Ad Altiora Extension Class 2024

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Kiama High School strives to offer opportunity, innovation, and success to all students through the provision of the Ad Altiora Excel Extension Class for Year 7 students. This class presents a once in a lifetime opportunity for Year 7 students to broaden their knowledge and skills through a unique and dynamic curriculum, enriched with challenging activities, interdisciplinary projects, and excursions that aim to foster academic excellence and encourage self-discovery.

What is the purpose of the Ad Altiora Extension Class?

The Ad Altiora Extension Class curriculum is designed to create a dynamic and engaging learning experience by broadening, deepening, and modifying the educational content. This is achieved through a class curriculum that is modified in breadth, depth and nature to provide opportunities for students to participate in a broad variety of enrichment programs.

Gifted students require an environment where they can confidently take risks, identify and enhance their abilities, participate in challenging activities, express their creativity, and be motivated to attain academic excellence.

Students in the Ad Altiora Extension program will be encouraged and supported to engage in various curricular activities such as field trips, workshops, and interdisciplinary projects.

The aim is for students who partake in this program to cultivate a positive approach to learning and acquire advanced academic skills.

Benefits of Enrichment Programs

1. Enhance Critical Thinking Skills: Enrichment programs challenge students to think critically, problem solve and make decisions. This helps to develop their critical thinking skills.
2. Improved Learning Outcomes: Student enrichment programs are designed to enhance a student's learning experience and can lead to improved academic outcomes.
3. Improved Self-Esteem: When students participate in enrichment programs, they can discover new interests and develop skills, which can help build self-esteem and confidence.
4. Exposure to Different Fields: Enrichment programs offer students exposure to fields and careers that they may not have otherwise had the opportunity to learn about.
5. Improved Time Management Skills: Enrichment programs often require students to balance their time between school and program activities, teaching them valuable time management skills.
6. Improved Socialization Skills: Enrichment programs provide opportunities for students to interact with peers who share similar interests and skills. This can help improve their socialization skills and increase their overall confidence.
7. Career Preparation: Enrichment programs often provide students with valuable experiences that can prepare them for future careers.
8. Increased Cultural Awareness: Enrichment programs can expose students to diverse cultures and perspectives, increasing their cultural awareness and understanding.

How are pupils chosen for the Ad Altiora Extension Program?

Admission to the program is through the submission of an application, supported by Year 5 NAPLAN results and any outstanding awards throughout their primary school life. Applications will be reviewed and students will be formally invited to sit the AGAT (General Ability Test).

What criteria is utilised to place students into classes at Kiama's Ad Altiora?

- Exemplary academic achievements in one or more subjects
- Excellent literacy and numerical abilities
- Robust research capabilities, encompassing library and internet proficiency
- Strong self-motivation and initiative
- Favourable outlook towards school and education
- Collaborative skills for group learning environments
- Noticeable creativity displayed in educational activities
- Exceptional communication abilities.

The teachers at Kiama High School strive to offer a quality educational experience for their students. The Ad Altiora class offers exciting challenges and opportunities for students to explore their interests and enhance their skills across all subjects.

How and when do we apply?

Complete the Microsoft Forms application form by **Thursday 6 April 2023.**

Parents and students will be notified of interview appointment times and invitations to join the class will be mailed out to successful students.

Where the number of shortlisted students exceeds the number of places available, a reserve list will be established.

Parents/carers must confirm an offer of enrolment into the Ad Altiora Extension Program by the due date advised. Failure to do so may cancel the offer and allow the place to be made available to another student.

Parents/carers must also be aware that they must also enrol into Kiama High School whether they gain acceptance into the Ad Altiora Extension Class or not. For enrolment into Kiama High School, the following will need to be completed:

Your primary school will issue an Expression of Interest form that needs to be filled out and returned to the primary school by the specified deadline.

What is the General Ability Test?

The General Ability Assessment Test (AGAT) is a standardized exam designed to evaluate a student's overall proficiency in various core skills including mathematics, reading, language, and writing. The test is two hours in duration and will be supervised by the school's assessment team. The results of the test will be marked and collated by an external body. The exam will take place on a specific date, with an invitation containing further details to be sent to all applicants in advance. In case a student is unable to attend the test due to illness or travel, a make-up exam will be held at a later date, provided the student provides proof such as a medical certificate or travel documents.

After the Exam

Students will receive notification of their application outcome via email by Friday 26 May 2023. If the number of shortlisted students exceeds the available spots, a reserve list will be established. No further information regarding the reserve list will be provided after the initial notification. If a spot becomes available, those on the reserve list will be notified in rank order immediately. Parents/guardians must confirm the offer of enrolment by Thursday 29 June 2023. Appeals regarding the process can only be made in writing to Catherine Glover, Principal Kiama High School. Kiama High School will coordinate all information regarding placement in the Ad Altiora Extension Class program. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to call the school on 02 4232 1911 or email kiama-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

What happens after Year 7?

The Ad Altiora class will continue into Year 8 as a distinct group.

The placement in the class is based on merit and competition. Positions in the class will be regularly evaluated, and students will need to reapply for their placement at the end of Year 7.

Course Design Principles

The KHS Extension class will focus on evidence-based development programs to extend students, including:

• Differentiation to meet the specific learning needs of high potential and gifted students

• Cluster grouping to help concentrate differentiation efforts and provide students with opportunities to interact with others of like-mind, interest and ability

• Enrichment and extra-curricular programs to increase the breadth and challenge of learning, as well as offer excellent opportunities for advanced learning.

• Advanced learning pathways, including acceleration, offering students learning experiences beyond their age-based competency.

• Curriculum compacting, in which some elements of the mainstream curriculum are 'compacted' so that they are covered in less time. The time saved can then be used for extension or enrichment activities.

Year 7 English Curriculum

Current as of March 2023. Some adjustments may be necessary owing to the new English curriculum to be implemented in 2024.

Unit 1: Fins, Fangs, Fur and Feathers

Textual concept: Representation **Skills focus: Persuasive writing**

Communication, regardless of its form and content, aims to persuade and manipulate for a particular purpose. Whilst studying this concept, students will focus closely on the contemporary issue of sustainability. They will explore aspects of the animal kingdom and humanity's impact on them as a result of human activity.

Unit 2: Myths, Legends and Fractured Fairy Tales

Textual concept: Codes and conventions **Skills focus: Writing and speaking**

Students will be introduced to a variety of different forms and features within the narrative genre aimed at exploring the notion of appreciating texts and what they depict about others' lives and experiences. This concept has a specific Asian focus attached and students will study various Asian short stories. They will also gain further insight into Asian people and cultures through an examination of various other textual forms and their features that may include film, drama, narrative, novel, interview, newspaper, internet, etc

Unit 3: Novel Study

Textual concept: Characterisation **Skills focus: Critical writing**

Students will experience and respond to fiction and non-fiction texts, from the CORE Novel in relation to the concept of identity. A specific Indigenous focus is attached to the exploration of this concept and students will study texts that aim to enhance knowledge, understanding and respect among all students towards Indigenous culture and people both past and present.

Unit 4: Drama

Textual concept: Style **Skills focus: Reading and speaking**

Students will explore the world of drama and performance. They will develop key voice, pace, projection and understanding how a drama text is constructed and performed.

Opportunities for enrichment

• Participation in the Premier's Debating Challenge and public speaking competitions such as the Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award, Rostrum Voice of Youth and the UN Youth Australia Voice Competition.

• Reading of texts to challenge and extend students through the library's Read and Relax program, supported by regular wide reading in English classrooms.

• Entry into writing competitions such as the Whitlam Institute's What Matters, Write4Fun, the Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Awards and opportunities from the South Coast Writers Centre.

• Incursions to participate in writing workshops led by authors and experts in the field.

• Excursions to attend theatre performances, participate in writing workshops and/or visit publishers.

• Independent research and writing projects based on texts of students' interest and talents.

Year 7 Mathematics Curriculum

Current as of March 2023. Some adjustments may be necessary owing to the new Mathematics curriculum to be implemented in 2024.

Unit 1: Operations with Numbers

Unit 1 focuses on operations with numbers and includes topics such as relational thinking, place value, multiplicative thinking, and estimation. Students learn to manipulate numbers and develop a deeper understanding of the properties of operations.

Unit 2: Number Theory

Unit 2 covers number theory and includes topics such as prime number theory, factors and multiples, and negative numbers. Students explore the relationships between numbers and learn to apply mathematical concepts to problem-solving.

Unit 3: Fractions and Ratios

Unit 3 focuses on fractions and ratios, including fractions as a part of a whole, fractions as measures, fractions as operators, fractions as quotients, and fractions as ratios. Students learn to represent and manipulate fractions and to apply them to real-world situations.

Unit 4: Algebra and Equations

Unit 4 covers algebra and equations, including topics such as relational thinking, symbolism, patterns, and generalizing. Students develop an understanding of algebraic concepts and learn to use symbols to represent mathematical relationships.

Unit 5: Decimals and Percentages

Unit 5 focuses on decimals and percentages, including topics such as the base 10 fractions, decimal fractions and place value, the decimal point, and making the connection with percentages. Students learn to represent and compare decimals and to apply percentages to real-world situations.

Unit 6: Geometry

Unit 6 covers geometry, including topics such as angles, geometric reasoning, parallel lines, transversal lines, and interior angles of polygons. Students learn to describe and manipulate geometric shapes and to apply geometric concepts to real-world situations.

Unit 7: Location and Transformations

Unit 7 focuses on location and transformations, including topics such as spatial sense, location, and rigid transformations. Students learn to describe and manipulate shapes in space and to apply spatial reasoning to problem-solving.

Unit 8: Statistics and Probability

Unit 8 covers statistics and probability, including topics such as classification of data, sources of data, and choosing appropriate representation. Students learn to collect and analyse data and to apply probability concepts to real-world situations.

Unit 9: 2D Shapes and 3D Shapes

Unit 9 focuses on 2D and 3D shapes, including topics such as recognizing an object's attributes, selecting units of measurement, and comparing attributes and units. Students learn to describe and manipulate shapes in space and to apply measurement concepts to problem-solving.

Opportunities for Enrichment

- Real world and collaborative problem-solving activities and projects.
- "The ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) Mathematics Competition" – a Mathematics competition that assesses students on various mathematical concepts, including algebra, geometry, number patterns, and data analysis.
- "Experimenting with Maths" - a program designed to help students become more engaged with maths by providing opportunities for them to explore, investigate, and experiment with mathematical concepts.
- STEM activities through "Self Driven" project-based learning software.
- STEM excursions in connection with UOW.

Year 7 Science Curriculum

Unit 1: Forces and Energy

Forces and Energy introduces students to unbalanced forces, specific force characteristics, and simple machines like levers and pulleys. They will also study the development of technologies such as circuitry and traditional technologies used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Unit 2: Earth and Space

Earth and Space explores the dynamic nature of models, theories, and laws in developing scientific understanding of the Earth and solar system. Students will investigate how scientific knowledge influences resource use and management, as well as the effect of sun and moon forces on the hydrosphere.

Unit 3: Rocks, Minerals and Mining

Rocks, Minerals and Mining investigates the role of forces and energy in the formation of rocks and minerals, relative age determination methods, and the economic and environmental impacts of mining. Technology's influence on resource variety is also studied.

Unit 4: Biology

Biology relates the structure and function of living things to their classification, survival, and reproduction. Students will debate why society should support biological research, design keys to identify living things, and classify plants and animals to species level.

Unit 5: Environmental Science

Environmental Science examines Australian scientists' contributions to the study of human impact on the environment and local environmental management projects. The use of native plant observations by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples is also studied.

Unit 6: Matter and Materials

Unit 6: Matter and Materials describes the properties and behaviour of matter, including the motion and arrangement of particles. Students will research the use of natural materials' physical properties by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and discuss the cost and benefits of new materials' development.

Unit 7: Chemical Reactions

Chemical Reactions investigates mineral crystals' nature and historical developments that have contributed to the particle model of matter. Students will also examine how a substance's chemical properties affect its use.

Unit 8: Energy Transfers and Transformations

Energy Transfers and Transformations discusses scientific understanding and technological developments' contributions to finding solutions to energy transfer problems.

Opportunities for Enrichment

- Science competitions: the Australian Science Olympiad Exams, the National Youth Science Forum, and the Science and Engineering Challenge.
- Science workshops: allowing students to explore different topics in science in depth, with topics ranging from physics to biology to chemistry.
- Science fairs: Science fairs enable students to create projects and present their findings to a wider audience.
- Visiting scientists and researchers: Inviting guest speakers, scientists and researchers to speak at the school.
- Science excursions: Visiting science centres and museums, zoos and other scientific institutions.

Year 7 History Curriculum

Unit 1: The Ancient World

The Ancient World topic will cover the development of early civilizations in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and China, and how geographical features impacted their growth. Students will learn about the social and economic structures of these civilizations, as well as their cultural achievements, such as their art, architecture, and scientific discoveries.

Unit 2: Ancient Egypt

In the Ancient Egypt topic, students will learn about the formation of ancient Egyptian society and its government, including the role of pharaohs and other leaders. They will also study the importance of religion in ancient Egyptian society, and how it influenced their beliefs and traditions. Additionally, students will explore the impressive achievements of ancient Egyptian civilization in fields such as architecture, art, and science.

Unit 3: Ancient China

The Ancient China topic will focus on the development of early Chinese civilization and its government, and how Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism shaped ancient Chinese society. Students will also study the impressive achievements of ancient Chinese civilization in fields such as architecture, art, science, and technology, such as the Great Wall and the invention of paper.

Unit 4: Medieval Europe

Medieval Europe will be explored, with students learning about the feudal system and its impact on society, including the relationships between lords and vassals, and the role of knights. They will also study the role of the Catholic Church in medieval Europe and how it shaped European culture, art, and architecture. The impact of the Crusades on Europe and the Islamic world will also be studied.

Unit 5: Feudal Japan

In the Feudal Japan topic, students will learn about the development of the feudal system in Japan and its impact on society, including the role of samurais and other warriors. They will also study the impact of the arrival of Europeans in Japan on feudal society, and the changes it brought about. Additionally, students will explore the cultural and artistic achievements of feudal Japan, such as Kabuki theatre and haiku poetry.

Opportunities for enrichment

- Historical re-enactments of significant events, battles, or everyday life in a particular time period.
- Museum visits: Visit local museums or historical sites to learn about different historical events, civilizations, or people.
- Research projects: students research a specific historical topic of their choice.
- Virtual tours: Organize virtual tours of historical sites or landmarks, to allow students to experience history in a fun and interactive way.
- Movie screenings: Screen historical movies that correspond to the historical time periods studied in class.

Year 7 PDHPE Curriculum

Students will learn about puberty's impact on personal identity, relationships, responsibilities, and belonging. They will also examine gender's role in social contexts and evaluate strategies for managing changing peer and family relationships.

Students will learn about the impact of various forms of bullying and develop strategies to promote their wellbeing, practice communication techniques, understand social protocols, examine privacy and discuss responsible use of technology.

Students will learn about the reasons for young people's risk-taking behaviour and its impact on their health. They'll recognize the importance of trusting their own judgment, develop safety strategies, and promote health in real-life situations. They'll also learn to design health promotion activities and demonstrate basic first aid principles.

This module covers drug classification, effects on health, decision-making and future wellbeing. It also reviews dietary patterns, contextual factors, and planning for promoting health. Additionally, students investigate agencies providing consumer protection for health products and services.

Practical units will include;

- Basketball
- Cross country
- Athletics
- Paddle Tennis
- OzTag/Touch Football
- Social Dance
- Softball/T-Ball
- Gymnastics

Opportunities for Enrichment

- Guest speakers – inviting guest speakers such as coaches, motivational speakers, specialist coaches & dieticians to come in and speak to the class.
- Project based learning project - a teaching strategy that focuses on real-world problems and challenges using problem-solving, decision-making and investigative skills.
- Cooperative Learning Activities - Plan and run the 'Bullying - No Way' National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.
- Game Sense approach in physical education focuses on enhancing technical, tactical, decision-making skills, and social communication. Students work in small teams to solve strategic challenges.
- Students will be offered the opportunity to develop skills in coaching, refereeing and administration.
- Excursion to local sporting facilities.
- Opportunity to assist in a variety of roles at carnivals such as Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country.