



WANGARATTA  
HIGH SCHOOL

## Contact

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# Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) PROGRAM

## What is the SEAL Program?

The Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Program is an innovative program for highly able students that has been running successfully at Wangaratta High School for more than a decade. The program has attracted some of the brightest regional students who move through sections of the Year 7—9 curriculum at a faster pace in a separate class group. The Department of Education and Training introduced the SEAL Program into selected Victorian schools to help meet the needs of gifted and high achieving students. In 2014, the 36 accredited SEAL schools in Victoria formed The Academy of Accredited SEAL Schools (TAASS). The Academy is “a collective of like minded schools who strongly value gifted education in Victorian Government secondary schools.” Every three years Academy schools undertake a rigorous review process overseen by independent reviewers to ensure that parents and students can have confidence that SEAL Academy schools provide quality and leading edge programs to their gifted and talented students.



***Wangaratta High School is proud to be the only school that offers an accredited SEAL Program serving the Wangaratta District, Ovens Valley, King Valley and surrounding regions.***



## CONTACT OUR SEAL COORDINATOR

Meryl Herman: [herman.meryl.m@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:herman.meryl.m@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Phone: 03 5723 0500 Fax: 03 5723 0546

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Are there extra costs associated with the SEAL program?

*Enrolment in the SEAL Program incurs similar costs to enrolment in mainstream classes. Access to the program is based on ability, not income. Free bus travel to Wangaratta High School may be possible if places are available.*

### Does inclusion in the SEAL program place excess pressure on students?

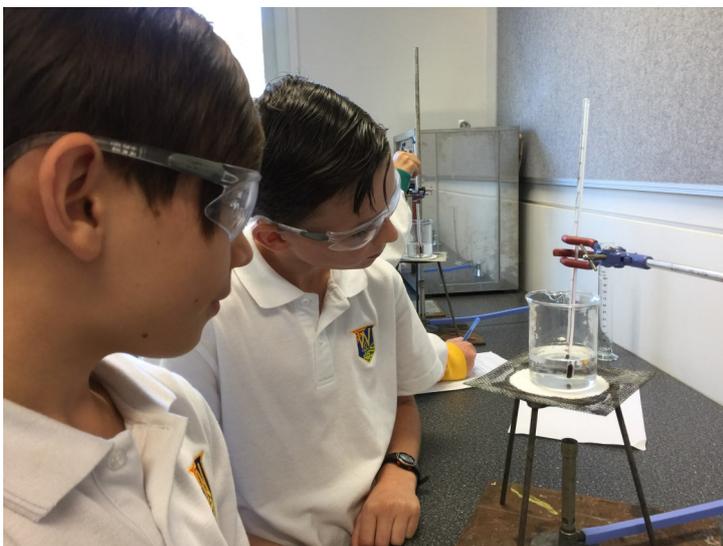
*Whilst students are encouraged to extend themselves, teachers within the program are aware of the potential for excessive pressure and have a realistic perspective and expectation regarding all students within this age group. The program includes group activities to foster mutual support and team building. Placement in the program enables students to mix with like minded peers and the opportunity to develop supportive friendships right through to their senior years.*

### Are SEAL students treated differently?

*All SEAL students participate in some mainstream subjects such as Music, Art, Technology and Physical Education. SEAL students attend camps with other students in their year level and can choose to take part in all other co-curricular activities including excursions, sport, talent quest, school production and the school's music programs.*

## How does the SEAL Program work?

Students who are selected into the program are placed together into a mentor group. This group studies core subjects together but are integrated with other students in mainstream subjects such as Art, Music and Technology. During the first three years the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities are accelerated, effectively compacting the standard 7-10 curriculum down into three years. This acceleration provides for a faster paced curriculum which is non-repetitive, gives students an opportunity to work with more complex and abstract course material, and provides an adaptive and challenging learning environment where students can work collaboratively with peers of a similar ability.



## What are the benefits?

In their fourth year SEAL students enter Year 10 and the Senior Years Learning Community, just as their similarly aged peers do, however they have an opportunity for a more varied pathway. In Year 10 SEAL students can elect to:

- Complete VCE over two years
- Complete a wider choice of VCE subjects over three years
- Select some Year 10 and some VCE subjects to extend themselves in areas of particular interest
- Undertake a first year university subject as part of many universities' advanced placement courses
- Complete a standard Year 10 and then VCE over two years

Ultimately the SEAL Program provides students with the opportunity to work with like-minded peers and prepares them for broader, more intensive VCE studies and/or University Extension units in their senior years.

## Who should apply?

The SEAL Program caters for students who are performing above, or there is evidence to suggest that they are capable of performing above, the expected standard for their age across a range of subject areas. The program is not suited to students who are strong in just one subject area.

Wangaratta High School uses Françoise Gagné's definition of giftedness. Gagné (2003) defines giftedness as the "possession of natural abilities or aptitudes at levels beyond what might be expected for one's age". If a child is regularly performing at a level above what is expected for their age, or there is evidence to believe that they have the potential to achieve at a level above what is expected for their age, then the SEAL Program is appropriate for them.

Qualities we look for in successful candidates can include:

- Students who have a love of learning.
- Students who require a genuine challenge with their studies.
- Students who are consistently performing well above expected levels according to their teachers' assessments.
- Students who are gifted and talented in the broader curriculum.
- Students who can learn independently and are cognisant of their own learning.
- Students who have well developed literacy and numeracy skills.
- Students who are enthusiastic and avid readers.
- Students who have shown critical and creative thinking.
- Students who take risks with their learning.
- Students who are creative problem solvers.
- Students who challenge themselves both academically and personally.
- Students who are involved in extra-curricular activities such as writing, poetry, sport, music, and drama.
- Students who are self-motivated and organised.
- Students who embrace leadership opportunities.
- Students who have broad general knowledge.
- Students who are active members of their communities.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What happens if my child is not selected?

*Students not selected for the SEAL Program will be offered a place in a mainstream class. Their progress will be closely monitored during the year to assess whether it is appropriate to recommend a transfer into the SEAL class mid-year, should there be places available. Higher level work is available for mainstream students across all subject areas. There is also the opportunity for involvement in the Victorian High Ability Program and the Challenge and Enrichment Series.*

### Does a child who scores highly on the entry test have to take part in the program?

*Students who score highly on the entry test will be considered for a position in the SEAL Program. If a student is offered a place in the program the final decision to participate rests with the child and their parents/carers. However, if a family declines a position and changes their mind at a later date a position will only be offered if a place is available.*

### We have read all the information and are still not sure if the program is right for our child.

*Generally speaking, if you have some questions but your child is prepared to sit the test it is suggested to go ahead and apply. The selection test is compulsory for all students wishing to be considered for the program. This will provide more time to discuss the appropriateness of the program for your child.*

## How to apply

Each year students in Year 6 apply for selection into the program for the following year. The selection process is used to identify students for whom SEAL would be appropriate.

Applicants are recommended to attend the **SEAL information session** held in early Term 2. Your child needs to have a good understanding of how the program works, especially during the interview process.

Discuss you child's abilities and their suitability for the SEAL program with your child's current and/or past teacher(s) and/or Principal.

If you decide to apply you will need to complete:

- **Application Form**
  - ⇒ Include any relevant educational assessment results ( IQ testing, Year 5 NAPLAN report, previous year school reports, ICAS certificates etc)
- **Parent Nomination Survey**
- **Edutest Registration**

Complete the application package and return to the SEAL Coordinator by mail, email or in person to:

**MAIL:** SEAL Program Coordinator  
Wangaratta High School  
PO Box 235  
Wangaratta 3676

**EMAIL:** [meryl.herman@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:meryl.herman@education.vic.gov.au)

**IN PERSON:** Wangaratta High School Office,  
Edwards Street, Wangaratta

**Take note of the closing dates for application forms and registration with Edutest.**

### EDUTEST REGISTRATION

Please see the Edutest Test Information pamphlet for more information about the test contents. After registration you can access sample questions on the Edutest website.

### TESTING DAY

Upon receipt of the application you will receive confirmation and information regarding the date, time and location of the selection test, as well as what your child needs to bring for the day.

Tests are externally assessed with results returned to the High School along with a detailed report.

### INTERVIEW

Students are invited to bring a portfolio of past academic achievements and prizes, sporting achievements, music achievements, school and community leadership achievements, and any other materials that illustrates their approach to learning, leadership and community.

After the application, testing and interview process successful candidates are offered a place in the SEAL Program. All candidates receive written confirmation of the outcome of their application. Primary schools are informed about successful applicants in Term 3.



**WANGARATTA**  
HIGH SCHOOL

## Wangaratta High School

Edwards Street,  
Wangaratta,  
Victoria 3677

**Acting Principal:**  
Michelle Bootes

**SEAL Coordinator:**  
Meryl Herman

**Transition Coordinator:**  
Deborah Bisinella

**Acting Assistant Principal Teaching and Learning:**  
Jay Weston

*If you would like further information on the SEAL Program or on the school itself, please do not hesitate to get in contact via phone, email or in person by appointment.*

Sincerely,  
Meryl Herman

