



# LYNEHAM HIGH SCHOOL

*Care Quality Creativity*

*Lynneham Enriched  
Academic Program*

# LEAP

## Parents and Carers Handbook

2024/25

Version 1.0

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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 and/or talented in a range of disciplines and who benefit socially from being with like-minded children.

LEAP is a program for gifted and talented students rather than a top streamed class. It is also important to note that LEAP is not an acceleration program, and students 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 group of their peers. LEAP teachers are offered ongoing professional learning in gifted and talented pedagogy to best facilitate this type of learning environment.

The LEAP program targets students' particular gifts and talents in a deliberate way by offering two LEAP streams: a humanities stream, where students will be in the English/HaSS LEAP classes or STEM stream, where students will be in the Maths/Science classes. Depending on the breadth of their gifts and/or talents, students can also be placed in both of these streams. Students who are suitable for the Year 10 LEAP classes in 2025 can, space dependent, be offered a place in one of the two streams.

If it becomes clear that the LEAP classes are not the best place for a student's learning, then they may be moved to other classes (see "Moving out of LEAP classes").

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 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.

## Transition Testing

Lyneham High School tests all incoming Year 7 students to gather data on students' literacy, numeracy and reasoning skills. This transition data will be a factor in identifying areas of student strength and need and will be used to compose our specialist programs and classes including STRIVE (targeted literacy support programme for Years 7 and 8), Inclusive Education programmes, and LEAP.

There is **no** separate testing or application process for entry into Year 7 LEAP: sitting the transition tests is all that is required in order for a student to be considered for the LEAP program. There is no fee for sitting the transition testing.

Transition testing in 2024 will take place at Lyneham High School, as part of the Year 6 Orientation Day/s in Term 4. Dates for Orientation and transition testing will be communicated by the school later in the year, likely in Term 3. Students who miss the Orientation Day and transition testing will have the opportunity to complete the transition testing at the beginning of Term 1, 2025. This Term 1 testing date will be advertised via emails home to parents/carers, the school newsletter, and in the daily notices read each day in Home Group in the days leading up to the test. Students who enrol at LHS after the Year 6 Orientation Day/s will also complete transition testing early in Term 1.

Testing will be conducted on Chromebooks using the ACER platform. Along with a range of other school-based permissions, parental permission is required for students to use this platform and a permission form will be emailed to parents as part of the enrolment process.

Students who are offered a place in one or both of the LEAP streams will be notified in late Term 4 2024 via email. As students no longer apply for the LEAP programme, families of students who are not offered a place in the programme will not be emailed. No testing information other than whether a student is being offered a place in LEAP is given to parents/carers.

Transition testing can also be conducted for students who have enrolled at Lyneham High School throughout the school year. These dates and times of these sessions will be communicated to parents via email. The results of this testing will be used to determine a student's suitability for LEAP and other specialist programmes, should places be available. Again, no other testing information will be released to parents.

Transition tests take approximately 2-3 hours to complete (including breaks and administration time) and include testing on mathematical skills, writing skills, general reasoning, spatial reasoning, and reading comprehension and analysis. 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 or feedback are not issued to students or parents/carers at any time.

## **Entry into LEAP for current Year 8, 9 and 10 students**

At the beginning of each school year, Lyneham High invites students from current Year 8, 9 and 10 cohorts to test for the LEAP classes, should spaces be available in the applicable class(es). Students will only be tested if they have not tested for LEAP the previous year. That is, in line with guidelines on Gifted and Talented testing, students are only tested every two years so that the tests are testing for aptitude and ability, rather than achievement and/or memory.

Lyneham High also supports the identification of Gifted and Talented students who may be suitable for LEAP from the whole school cohort through rigorous analysis of student data, in combination with subjective measures including discussion with classroom teachers. This data is typically collated and examined at two points in the school year: after semester one and at the end of semester two. Data points to be examined include PAT testing results, NAPLAN results, academic reports (a minimum of at least a semester worth of results) and any other testing data collected, including transition testing data. Teachers of those students whose data indicates that the LEAP class(es) may be the best place(s) for their learning are asked to provide feedback on a student's suitability for LEAP. Any students identified after this process may then be offered a placement

into LEAP, should space be available in the class(es).

## **Moving out of LEAP**

A student's suitability to remain in the LEAP classes is dependent on the classes remaining the best place for their learning. If LEAP classes are not meeting a student's learning needs, then they may be moved out of the class and into mainstream classes. Shifts out of LEAP classes will occur after discussion/s with the student, their parents/carers, and the LEAP committee. Typically, parents will have at least a term's worth of notice that a student's place in LEAP is under review.

## **The LEAP Committee**

The LEAP Committee consists of the Principal, the Deputy Principal, the Executive teacher of Inclusive Education, and the LEAP Coordinator/s. 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 transition tests,
- the student's most recent NAPLAN and PAT testing results,
- other relevant factors.

## **Enrolment Policy – Year 6 Students**

LEAP eligibility only applies to students who are expected to have a confirmed enrolment. Refer to the Education Directorate's enrolments website for more information:

<https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/enrolling-in-a-public-school/enrolling-in-kindergarten-to-year-12>

## **Education Directorate Gifted and Talented Policy**

Lyneham High encourages all parents and carers to become familiar with the ED's G&T Policy (2021). It can be found at:

[https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications\\_and\\_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/access-and-equity/gifted-and-talented/gifted-and-talented-students-policy](https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/access-and-equity/gifted-and-talented/gifted-and-talented-students-policy)

## Contact Information

### **L**yneham **E**nriched **A**cademic **P**rogram

#### **A Gifted and Talented Education Program**

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