



CHALLENGE CLASS YEAR 7-10

The College recognises that some incoming Year 7 students have a high level of academic ability across many areas of the curriculum. Research supports the idea that, grouped together and given a differentiated curriculum, these students can continue to develop their potential and achieve at a very high academic standard. This is supported by the high number of teachers who have completed the UNSW Mini-Certificate of Gifted Education and the Gifted Education Online courses 1 and 2 offered by Sydney Catholic Schools.

Features of the Challenge Class include:

- Students who demonstrate high literacy, general reasoning and organisational skills and the ability to cope well under the pressure of a faster teaching pace are invited to join the Challenge Class.
- This invitation is initially based on students' performance in standardised tests.
- Student progress is monitored to ensure that students have been correctly placed in this class.
- Positions in this class are flexible and changes may occur at the end of a semester.
- Teachers are trained in Gifted Education (Mini Certificate of Gifted Education) and GEO 1 & 2.

Other features of the Year 7 Curriculum include:

- All students are exposed to a differentiated curriculum.
- Support is provided for students with special needs and for students with specific literacy and/or numeracy needs.
- Extension work is provided for those students who achieve at a high standard in a specific curriculum area.
- Mathematics classes will be streamed, separate from the Challenge Class, using standardised tests in numeracy.
- An enrichment Mathematics program focusing on reasoning, problem solving and communicating mathematically is offered to students who demonstrate that they are gifted in this area.
- Opportunities exist, through the Gifted Education program, for the extension of all students. Such opportunities might take the form of external competitions or excursions/incursions of programs including 'The Night of the Notables'.



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