



# Waratah Technology Campus

Excellence Respect Responsibility



## Year 7 High Achievers Program 2018

### Information & Application Package

A program for Gifted and Talented Students



CALLAGHAN  
EDUCATION  
PATHWAYS

# Year 7 High Achievers Program 2018 – A class for gifted and talented students

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## Information and Application Package for 2018 Year 7

### What is the Year 7 High Achievers Program?

Callaghan College Waratah Technology Campus is a middle school that focuses on innovation and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning. We are committed to quality teaching and provision of a wide range of opportunities for individual achievement and success in learning.

Our Year 7 High Achievers Program for gifted and talented students (GATS) will offer an introduction into a rich, challenging and stimulating curriculum, designed to generate an enthusiasm for learning and for students to develop their own unique skills and talents, which will be further explored as they move into GATS Stage 5 programs (Years 9-10).

### What is Gifted and Talented?

The NSW Department of Education and Communities Policy defines giftedness as referring to potential distinctly beyond the student's age and encompasses a broad range of abilities in the intellectual, creative, socio-emotional and physical domains. Talent denotes achievement distinctly beyond average for a student's age as a result of application to training and practice.

Our Year 7 High Achievers class is designed for gifted and talented students whose potential and skills are clearly above average ability in one or more of a range of areas.

### What is unique about our Year 7 High Achievers Program?

- Unique to their learning program, your child will participate in a timetabled cross-curricular program called "Integrated Studies", allowing enrichment or extension in their areas of interest, gift or talent, through Project Based units of work.
- Your child will be taught by specialist middle school teachers who have a high interest, commitment and expertise in providing an enriching GATS education.
- Your child's team of teachers will collaborate weekly to monitor and plan for the academic and social development of your child.
- Your child will be engaged with an enriched and extended curriculum where they will be challenged and offered opportunities for acceleration.
- Your child will showcase their achievements to a diverse audience including parents and community members in a half yearly review in addition to our yearly portfolio presentations.
- Parents/Carers of the High Achievers Program students, as for all our students, are welcome to be active participants and work in partnership in their child's learning.

## How do I apply?

Please complete the enclosed application form Section A and return it to your primary school principal by **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**.

The primary school principal will forward the application form to GATs Coordinator Mr B Peters, after completing Section B, by **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**.

Applicants will be invited to attend an interview style presentation early in Term Two and will be notified of their acceptance into the program within a few weeks. Where the number of short listed students exceeds the number of places available, a reserve list will be established. Should a place become available, those placed on the reserve list will be reconsidered for placement.

Parents/Carers are to confirm an offer of enrolment by the date indicated in the notification letter. Failure to do so may cancel the offer and allow the place to be made available to another student.

## What are the selection criteria?

- Strong academic performance across a range of subject areas
- Evidence of higher order thinking skills
- Well-developed literacy and numeracy skills
- Highly competent research skills and desire to learn
- High level of self-motivation
- Positive attitude to school and learning, including homework
- Ability to work in a team in learning situations
- Positive behaviors that enhance learning
- High levels of creativity evident in learning tasks
- Interest and engagement in extra curricula activities

## What is the selection process?

A panel of staff from Waratah Technology Campus will consider written applications, followed by an invitation to all applicants to attend the interview style presentation. **The presentation will require students to discuss and present a piece of their work they have selected which they feel demonstrates their special skills and interests.**

Part of the application also includes recommendations from the Primary Principal and/or Year 6 teachers and further consultation with these teachers will take place if necessary.

Successful students will be expected to maintain a high level of performance throughout their placement in the class. Class positions may be reviewed at the end of each school term.

## **What happens after Year 7?**

The High Achievers Program will continue into Year 8, supporting our philosophy of quality middle schooling and best practice.

At the commencement of Stage 5, GATS enrichment/extension programs will be offered and priority given to students engaged in the High Achievers program in the form of:

- STEM Program where students further develop their skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Personal Pursuit Program elective where students peruse their area of talent or interest through self-designed assessment and presentation
- Students participating in the High Achievers program may be able to be accelerated in technology based subjects from Year 8 onwards. Students from the existing Year 8 GATS class are invited into this program.
- Waratah Technology Campus also offers acceleration through VET Metals and Engineering and VET Hospitality

Comprehensive and diverse ranges of academic courses are available to students in Year 11 and 12 at Callaghan College Jesmond Senior Campus and we offer a supportive transition process into Senior Studies.

## **Appeals**

Appeals can only be made on the process and should be made to Mr Dana Fuller Principal, Callaghan College, Waratah Technology Campus.

## **Contact**

Mr Ben Peters, GATS Coordinator at Waratah Technology Campus, will coordinate all information concerning placement in the High Achievers Program. For further information, please feel free to contact him via the school.