



SUPPORTING HIGH ABILITY STUDENTS: ADVANCED LEARNING PROGRAMS

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the office on 51471790

PURPOSE

To provide parents/carers and other members of our school community with an overview of Maffra Secondary College's approach to supporting high ability students through advanced learning programs at VCE.

POLICY

- Government schools work to enhance the educational opportunities of all students, including high-ability students.
- The [Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0](#) outlines the importance of including a planned approach to learning extension and enrichment for high-ability students as part of a school's documented whole-school curriculum plan.
- All schools receiving funding through the Student Excellence Program must appoint a high ability practice leader (HAPL) to lead the school's support for high-ability students.
- High-ability students are supported to access the department's Victorian High-Ability Program, programs offered by the Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES), and advanced learning programs offered at Maffra Secondary College through early access to VCE subjects. Year 12 students may also access tertiary education either through CHES or directly through the relevant tertiary provider.

EARLY ACCESS TO VCE SUBJECTS

- Students who have demonstrated that they have the learning habits and thinking skills required to be successful in a VCE subject will be invited to participate in our Advanced Learning Program at Year 10, if they choose, meaning that these select students will have the option of choosing a VCE subject (units 1 and 2) as part of their Year 10 academic program. This subject would take the place of one Year 10 elective subject per semester.
- This is a great opportunity for students to get a 'head start' on their VCE and build a better understanding of what is required in managing the VCE workload. Furthermore, students who are successful in their study of a Unit 1 and 2 VCE subject in Year 10, can go on to study Units 3 and 4 of that subject in Year 11. This provides an extra Unit 3 and 4 sequence that contributed to ATAR calculation and can boost results.
- To be invited, Year 9 students must demonstrate the following:
 - Timely and consistent submission of work



- Exemplary attendance
- Excellent learning habits and organisation, demonstrated by an average progress report score of 3.5 and above in Year 9
- Contribution to class discussions
- Strong academic ability with evidence of high academic achievement – English Victorian Curriculum levels would usually be at or 6 months above standard, and Common Assessment Task (CAT) achievement level would be at least 'high', on average.
- The following unit 1 /2 subjects may not be selected for study at year 10:
 - Chemistry
 - Physics
 - Mathematical methods
 - Specialist mathematics
 - English
- Student progress in their chosen subject will be reviewed at the conclusion of unit 1. Continuation of the chosen subject in unit 2 will be subject to:
 - Demonstrated ability to maintain success across the Year 10 program in conjunction with the VCE subject
 - Achieving a 'high' or higher result in Unit 1 assessment tasks (SACs) for the VCE subject
 - Exemplary attendance
 - Unit 1 examination score above 70%
 - Timely and consistent submission of coursework
- Student progress in their chosen subject will also be reviewed at the conclusion of unit 2. Continuation of the chosen subject in unit 3 and 4 will be subject to:
 - Demonstrated ability to maintain success across the Year 10 program in conjunction with the VCE subject
 - Achieving a 'high' or higher result in Unit 2 assessment tasks (SACs) for the VCE subject
 - Exemplary attendance
 - Unit 2 examination score above 70%
 - Timely and consistent submission of coursework
- Students who are not demonstrating the above at the conclusion of unit 1 will be recounselled into a year 10 elective subject for semester 2. Students who are not demonstrating the above at the conclusion of unit 2 will be recounselled into a unit 1/ 2 VCE subject for Year 11.
- Students who study a unit 3 / 4 subject in year 11 are expected to study a full unit 3 / 4 subject load in year 12 (5 subjects + 1 study session). This may consist of a university subject (subject to approval – see below).
- Students who wish to study two unit 1 /2 VCE subjects in Year 10 must demonstrate the following:
 - Timely and consistent submission of work
 - Exemplary attendance



- Excellent learning habits and organisation, demonstrated by an average progress report score of 4.5 and above in Year 9
- Contribution to class discussions
- Strong academic ability with evidence of high academic achievement – English Victorian Curriculum levels must be at least 6 months above standard, and Common Assessment Task (CAT) achievement level for the subject areas in question would be 'very high', on average.
- Students studying two unit 1 / 2 subjects at year 10 will have their progress reviewed at the end of unit 1 and unit 2. Continuation of the subjects into unit 2, and units 3 and 4 in year 11, will require:
 - Demonstrated ability to maintain success across the Year 10 program in conjunction with the VCE subjects
 - Achieving a 'high' or higher result in unit 1 and 2 assessment tasks (SACs) for the VCE subjects
 - Exemplary attendance
 - Unit 1 and 2 examination scores above 80%
 - Timely and consistent submission of coursework
- Students who are successful in completing two unit 1 and 2 subjects in year 10, and two unit 3 and 4 subjects in year 11, are expected to study a full load in year 12 (5 subjects + 1 study session). This may require an additional subject to be selected at year 12, and/or may consist of a tertiary subject (see requirements below).

ACCESS TO TERTIARY PROGRAMS IN VCE

The Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHES) is a school run by the Department of Education to further improve educational outcomes for high-achieving and high-ability senior secondary school students across Victoria. This opened in 2023.

CHES students can study first-year university courses, accompanied by an enhancement and enrichment program. This 'head start' on tertiary courses allows our most capable students to undertake study aligned to their skills and interests that may contribute to their ATAR, while also being considered for university credits.

Some tertiary providers also offer higher education studies (HES) directly through the university itself.

Different providers have different requirements in terms of achievement levels in year 11 to be eligible, but at a school level, we require students to demonstrate the following:

- Exemplary attendance
- SAC scores to be 'high' or above, on average
- Progress report scores to be at least 4.5, on average
- Timely and consistent submission of coursework
- Enrolment in, or completion of, pre- or corequisite subjects (specified by the university; this depends on which course the student is interested in).

Please note, access to HES will be initially school-approved based on the student's academic progress, and an application then made to the CHES or the University in question, including



current results. A meeting with the careers team and senior team is required to start this process.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Discussed at careers information nights/parent sessions as needed
- Available in the senior school subject selection handbook
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library:
<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/supporting-high-ability-students/policy>

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2025
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	