



LYNEHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Care Quality Creativity

*Lynneham Enriched
Academic Program*

LEAP Parents and Carers Handbook 2020-2021

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The Lyneham Enriched Academic Program

Lyneham High School has multiple opportunities for gifted students to excel in both their studies and friendships. One such way is through our Lyneham Enriched Academic Program (LEAP) – a program for students who are identified as being gifted in a range of disciplines and who benefit socially from being with likeminded students.

LEAP is a unique approach to meeting the needs of gifted children. We offer students placement in all four core academic areas – English, Mathematics, Science and HaSS (History and Social Sciences) for the duration of their time at Lyneham. This means that students entering the program in year 7 will have the same peers in each of those subjects for their four years at Lyneham High School.

LEAP is an enrichment program, not an acceleration program, and students will cover the same curriculum and assessment as all students as per the Australian Curriculum. However, in LEAP classes, students are able to experience additional enrichment activities, are able to go into more depth and are supported by a continuous group of their peers. LEAP staff are offered ongoing professional learning to best facilitate this type of learning environment.

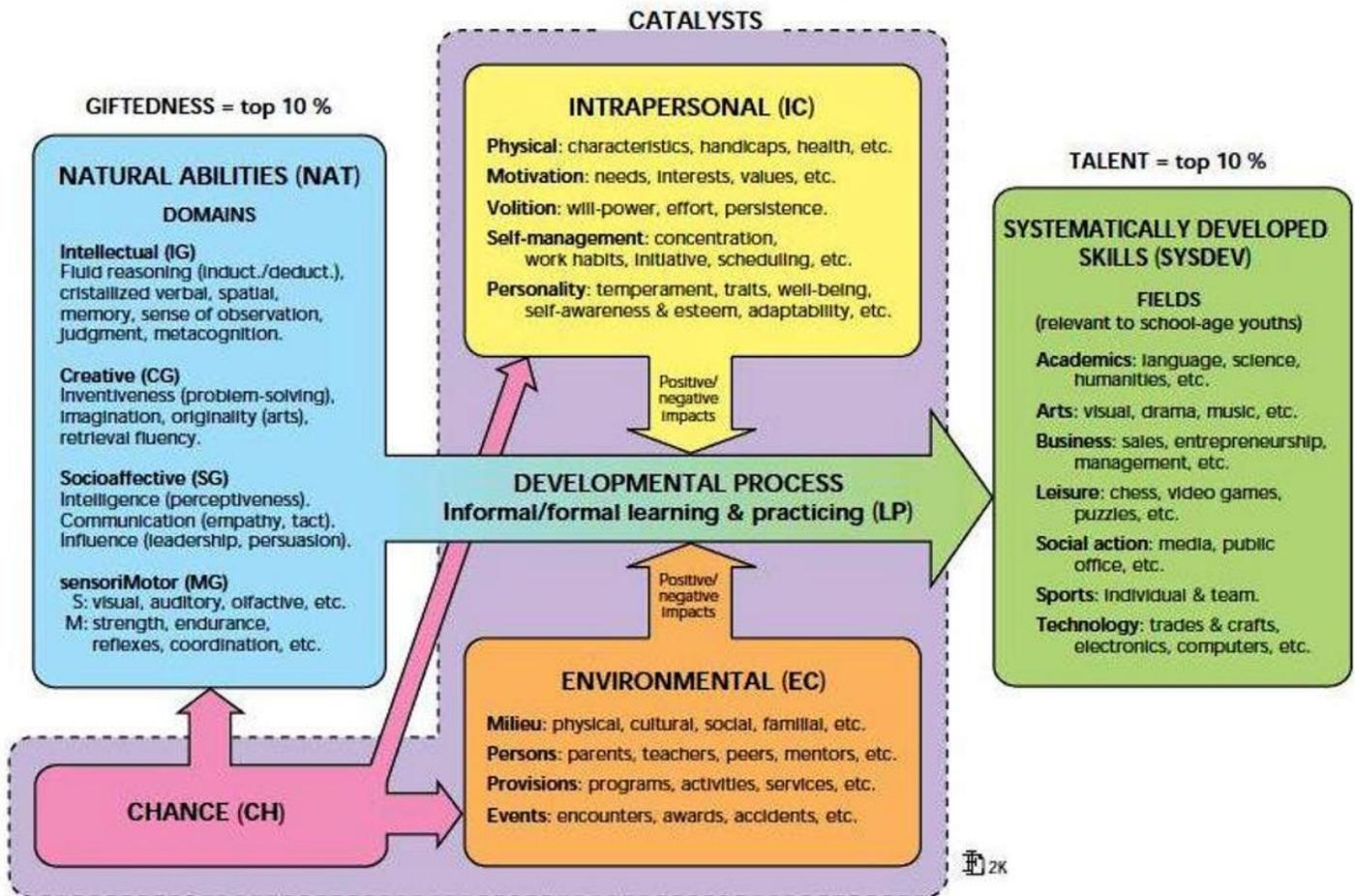
LEAP's aims are to:

- provide a stimulating high school education in a supportive environment;
- create opportunities which promote knowledge, concept and skill acquisition;
- encourage independent student enquiry and learning;
- encourage students to develop or realise their potential;
- encourage students to respect the successes of others; and
- encourage students to have pride in their own achievements.

Gifted and Talented Education

There are different models and definitions of giftedness. When LEAP was founded in 1983, Renzulli's (1978) model focusing on ability, creativity and task commitment was appropriate. However, over two decades later, working practice at Lyneham High School reflects the ideas of Professor Francois Gagné. Gagné, in his Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent, refers to natural abilities, (aptitudes or gifts) which, depending on environmental factors, may develop into talents. This approach emphasises that social and educational factors are important to gifted children fulfilling their potential (Gagné 2003). The LEAP program also follows the Education Directorate policy on Gifted and Talented Education. <https://www.education.act.gov.au/support-for-our-students/g-and-talented-education>

In summary “giftedness” refers to a students’ innate competence and “talent” refers to outstanding performance: that is talent emerges from giftedness as a consequence of the students’ learning experiences (Gagné 2007).



Gagné's Differentiated Model of Giftedness and Talent (DMGT.EN.2K)

Identification and Placement Process

Identification

Identification consists of both subjective and objective measures. Objective measures include standardised tests of potential and performance; ability and achievement. Subjective measures are used in conjunction with objective measures to determine placement in the LEAP program. Subjective measures include parent/carer, teacher, peer and self-nomination and student interviews. Reports from psychologists are also accepted.

Nomination

There are four possible ways for a student to be nominated. Should the nomination be received prior to a testing session, then the student will sit the LEAP tests to determine entry. If the nomination is made after the tests, then the student will go onto the *Watchlist*.

Parent/Carer Nomination

Any parent/carer may nominate his or her child for consideration for the LEAP program by completing the official "LEAP Nomination Form" from either this LEAP Handbook or online.

Teacher/School Nomination

If the Principal, Primary or High School Teacher or School Psychologist considers that a student would be a likely candidate for the program and that student's parents/carers have not nominated him/her, they will contact that student's parents/carers advising them of the program and the necessary procedures to take.

Self-Nomination

This is more likely to occur in Years 8, 9 or 10. The student and/or parents/carers should contact the LEAP Coordinator.

Peer Nomination

While rare, some students have been nominated by their peers. In this case, the LEAP Coordinator would be in contact with parents/carers to discuss the next steps.

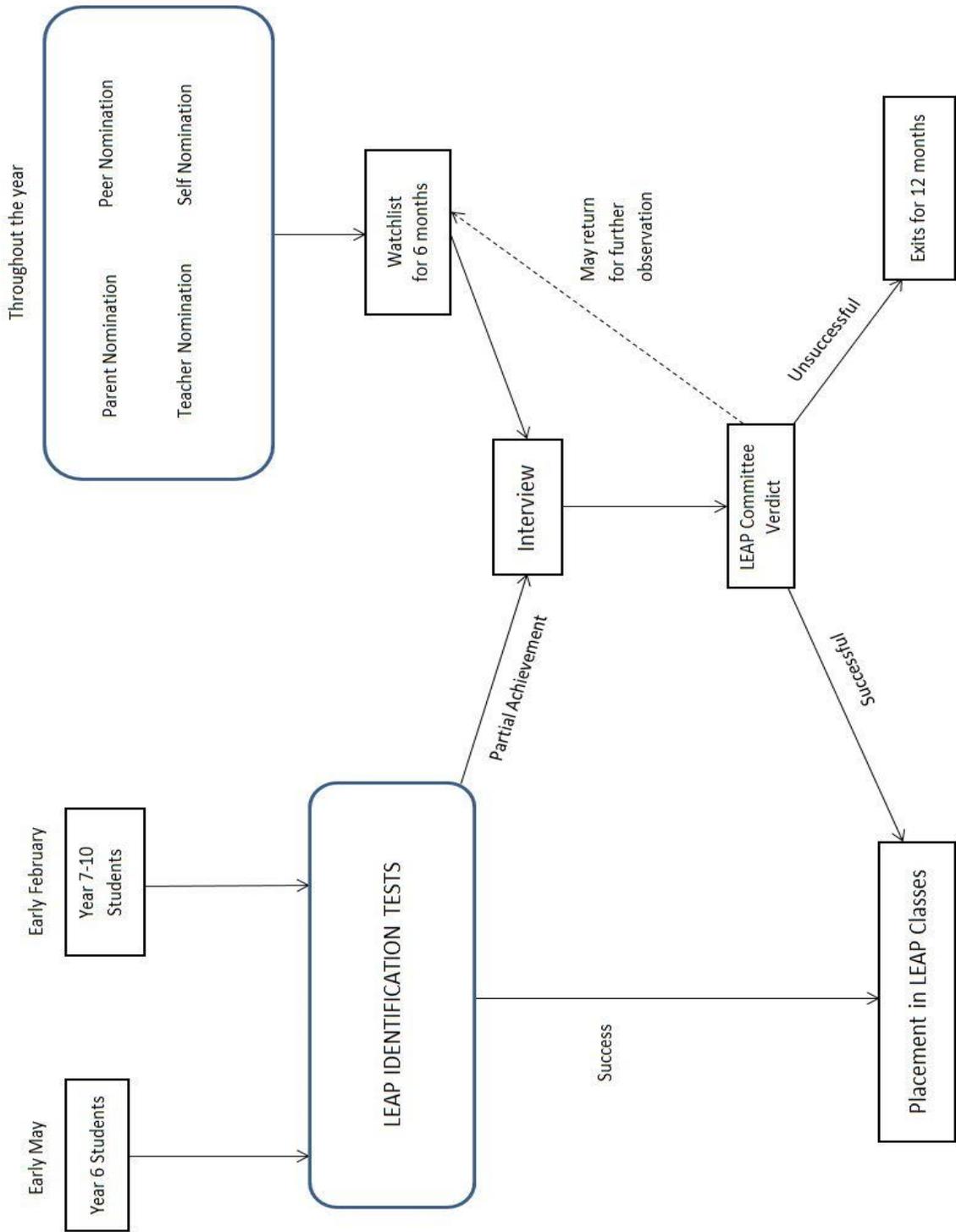
Testing

LEAP testing is traditionally undertaken in May. In light of the COVID-19 situation, arrangements for testing for 2021 will be advised at a later date. The school will make contact with all applicants via the email address that they provide on the 'Special Programs' application form. **Please note that students without an accepted enrolment for Lyneham High School will NOT be invited to test for LEAP nor apply for entry into the program.**

When the tests are scheduled, they take approximately 5-6 hours to complete (including a break and administration time) and include testing on mathematical skills, writing skills, general reasoning, spatial reasoning, reading comprehension and knowledge of science. The details of these tests are not revealed in order to protect the integrity of the process. It should also be noted that:

- Papers used in previous years are not available for distribution and there is no practice test paper.
- Individual test results are not issued to students or parents/carers at any time.
- Test results are used for the sole purpose of placement into the LEAP Program.
- Final selection is made by the Lyneham High LEAP Committee.

The identification and placement process



The Watchlist

The Watchlist is a list of students who have been nominated after a testing period. The LEAP Coordinator liaises with parents and teachers to see if the student can be recommended for the interview stage. Students who demonstrate other gifted and talented identifiers (as outlined in the 'Gifted and Talented Education' section) over a period of six months are most likely to proceed to the interview stage.

Entry into LEAP for years 8, 9 and 10 is dependent on availability in those classes and cannot be guaranteed.

Students who do not meet these requirements are notified and they are removed from the Watchlist and invited to take the LEAP tests the following year. This decision is made by LEAP Coordinator in consultation with the student's teachers and the Deputy Principal (Students).

Students who have already been unsuccessful at the LEAP tests may not sit the tests again until 2 calendar years have passed.

The Interview

Students who have scored a partial achievement in the LEAP tests or who have moved on from the Watchlist will be asked to sit an interview. The interview determines all placements into LEAP regardless of entry point.

The LEAP Committee

The LEAP Committee consists of the Principal, the Deputy Principal (Students) and the LEAP Coordinator. When considering whether or not a student should be placed in LEAP, the Committee will be guided by

- the professional judgement of the teachers consulted
- the most recent results on the LEAP tests (if applicable)
- the information in the nomination form
- the student's most recent NAPLAN results
- other relevant factors

LEAP Classes

All learning programs aim to encourage students to achieve their potential. LEAP offers places not only to the gifted, but also to those with particular talents. LEAP students study the same subjects but are exposed to more extension and enrichment in their classes.

The LEAP Committee invites teachers, parents and students to submit the names of those students who could benefit from placement in one or more LEAP classes (see Watchlist for criteria). The LEAP Committee will consult with the students, their parents and where possible will offer LEAP places to those students whom the Committee considers possess talent in the specific subject areas.

It must be remembered that LEAP is a special program for the genuinely gifted and talented rather than a top streamed class. Students are required to maintain a satisfactory level of achievement and effort to remain in these classes.

ED Enrolment Policy – Year 6 Students

An application for placement in this Lyneham High School is considered in accordance with the Education Directorate Enrolment Policy. Once accepted into Lyneham High, a prospective LEAP student must also submit the online Special Programs application form. Invitations to complete this form will be sent out in early August 2020.

ED Gifted and Talented Policy

Lyneham High encourages all parents and carers to become familiar with the Education Directorate Gifted and Talented Policy, found at:

https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/policies

The LEAP TESTS

Please note:

1. Year 7-10 students already enrolled at Lyneham High usually sit the tests in February.
2. The timeframe for year 6 students to sit the test for 2021 will be advised in early August 2020.
3. On the test day, students should bring the following:
 - \$25 – the test fee (payment by cash or cheque only, payable to *Lyneham High School*; credit card payments **are not** accepted)
 - pen or pencil, eraser and sharpener
 - a water bottle and a snack
 - a book to read in case they finish early
4. Students attending the test are requested to be in the school Reception area by 8.45am and will be taken to the testing area.
5. At the completion of testing at approximately 1.30pm, enrolled students may return to class and Year 6 students can be collected by parents/carers.
6. Follow-up interviews may be held for a small number of students where we require further information or if there has been partial achievement.
7. The families of successful students will be contacted by phone or email; unsuccessful candidates will be notified by email.
8. The only results we are permitted to release are whether or not the student has passed. No further information may be given.

Contact Information

Lyneham Enriched Academic Program

A Gifted and Talented Education Program

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