

# **The Specialist Program**

Delivering opportunities beyond the standard curriculum is part of Mandurah Baptist College's commitment to providing a vibrant and modern education. The Specialist Program for Year 10 students, which functions as a separate stream across the subjects of Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities, seeks to extend and enrich learning beyond the traditional teachings for students who have excelled and wish to be challenged further.

Fostering intrinsic student-centred development, this unique enrichment course extends learning across a variety of skillsets. It equips students with a range of techniques and knowledge and offers insight into Year 11 and 12 coursework, allowing them to make an informed decision about their future subject selection.

Students who are organized, strong self-starters and demonstrate the ability to critically reason, to work both independently and collaboratively, and proactively engage in solution-based problem solving, are best suited to this course and are encouraged to apply.

### **Admission**

To be considered for the program, interested students should complete an application expressing their interest in the courses and detailing their work ethic. They will be then be required to complete an externally moderated assessment which measures student reasoning and critical thinking, alongside potentiality for growth in skill and subject development. The results from this multidisciplinary data, coupled against student achievement in their different subjects, will ultimately determine whether they are offered a placement in the course.

Students are required to complete the whole year-long course once admitted. In addition to meeting the requirements of the Western Australian Curriculum, the Specialist stream enriches student capabilities across the subject fields and positions them with a strong self-awareness of their strengths and interests prior to Upper School course selection.





"The specialist classroom is an amazing place where I can learn new things in a new and independent way. It's become different to a traditional classroom dynamic, students can discover and learn new things by themselves."

**Charles Richmond** 



# **Mathematics**

In Specialist Mathematics, students get the opportunity to learn to work both independently and collaboratively as they find solutions to problems. They are exposed to open-ended investigations and projects where they explore a mathematical concept and then present their results in a format of their choice. We encourage students to develop their creativity, initiative, good communication and critical thinking skills as they work on these projects and investigations. We also present students with opportunities to work on cross-curricular projects.

### **English**

Students in Specialist English are invited to immerse themselves in the world of creating and responding to literary and media texts through individual and small-group activities and assessments. Students create texts in a diverse range of genres, from essays to video tutorials to short satirical mockumentaries, whilst also engaging in studying and analysing texts that deal with relevant and thought-provoking themes and concepts. In Year 10 Specialist English, the program also offers students insight about what to expect if they elect to study Literature ATAR in Year 11 and 12.

#### Science

The Specialist Science classes focus on the discovery of concepts across a range of scientific fields of study. Participants learn through research, investigation and problemsolving activities. Specialist Science participates in several external competitions which challenge student's perception of science through exposure, builds confidence and resilience and provides handson experience in fun and engaging ways. These include the Western Australian Science and Engineering Challenge Days, Science Olympiads and more.

## **Humanities**

Specialist Humanities teaches students the importance of independent learning, inquiry and communication by posing reallife questions and guiding them towards an answer. Students are given the freedom to use any of the resources available to them, including their teachers, libraries, the internet and even experts in the field. In Humanities, the students are encouraged to email, phone and even video call for answers, reflecting the reality of the global world today where we have almost instant access to information. The opportunities and topics of discussion are endless, and students guide their own learning with the teacher facilitating.

"The Specialist Program
is great because it helps
you develop better study
skills and it pushes you
to your maximum ability.
Overall, I've enjoyed
the Specialist Program
because it was fun and
you are around people
that want to do the same
thing as you, so you give
100% in everything you do."

Krish Patel



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