program in 2017.

CONTACT OUR SEAL CO-ORDINATOR: BRENDAN MURRAY

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**ROSEBUD
SECONDARY
COLLEGE**

MINDS CONSCIOUS OF RIGHT

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INSIDE THIS BOOKLET:

How does the program work?	2
What are the benefits?	2
7B 2017 Course	2
Who should apply?	3
Extra Curricular Involvement	3
How do we apply?	4
RSC Open Evening	4





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7B 2017

Successful applicants are grouped into one home group. Together, they will study the following subjects in 2017:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Languages
(Indonesian will be the language studied in 2017; however students will have ongoing access to courses in both Indonesian and Japanese at higher levels.)
- Personal Development
- Art
- Technology
- Music & Drama
- Physical Education & Health

HOW DOES THE SEAL PROGRAM WORK?

Students who are accepted into the program are placed together in a home group called 7B. This home group remain together, studying core subjects until Middle School (Years 7 to 9). In these first three years, the learning of core subjects (English, Maths, Science, Humanities and LOTE) is accelerated. Acceleration of the curriculum is one of many methods that cater for the educational needs of these high achieving students. This frees up time for students to engage in more challenging learning experiences.

As a general rule, what is normally studied in Years 7 to 10 is compacted into Years 7 to 9. This is achieved by finding out what students already know and restructuring the curriculum to ensure they are constantly challenged by new and engaging course material that meets their individual needs. The curriculum is differentiated to provide more stimulating content and rewarding learning environment; and this ultimately leads to more abstract, complex and in-depth learning experiences.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM?

In their fourth year (equivalent of Year 10), SEAL students enter the Senior School just as other students do. However, having condensed four years of core education into three, the difference is SEAL students have a variety of exciting options to choose from in senior school.

Each student follows an individual pathway and has the freedom to access a number of VCE subjects in Year 10 depending on their individual strengths. Another exciting option for accelerated students in Year 10 is to participate in an overseas exchange or study program. Having 'freed up' a year in advance, SEAL students can take this opportunity to immerse themselves in a different culture, embrace new learning opportunities and gain valuable international experience whilst in Year 10. They then return to the College and resume their VCE studies as normal.

In their final three years, they will have the advantage of a broader scope of subject opportunities, complete some Unit 3 and 4 studies earlier and thereby lighten their Year 12 load.

Students may also undertake a first year University subject as part of several universities' advanced placement courses. This will enable them to gain valuable insight into university life and assist them in defining their future pathways beyond secondary schooling.

Our SEAL program delivers consistently high ATAR results. Last year, a SEAL graduate achieved the College's Dux ATAR score of 99.25. In 2015, SEAL students achieved an average ATAR of 83.77, the highest median score achieved by this program to date.

SEAL students are often awarded high university admissions; in particular to reputable and highly sought after courses at Melbourne and Monash universities.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

The students in the SEAL program are encouraged to be involved in a range of school activities. This is seen as especially important for their social development, as well as giving SEAL students the same opportunities to participate in the wider school program as other students in the school.

Activities include music (concert bands, instrumental music), interschool sport, student leadership (SRC, Class and Year Level Captains) and dramatic productions (plays, school productions, dance concerts).

In addition to this, students in the SEAL Program have many opportunities to connect with the rest of their Year 7 cohort through assemblies, excursions, whole school sports and swimming days, sporting teams and lunch time clubs and activities.

Students undertaking the SEAL program are also involved in the Australian Mathematics and English Competitions, the Science Competition and other avenues which provide suitable extension of their skills and interests.



WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THE SEAL PROGRAM?

When considering an applicant for the SEAL Program, we take into account both academic progress and individual merit. Students do not necessarily need to adhere to all the criteria listed below, but as a general guide, are expected to meet some of these expectations. The qualities we look for in successful applicants include:

- Students who have a love of learning.
- Students who require a genuine challenge with their studies.
- Students who are consistently performing well above expected levels according to their teachers' assessments.
- Students who are 'gifted' and talented in the broader curriculum.
- Students who are independent and responsible for their learning.
- Students who have well developed numeracy and literacy skills.
- Students who are enthusiastic and avid readers.
- Individuals who challenge themselves both academically and personally.
- Students who are involved in extra-curricular activities such as sport, music and drama.
- Students who are self-motivated and well-organised.
- Students who embrace school leadership opportunities.
- Students who have a broad general knowledge and can work cooperatively with others.
- Students who are respectful, collaborative and courteous.
- Students who active members of their communities.

PRINCIPAL:
ANDREW NICHOLLS

SEAL COORDINATOR:
BRENDAN MURRAY

If you would like any more information about the SEAL program, or the College itself, please attend the Rosebud Secondary College Open Evening on Tuesday 15th March at 5pm.

I will be available at the 'Welcome' in the Southern Peninsula Arts Centre and am happy to discuss the Program with you further. At the Open Evening, you are also welcome to register your child to sit the General Achievement Test (see right) held the following month.

Sincerely,

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HOW DO WE APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Each year, students in Grade Six apply for selection into the SEAL Program for the following year. The selection process is designed to identify students for whom SEAL is appropriate.

An application form can be obtained in the following ways:

- Through your child's Grade Six teacher
- By downloading the form on our College website at www.rsc.vic.edu.au
- Contacting the College and speaking to our SEAL Coordinator, Brendan Murray
- Registering your child's interest at the College's Open Evening on Tuesday 15th March 2016.

Students then sit a formal exam provided by UNSW Global Australia. This is a General Achievement Test that measures students' proficiency across the core skills of Mathematics, Reading and Language and Writing. This exam is conducted at Rosebud Secondary College and usually takes about three hours to complete.

The SEAL testing dates for Rosebud Secondary College this year are:

- Tuesday 10th of May 2016
- Wednesday 11th of May 2016

Tests are assessed externally and results are returned to the College, together with a comprehensive report. On the basis of these results and other information, a shortlist is developed.

Students on the shortlist are then invited in for an interview with their parents. They are encouraged to bring with them a portfolio containing past academic reports, NAPLAN results, samples of work and any other information relevant to their application.

On the basis of all the above, offers of placement into the SEAL Program are then made. This is finalised by early July, with a telephone call to all applicants.

