



# SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM 2019

McGuire College  
Shepparton

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## What is the SEAL Program?

The Select Entry Accelerated Learning (SEAL) Program at McGuire College, previously known as Accelerated Curriculum and Enrichment (ACE), has operated proudly since 2002. The purpose of our SEAL Program is to provide for the learning needs of students in the Greater Shepparton area who are capable of working at a faster pace and in greater depth than students of the same age. We have a history of academic excellence among our graduating SEAL students and many continue to make us proud with their achievements post-secondary schooling.

Our SEAL Program is one of thirty-six in schools across Victoria and one of three in the Hume Region, the others being Wangaratta High School and Wodonga Middle Years College. The delivery of the SEAL Program can vary between schools, however the same underlying principles for supporting gifted and talented learners underpins each Program and is guided by educational research. The SEAL Program is the only program recognised and supported by the Department of Education and Training for the provision of specialist education for gifted and highly talented students.

## What does McGuire College offer?

The SEAL Program at McGuire College runs for the full six years of a student's secondary schooling. Students in our SEAL Program have Individual Learning Plans to assist them in planning their pathway through secondary school to the career that they desire and include subject choices, work experience and extra-curricular opportunities.

The curriculum for our students is differentiated in the core subjects of English, Health and Physical Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science. Students in these classes are grouped with like-minded students and learn at a level suited to their ability. The curriculum and class structure is such that students may even attend classes with a peer group one or two years ahead of them.

We encourage and support our students to fast track V.C.E. subjects so they are continuously challenged and motivated in their studies and have greater opportunities at the completion of their secondary schooling.

We further support the needs of gifted and talented learners by providing them with the opportunity to study a language and culture other than English (Italian, Arabic or Persian) as well as a broad range of creative and performing arts.

*"SEAL work can sometimes put me out of my comfort zone and force me to think in critical and creative ways to complete set work. Living in a rural area means that there aren't a lot of pathways outside of the standard ones. SEAL gives us a chance to discover pathways that most people don't think of."*

*Year 9 SEAL student*





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## How are students selected?

The suitability of applicants for the SEAL Program is determined by a number of criteria and informed by a range of evidence including their performance on the Higher Ability Selection Test, parent and teacher nomination forms, results on NAPLAN or similar tests, school reports and interviews.

At the completion of the application period suitable students will be offered a place in the program at which point the families may choose to accept it. Places in the Program may be accepted at a later time providing the student is still suitable for the Program and there are places available. The SEAL Program allows for students to enter at any year level should they transfer from another school or interstate.

## How can I get more information about SEAL?

An information session will be held at McGuire College on Monday 14th of May, commencing at 7pm. Attendance at this session is not mandatory – if you think the program suits the needs of your child, simply registering to sit the test is sufficient. Additional information can also be found at : <https://www.sealacademy.org.au/index.php>

## What costs are involved?

There are no additional fees for being part of the SEAL Program however regular school fees apply and minor costs will be incurred for activities students undertake such as camps, competitions and excursions. Students will be expected to bring their own technology device (laptop, netbook etc.) as part of our Bring Your Own Device Policy. Free bus travel to and from McGuire College is available to eligible students.

## How does my child apply?

Please visit the McGuire College website at

<http://www.mcguireco.vic.edu.au> and select the link to register online by Wednesday, May 23rd. Once registered, confirmation emails will be sent to each family regarding the test day.

The Online entrance test will be conducted at McGuire College on Saturday May 26th, commencing at 9am. McGuire College will provide laptops on the day.

*There's a quote from The Little Prince that goes something like, "If you want to build a ship, don't tell people to collect wood and give them small tasks, but instead teach them to long for the sea". In SEAL English we are being taught not only to long for the sea, but how to read the weather and how to co-operate with our fellow sailors. We are constantly diving into exciting new ideas, and learning that things are often different to what they first seem.*

*Year 7 SEAL class....*

*taken from TAASS website*

