

Selective High Schools (SHS)

Helping you make an informed decision
Parent Presentation



Presented by:

Hollie Brito (Rel. Deputy Principal)

Laura Feeney (Assistant Principal)

Purpose of Today's Presentation

2

- Understanding **High Potential / Gifted Education** (HPGE)
- Is a Selective High School **right** for my child?
- What other options are there for HPG students?
- Make **an informed decision** about applying for a selective high school placement.

What are Selective High Schools?

3

- Selective high schools cater for **academically gifted students with high potential** who may otherwise be without sufficient classmates of their own academic standard.
- Selective high schools help these students to learn by grouping them with students of similar ability, using specialised teaching methods and materials. Selective high schools are unzoned so parents can apply regardless of where they live.

Types of Selective High Schools

4

- The High Performing Students Team administers Year 7 placement in a selective high school. **This is a separate process to that for entry to specialist high schools such as performing arts or sports high schools.**
- The Conservatorium High School of music is a specialist high school but applicants take the Selective High School Placement Test as part of their application to the Conservatorium.

Fully/Partially selective high schools

5

- There are 21 **fully selective high schools in NSW**. In these schools all classes are academically selective.
- There are **25 partially selective high schools in NSW** where one or two classes are selective while other classes are non-selective for local students. The students in the selective classes participate in separate English, mathematics and science classes. They generally join the non-selective students for classes in other subjects.

Specialist High Schools in NSW

6

Specialist high schools teach the NSW Board of Studies core curriculum while also placing emphasis on a particular area of learning. This type of school may be beneficial for your child if they show talent for and wish to specialise in the area of creative arts, performing arts, sports, technology or languages. ***A sports high school, for example, may be suitable for your child if they show the potential to reach elite sports level.***

Creative and Performing Arts High Schools

7

- ***Creative and performing arts high schools*** provide opportunities for students to pursue excellence within these fields while studying the core curriculum prescribed by the Board of Studies. These schools offer a specialised environment. They have performance and creative spaces, lighting and sound systems, dance studios and specialist teachers.
- ***Each school's facilities are tailored to the particular area of specialty.*** Entry to a specialist school is based on the student meeting certain criteria. For entry to a performing arts school, for example, the application process may include an audition.

How do I know if my child is suited to SHS?

8

Selective High School placements are most appropriate for:

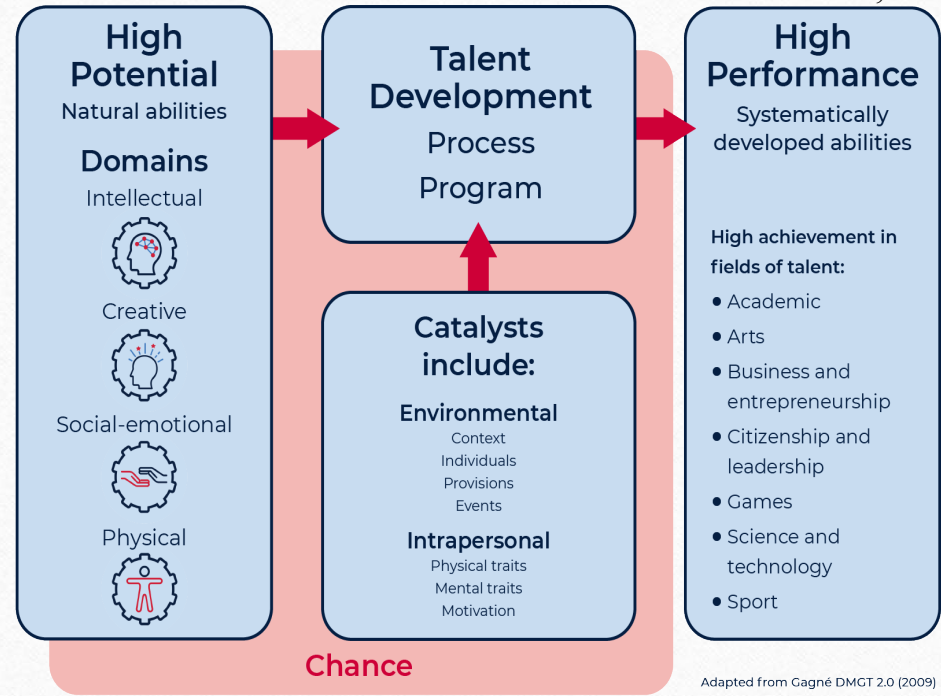
- students who have demonstrated **very high** to **extremely high academic merit**
- students who perform above the expected standard in most curriculum areas and receive **A and B grades** consistently.



Defining Giftedness and Talent

In Australia today, Gagné's model provides the most generally accepted definition of both giftedness and talent. This model is used by Department of Education in their High Potential and Gifted Education policy.

[Watch Video: What do we mean by high potential and gifted students?](#)



Some Characteristics of Giftedness

10

- Has complex thoughts and ideas
- Is widely informed about many topics
- Creative - produces original products or ideas
- Is curious and asks probing questions
- Has a great sense of initiative
- Sense of humour
- Has an extensive vocabulary/ an excellent memory
- Shows compassion: Unusual facility with justice/fairness
- Is a perfectionist



Talent Development

11

Talent development is the process by which a *student's potential* is developed into *high* achievement in a specific domain or field of endeavour.

[Watch View: What do we mean by talent development?](#)

In Summary

12

- High Potential / Giftedness is **about potential**
- **Talent is about demonstration** of this potential
- SH schools will target the learning characteristics in each individual student to give them **the potential to achieve outstanding performance**
- SH schools identify students for placement based on their level of **intellectual** giftedness

Connect - Succeed – Thrive

13

ALL NSW public education schools support HPG students. HPG students flourish when they are supported by:

- **A nurturing environment, where they feel valued and empowered** to reveal and develop their gifts and talents.
- **Positive Attitudes towards Giftedness and Learning:** when their gifts, talents, and curiosity are valued, and that their ideas are a worthy endeavour.

Making decisions about sending your child to a selective high school ¹⁴

- A SHS is the right place for many HPG students.
- HPG students flourish with a strong academic focus and more competitive environment.
- **Not one size fits all** - their ability to flourish in these environments depends on other factors as well, e.g. social and emotional skills, resilience

Considerations to think about when applying for a SHS position.....



- Is your child passionate about learning?
- How resilient is your child when they receive feedback about their academic performance?
- How resilient is your child when challenged by a highly competitive environment?
- How well does your child adapt to a new situation?
- How will the logistics of travel to and from school impact your family, especially if the SHS is not local?

High Potential and Gifted Education Policy

16

- ***This policy is mandatory for all public primary and secondary schools.***
- The High Potential and Gifted Education Policy promotes **engagement and challenge** for **every student**, regardless of background, in **every school** across intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical domains. **It supports every student to achieve their educational potential**, through **talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices** to ensure that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met.

High Potential and Gifted Education Policy

17

This DoE policy states that:

1.5.1 Schools have a responsibility to create learning environments that support high potential and gifted students to experience efficacy, agency and achieve their educational potential

1.5.2 Schools should work collaboratively with students, parents/carers

**What happens if my child doesn't get accepted into a SHS
or you choose to continue your child's education elsewhere?**

18



Supporting HPG students at Cherrybrook Technology High School

19

- Students who attend Cherrybrook Technology High School are provided with the opportunity to develop their talent whatever their abilities may be, in alignment with the **NSW Department of Education's High Potential Gifted Education Policy**.
- HPG Classes in Year 7 and Year 8 caters specifically for students who are talented in both literacy and numeracy. These classes provide a range of enrichment and extension activities designed to deepen students' knowledge, understanding and skills.
- Information regarding the outstanding performance of CTHS students in the HSC can be found in the Annual School Reports at <https://cths.nsw.edu.au/information/documents-and-policies/annual-school-reports/>

Supporting HPG students at **Pennant Hills HS**

20

HPG students are supported at PHHS through:

- A high potential class
- Interested Year 6 students sit a placement test in Feb/Mar
- If out of area, regardless of result, aren't always offered a place
- Up to 30 students in this class
- High potential class moves more quickly through curriculum concepts
- Achieves a greater level of depth
- Advocates for conceptual learning – finding the BIG IDEAS
- Same high potential class in Years 7 and 8
- Streamed classes (Mathematics) in Years 9 as students choose electives
- **all current processes listed above are under review due to new HPGE policy*

Supporting HPG students at **Castle Hill HS**

21

Castle Hill High School also support HPG students.

- CHHS run programs that cater for academically selected students.
- There are usually 2 classes in every year.
- In area students who wish to apply for the program will need to complete a written application and sit a selection test. **Visit their website for more info.**

SHS Placement

22

Selection process:

Please visit the website provided by the NSW Department of Education

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes>

Student placement results are based on a combination of:

- In-school assessment data
- SHS Placement test results



SHS Placement Test

2

The test for placement in 2022 is changing. The information on the DoE's High Performing Students website will be updated. Revisit the site for updates.

The Selective High School Placement Test traditionally consists of a writing test and three multiple-choice tests in:

- reading skills
- mathematical reasoning skills
- thinking skills



Preparing for the test

24

- Students will be more comfortable with the test process if they are familiar with the format of the test, the types of questions and what the answer sheet looks like.
- Sample test questions and answer sheets are provided on the DoE website, so students can become familiar with the test and to practise answering quickly. **However, the Department of Education does not recommend any specific coaching for the test.**
- **We at ODPS do not specifically train students for the test, or teach to it.**

Calculated placement score and outcome

25

- **Placement score is a combination of the school score and the test score**
- It is unlikely a student will achieve a calculated placement score of 300 (full marks) as the test is very difficult
- Generally the top score is between 270 and 280 but scores vary from year to year. Therefore you cannot compare scores from one year to another
- Outcome letters and emails advise parents of their child's calculated placement score. A further letter or attachment is provided with the breakdown of the raw school assessment scores and test marks.

School Assessment Score

2

- Derived from a student's Year 5 performance
- Scores are given for English and Mathematics

At ODPS, we use the following criteria:

- Report grades
- Standardised test results (eg. Progressive Achievement Tests)
- Problem-solving
- On going, in-class assessment

How are students ranked for SHS entry?

27

- All students are ranked and placed in order of academic merit.
- **The High Performing Unit then moderates and scales all results.**



Moderation of entry scores for Selective High Schools

28

- Each school provides scores for English and Mathematics. The main purpose of these marks is to provide a ranking for all of the students. Due to this, it is important for students to perform well throughout year 5 to ensure they have solid rankings.
- These submitted school marks are then **moderated by the DOE's High Performing Students Team.**
- Parents frequently ask what happens if some schools are a bit more conservative with giving high assessment scores than others. The scores are adjusted through a process of moderation according to how the students did during the Selective School Placement Test.

Moderation of scores

29

Here's an example of how the Maths score is calculated in a school where:

- The average Selective School Test Maths mark was **65 (scaled)** and
- The teacher gave an average score of **83** in Maths .

Sample Students	Raw School Mark for Maths	Scaled School Mark for Maths	Raw Test Mark for Maths	Scaled Test Mark for Maths	Total Mark for Mattis
Sansa	96 (Top 16%)	79	24/40(Top 16%)	72	75.5
Jon	83 (Average Score)	65	17/40 (Average Mark)	60	62.5
Cercei	70 (Bottom 16%)	51	10/40 (Bottom 16%)	48	49.5

Key Dates

30



- Check out the Website for dates and mark them in your calendar!
- ODPS will also provide regular updates through Skoolbag APP and our school newsletter.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes>

Follow the website

31

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7/application-process>

Provides information on:

- Updates on new test format
- Key dates in the application process
- Answers frequently asked questions
- Provides you with a step by step guide of how to submit your application



For any questions please contact the deputy principal or your child's class teacher through the school office.