



LYNEHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Care Quality Creativity

*Lynneham Enriched
Academic Program*

LEAP Parents and Carers Handbook 2019-2020

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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 LEAP – a program for students who are identified as being gifted in a range of disciplines and who benefit socially from being with likeminded children.

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.

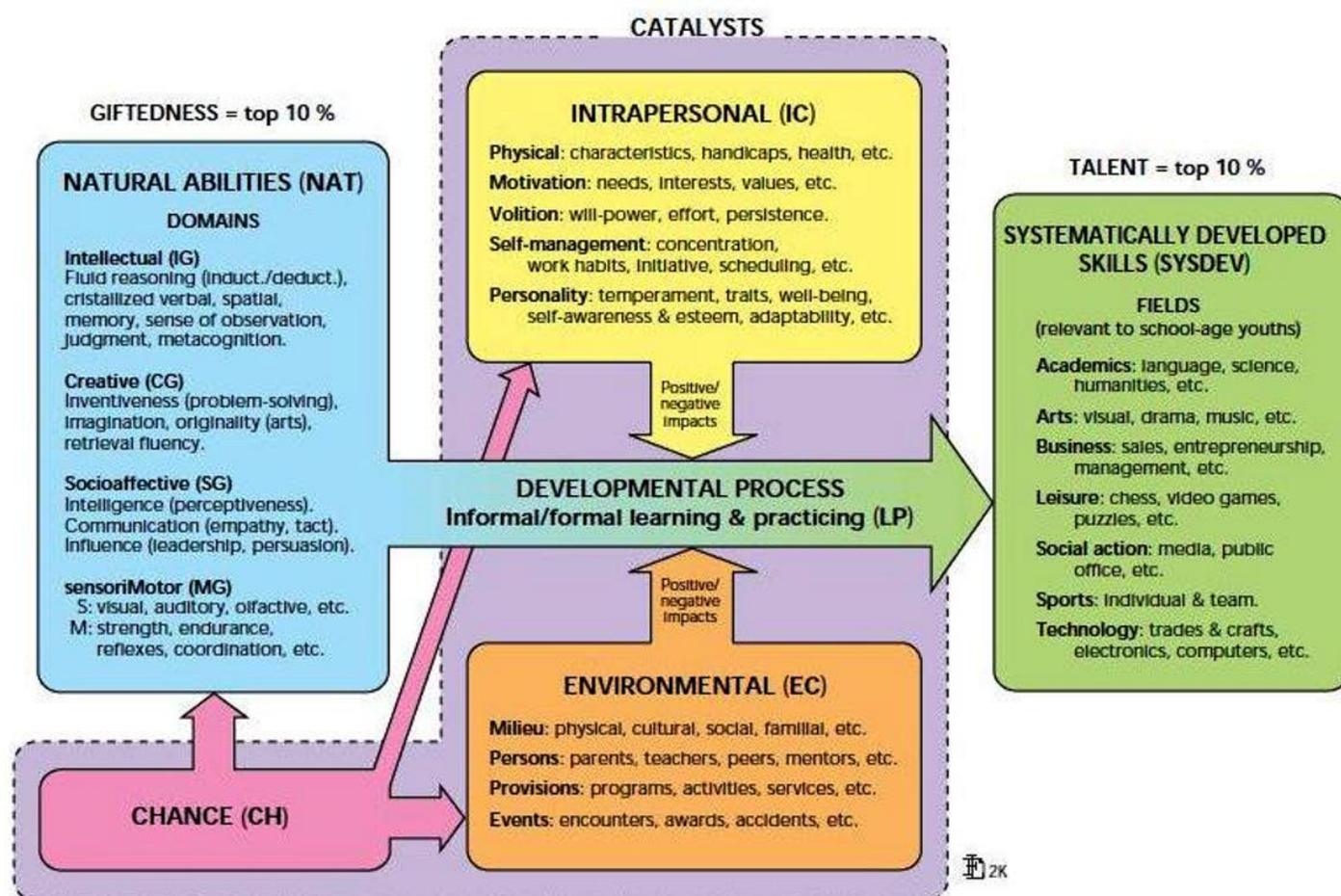
The LEAP Aims are

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

Gifted and Talented Education

There are different models and definitions of giftedness. When the Lyneham Enriched Academic Program (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 Francoys 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.

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 "Special Programs Nomination Form" available for the school website.

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

The LEAP tests take place for students enrolled in Year 6 and for other interested Lyneham enrolled students in February. 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:

- Parents and carers must register their interest in participating in the tests by emailing the LEAP coordinator with the completed nomination form prior to the test date.
- To cover costs of the testing a \$25 fee is payable on the day of testing, either by cash or cheque only. (Credit Card payments **are not** accepted)
- The nomination form must be submitted prior to the day of testing or the students' test will not be marked.
- Students cannot study for these tests.
- 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, consisting of the Principal, Deputy Principal (Students) and the LEAP Coordinator.
- Should a student receive a "Partial Achievement" they will proceed to the *interview* stage.

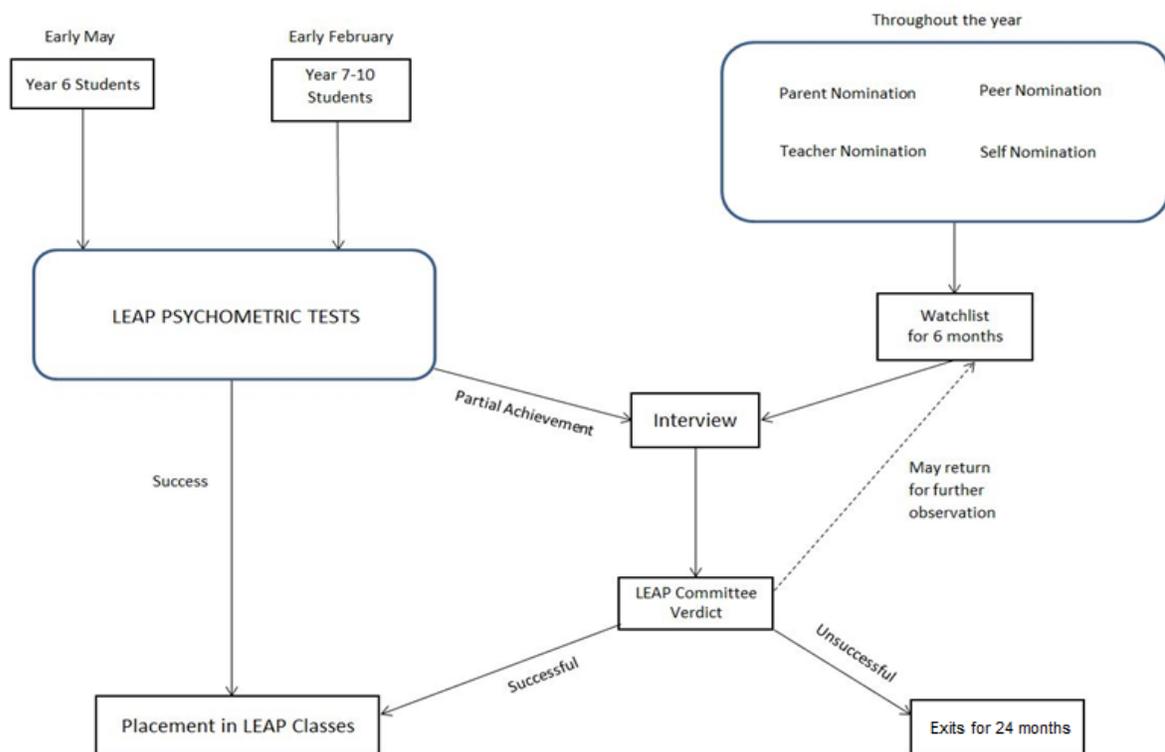


Diagram explaining the identification and placement process

The Watchlist

The Watchlist is a method of entry for students who missed the 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 one school term are most likely to proceed to the interview stage. 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

Students are required to maintain a satisfactory level of achievement and effort to remain in these classes. Individual positions in the program are reviewed on a yearly or semester basis where needed but parents and carers would always be consulted well before any firm decisions were made.

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. The LEAP Committee invites teachers, parents and students to submit the names of those students who could benefit from partial placement in one or more LEAP classes. 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.

Not all LEAP class members are equally gifted across the full range of the four academic subjects. Occasionally LEAP students may be disadvantaged by continuing in a learning environment where they are out of their depth. In these cases, students are given the opportunity to fully develop their potential through a more appropriate placement in a mainstream class for that subject. A member of the LEAP Committee will carry out consultation with the student and parents/carers. Communication is a two way process and parent/carer enquires are very welcome at any time.

ACT Education Directorate Enrolment Policy – Year 6 Students

An application for placement in this Lyneham High School program is considered in accordance with the ACT Education Directorate Enrolment Policy. A prospective LEAP student must also submit an online enrolment- called the Special Programs Application Form, which is available from the school website.

ED Gifted and Talent Policy

Lyneham High encourages all parents and carers to become familiar with the ED's G&T Policy (2014). It can be found at:

http://www.education.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/554203/Gifted-and-Talented-Student-Policy-2014b.pdf

Important LEAP Dates – 2019

Time	Event	Location
Wednesday 6th February 2019	LEAP test Registrations close for Years 7-10 students who are already enrolled at LHS.	lynehamhs@ed.act.edu.au
Thursday 7th February at 9am	Year 7-10 Testing	LHS Hall
<p style="color: #00AEEF;">All will take place during the month of May, 2019.</p> <p style="color: #00AEEF;">Test dates are scheduled for: Wednesday 22nd May Thursday 23rd May</p> <p style="color: #00AEEF;">LEAP nominations close Tuesday 21st May 5.00pm</p>	LHS Year 6 Information Night	LHS Hall
	LEAP Information Night	Lyneham High Performing Arts Centre
	LEAP Nomination Form Due	Robyn.Southall@ed.act.edu.au
	LEAP Year 6 Tests Session #1	LHS Hall
	LEAP Year 6 Tests Session #2	LHS Hall
	Follow-up interviews	LHS
<p>Letter of offer for LEAP - As part of the overall ED enrolment process.</p>	Successful families contacted	Email
	Unsuccessful families contacted	Email

The LEAP TESTS

Please note:

1. Year 7-10 students already enrolled at Lyneham High usually sit the tests in February; Year 6 students may choose either Session 1 or Session 2, they do not need to sit both.
2. 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
3. Students attending the test are requested to be in the school Reception area by 8.45am and will be taken to the testing area.
4. 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.
5. Follow-up interviews may be held for a small number of students where we require further information or if there has been partial achievement.
6. The families of successful students will be contacted by phone or email; unsuccessful candidates will be notified by email.
7. 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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LEAP Committee	Robyn Southall (LEAP Coordinator) Julie Collins (Deputy Principal Students) Rob Emanuel (Principal)
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