SEAL PROGRAM 2015

WHAT IS THE SEAL PROGRAM?

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development aims to provide opportunities for all Victorian students to achieve their full potential by maximising the development of their abilities and talents. In this context, the Department introduced the Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program (SEAL) into selected Victorian schools to help meet the needs of gifted and high achieving students.

As a result, Rosebud Secondary College proudly boasts the only accredited SEAL program on the Southern Peninsula.

The aim of this information booklet is to provide an overview of the SEAL Program at this school, how it caters for the educational needs of high achieving students and the application process for students wishing to apply for the program in 2015.
As a general rule, what is normally studied in Years 7 to 10 is compacted into Years 7 to 9.

In their fourth year (equivalent of Year 10), SEAL students enter the Senior School just as other students do. The difference is however, having condensed four years of core education into three, students are left with a variety of exciting options to choose from in senior school. These options include:

- Each student follows an individual pathway and has the freedom to access a number of VCE subjects in Year 10 depending on their individual strengths.
- Another exciting option for accelerated students in Year 10 is to participate in an overseas exchange or study abroad program. Having ‘freed’ up a year in advance, SEAL students can take this opportunity to immerse themselves in a different culture, embrace new learning opportunities and gain valuable international experience whilst in Year 10. They then return to the College and resume their VCE studies as normal.
- In their final three years, they will have the advantage of a broader scope of subject opportunities, complete some Unit 3 and 4 studies earlier and thereby lighten their Year 12 load. In addition to this, students also complete an extra Unit 3 and 4 VCE subject which contributes to their ATAR score.
- Students may also undertake a first year University subject as part of several universities’ advanced placement courses. This will enable them to gain valuable insight into university life and assist them in defining their future pathways beyond secondary schooling.
- Our SEAL program delivers consistently high ATAR results. Last year, a SEAL member received the 2013 DUX ATAR score of 98.6.
- SEAL students are awarded high university admissions; in particular to reputable and highly sought after courses at Melbourne and Monash universities.
WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR THE SEAL PROGRAM?

When considering an applicant for the SEAL Program, we take into account both academic progress and individual merit. Students do not necessarily need to adhere to all the criteria listed below, but as a general guide, are expected to meet some of the expectations. Strengths we look for in applicants include:

◊ Students who have a love of learning.
◊ Students who require a genuine challenge with their studies.
◊ Those that are consistently performing well above expected levels according to their teachers assessments.
◊ Students who are ‘gifted’ and talented in the broader curriculum.
◊ Are independent and responsible for their learning.
◊ Have well developed numeracy and literacy skills.
◊ Are consistent and avid readers.
◊ Individuals who challenge themselves both academically and personally.
◊ Students who are involved in extra-curricular activities such as sport, music and drama.
◊ Are self-motivated and well-organised.
◊ Students who embrace school leadership opportunities.
◊ Have a broad general knowledge and can work cooperatively with others.
◊ Students who are respectful, collaborative and courteous.
◊ Are active members of their communities.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT

The students in this program will be encouraged to be involved in a range of school activities. This is seen as especially important for their social development as well as having the same rights of access as other students in the school.

Activities might include music (concert bands, instrumental music), interschool sport, student leadership (SRC, Form and Year Level Captains) and dramatic productions (plays, school productions, dance concerts).

In addition to this, students in the SEAL Program will have many opportunities to connect with the rest of their year 7 cohort through assemblies, excursions, whole school sport and athletic days, sporting teams and lunch time clubs and activities.

As well, students undertaking the SEAL program should expect to be involved in the Australian Mathematics and English Competitions, the Science Competition and other avenues which are judged as providing suitable support for the work they are undertaking.
HOW DO WE APPLY FOR THE PROGRAM?

Each year, students in grade 6 apply for selection into SEAL for the following year. The selection process is designed to identify students for whom SEAL is appropriate.

An application form can be obtained in the following ways:

◊ Through your child’s grade six teacher
◊ By downloading the form from our College website at www.rsc.vic.edu.au
◊ Contacting the school and asking for Jovana Rapajic (SEAL Coordinator)
◊ Registering your child’s interest at the College Open Night on May the 5th.

Students will sit a formal exam provided by UNSW Global Australia. This is a General Achievement Test that measures students’ proficiency across the core skills of Mathematics, Reading and Language and Writing. It will be conducted at Rosebud Secondary College on a set date. They usually take about three hours to complete. Tests are assessed externally and results are returned to us together with a comprehensive report.

On the basis of results and other information, a shortlist is developed for interview.

Selected students are invited in for interview with their parents. They are encouraged to bring with them a portfolio containing past academic reports, NAPLAN results, samples of work and any other relevant information.

On the basis of all the above, offers of placement are then made. This will be finalised by early July with a telephone call to all applicants.

The SEAL testing dates for Rosebud Secondary College are as follows:

◊ **Monday 12th of May 2014**
◊ **Tuesday 13th of May 2014**