

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please complete the following questions and return this letter to Epping Secondary College prior to the 17th of April, 2018. This application can also be completed on the school website.

Alternatively, you may email your answers to these questions to Kerryyn Sandford (Assistant Principal, Teaching and Learning) at [sandford.kerryyn.m@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:sandford.kerryyn.m@edumail.vic.gov.au)

### Student details:

STUDENT NAME:

DATE OF BIRTH: / /

Is there a sight or hearing impairment that may affect the test? ☐ Yes ☐ No

CURRENT SCHOOL:

PARENT GUARDIAN NAME(S):

PREFERRED CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

### Declaration of Interest:

I

would like to express interest in my child applying for the ACE program at ESC for 2019.

I am able to arrange for my child to sit the assessment on the 18th of April and have included a payment for this assessment of \$60.

I consent to being contacted by email with any further details prior to the testing day.

SIGNATURE:

DATE: / /

*"At Epping Secondary College, we acknowledge that each student is different and will have their own unique set of learning needs. We also recognize that as a school, it is our responsibility to meet the needs of all of our students to ensure that they achieve the very best outcomes."*

*Helene Alamidis, Principal*

## TESTING SESSION DETAILS

In 2018, the details for the ACE testing session are:

**Date:** 18th April, 2018

**Time:** 8.30 am until 12.30pm

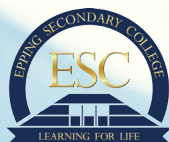
**Cost:** \$60

The testing session starts at 8.30 am and students will need to be at the college by 8.15 am.



**EPHING SECONDARY COLLEGE**

# Accelerated Cluster Education Program (ACE)



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## PRELIMINARY APPLICATION FORM

Complete this application form and send to Epping Secondary College by **Tuesday 17th April 2018** with the \$60.00 fee in order to register for the testing.



# Accelerated Cluster Education Program (ACE)



## WHAT IS THE ACE PROGRAM?

The ACE program is a **cluster grouped acceleration** strategy that ensures that gifted and talented students are able to access challenging curriculum within the supportive environment of a class of similar aged peers.

It provides students with the opportunity to accelerate through the curriculum at a faster rate than is typical, meaning that they will complete years 7 – 10 in some subject areas within three years rather than four.

At the end of the three years, these students will then be able to access VCE studies as part of their year 10 studies.

The ACE program is part of the wider cluster grouping strategy employed at the college to ensure that all students receive a challenging but appropriate learning experience.

In 2019 acceleration in the subjects of Maths and English will be offered. Students may choose to apply for the program for either subject or both.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

**Acceleration** means that students are given access to curriculum at a level above that of the year level in which they are placed. This allows them to move faster through the school curriculum than is typical and so they enter VCE sooner than their peers.

In a **cluster grouping strategy**, students who exhibit above average capacity are grouped in smaller clusters across classes rather than all placed in the one class. This model has advantages over other acceleration models as students in this model:

- are able to maintain social connections with peers of a range of abilities
- are less likely to experience negative labelling or stereotyping
- are able to be accelerated in specific subject areas or globally depending on individual student needs
- benefit from being in class with less able peers as they learn to understand the different ways in which people approach cognitive tasks
- feel more comfortable when there are other students just like them in the class
- develop social and life skills through collaborative problem solving with others who are operating at a range of levels.

## WHO IS IT SUITABLE FOR?

The ACE program is suitable for students who perform at high abilities and feel as though they are not always challenged in the regular classroom. It can also be suitable for students who have very high ability but don't tend to perform as well due to disengagement from the regular curriculum.

In order to be considered for the ACE program at Epping Secondary College, students need to demonstrate that they are cognitively ready for acceleration. This is determined through an independent assessment run by Academic Assessment Services (AAS) that will assess student reasoning capacity as well as their performance in Maths, Reading Comprehension, Writing Skills and Spelling.

## TESTING SESSION DETAILS

In 2018, the details for the ACE testing session are:

**Date:** 18th April, 2018

**Time:** 8.30 am until 12.30pm

**Cost:** \$60

The testing session starts at 8.30 am and students will need to be at the college by 8.15 am.

The testing session runs for a total of 3½ hours and breaks are provided during this time.

Students are required to bring a blue or black pen, a pencil, eraser, drink bottle and light snack for the break periods.

Students will need to be collected from the college at 12.30pm.

There is a small cost for students to sit the test. This fee is non-refundable in the event that your child is not offered a place and is to cover administration costs of the test.

If you would like your child to be considered for this program, you will need to book a testing place by returning the expression of interest form along with the testing fee to the school prior to 17/04/18. If posting your forms, please do not send cash. We are able to take credit card payments over the phone or, alternatively you may send a cheque made out to Epping Secondary College.

