

# SELECT ENTRY ACCELERATED LEARNING



EFFORT • RESPECT • KINDNESS



PROGRAM  
INFORMATION

TRAFALGAR  
HIGH SCHOOL



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# WHAT IS SEAL?



The *Select Entry Accelerated Learning* (SEAL) Program is designed to cater for gifted, talented and high-achieving students. It operates on the principles of Curriculum Acceleration and Enrichment. Trafalgar High School is the only accredited secondary school to provide the SEAL program in West Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley.

The first of these – *Curriculum Acceleration* - enables students to commence areas of work earlier and/or move through areas of work more quickly. The result of this approach is to provide a more challenging learning environment for students to enable them to complete their six years of secondary schooling in five. Most SEAL students choose to complete a six-year program which involves the study of a greater number and range of VCE units, including tertiary studies while at school. This can assist with achieving higher ATAR scores and some course entry requirements.

The second of these – *Curriculum Enrichment* - encourages the study of more complex and abstract concepts in class, whilst providing a greater emphasis on higher order thinking skills such as analysing, synthesising, generalising, and recognising relationships. Students are actively encouraged to develop investigative, problem solving and creative thinking skills to challenge and engage them, and to provide an excellent foundation for further studies.

Each SEAL group is an autonomous class for the first three years of their secondary schooling, receiving a purpose designed and delivered curriculum program.



# SEAL ACADEMY



In 2014 the Victorian Academy of SEAL Schools was created after DET discontinued the accreditation process for all accelerated or high achieving programs in Victorian schools. Trafalgar High School was one of only two SEAL schools in Victoria that had undergone voluntary external accreditation in the period that it has run the SEAL Program.

The Academy consists of 39 SEAL schools across Victoria and provides a range of learning and support opportunities for both students and teachers in the SEAL Program. Examples of student activities provided by the academy include: Science and Technology Inquiry days at the University of Melbourne, Genetics Learning activities at University High School, Robotics Technology Investigation at Box Hill High School, Broadening Horizons and a range of professional development activities for teachers to support their students on these days.

As a regional/rural school, Trafalgar High School is an active member of the academy and seeks to take advantage of all the learning opportunities that are provided.







## WHO SHOULD APPLY?

The SEAL Program suits students who want to be challenged and who are strong across all academic learning areas. It is both rewarding and demanding, with a high expectation which does include greater classroom workload in the early years of their secondary schooling. Accelerated learning is not appropriate for all students.

# SELECTION PROCESS



The selection process includes:

- A written application which includes student and parent questionnaires, school reports, a writing portfolio (story), academic achievement results and a letter of recommendation from the applicant's Grade 6 teacher.
- Shortlisted applicants will sit a test that covers three areas: general aptitude, mathematical ability, writing and reading comprehension.
- An interview with the student and parents.





# PROGRAM STRUCTURE



Outlined below is the structure of the SEAL Program. SEAL students have sufficient units of VCE to complete their secondary education in five years rather than six, due to the curriculum compaction that is a feature of the course. However, students are encouraged to take the full six years so that they can complete a much broader range of VCE subjects.

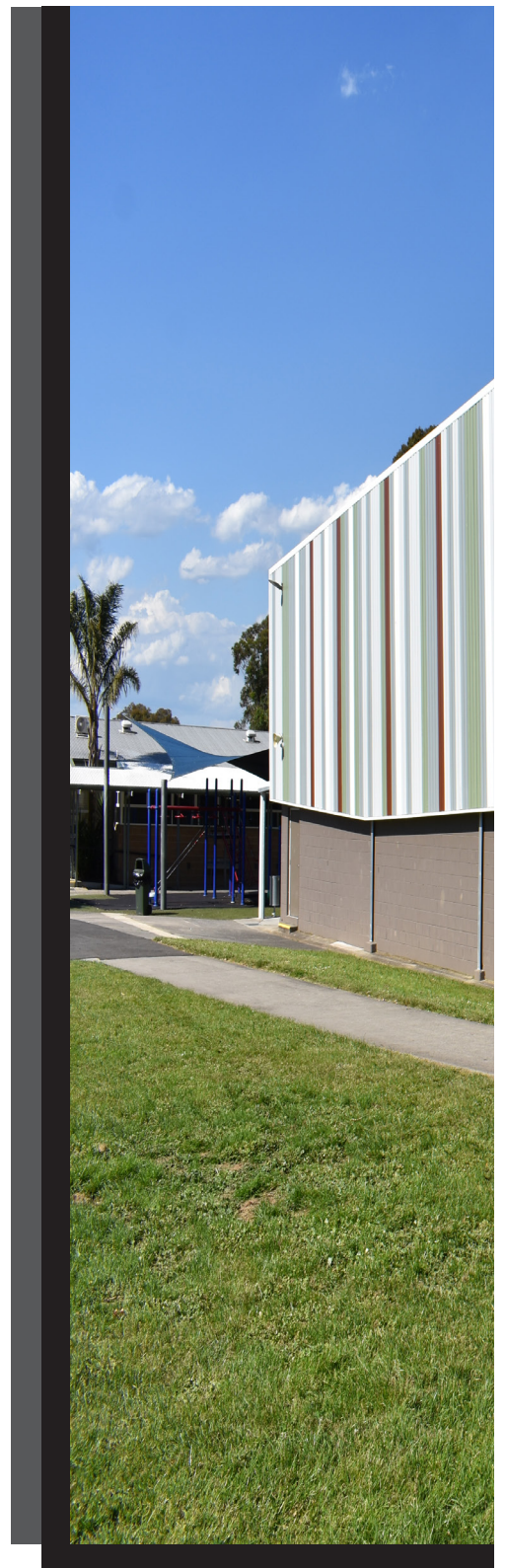
SEAL students will remain together as a group for all their subjects in the first three years 7, 8 and 9, as well as for most of their studies in Year 10.

In years 7, 8 and 9, students remain as a single home group. They are given a broad range of studies under the banners of English, Maths, Science, Humanities, Arts, Technology, Language Education and PASE.

In Year 10, students undertake two subjects at VCE Units 1 and 2 levels.

In Year 11, students select two subjects at VCE Units 3 and 4 levels.

In Year 12, students complete four subjects at VCE Units 3 and 4 levels, as well as having the opportunity to take part in the University Enhancement Program.





# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12
Enrichment	English	English	English	English	Year 11 English (Mandatory)	Year 12 English (Mandatory)
	Science	Science	Science	Science	Year 11 VCE Subject	Year 12 VCE Subject
Acceleration	Mathematics	Mathematics	Mathematics	Advanced Mathematics	Year 11 VCE Subject	Year 12 VCE Subject
	Humanities	Humanities	Humanities		Year 11 VCE Subject	Year 12 VCE Subject
Standard	Indonesian	Indonesian	Indonesian		Year 11 VCE Subject	Year 12 VCE Subject
	Music, Drama, Materials & Art	Music, Food, Computing & VisCom	Elective Subject	Elective Subject	Year 11 VCE Subject	Year 12 VCE Subject
	PASE & Health	PASE & Health	PASE & Health	Physical Education		



# STUDENT EXPECTATIONS



Students who gain entry to the SEAL Program will be expected to make a genuine commitment to all subjects. They will be expected to work hard, always try their best, actively seek help if they are experiencing difficulties and demonstrate cooperation and respect towards both teachers and fellow students. Inappropriate behaviours will certainly lead to a review of their progress and may jeopardise a student's placement in the program.

There are high expectations for all Trafalgar High School students to complete all class work and homework. SEAL students invest both time and effort in volume and depth of studies undertaken. Teachers and parents/guardians monitor this so that students maintain a balance.



# ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Trafalgar High School offers a range of enrichment opportunities for students, and we would particularly encourage SEAL students to take advantage of these. Involvement in a range of national competitions which develop and test the academic knowledge and skills of students are a requirement of the program. These competitions include the UNSW English, Mathematics and Science competitions.

Students accepting a position in the SEAL Program will have access to numerous curriculum enrichment opportunities as well as being encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities involving the performing arts, sport and student leadership.







## STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The progress and performance of all Trafalgar High students is monitored on a regular basis. Formal Reports are completed each term with parent/teacher interviews being conducted first and third term. Should any issues arise, meetings between teachers, parents and student would be arranged.

The SEAL Program is designed for high-ability students with a strong commitment to learning. It must be remembered that placement in SEAL is a privilege and not a right. Continued strong academic performance is necessary for students to remain in the program.

# PARENT FEEDBACK



*"Its main strength is the kids being together as a group and encouraging each other to do well - not being a victim of being smart."*

*"The program avoids the previous boredom my son experienced at school."*

*"We like the country atmosphere of the school. It's smaller and there is more interaction."*

*"We moved here specifically for the school and its reputation."*

*"We see the strength of the program as the opportunity for our child to be challenged."*





# CONTACTS



## ***School Leadership***

Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Assistant Principal  
Junior Sub-School Leader  
Year 7 Coordinator

Mr Brett Pedlow  
Ms Amanda McQualter (SEAL Coordinator)  
Ms Lee Jinks (Junior School)  
Mr Jack Brown  
Mr Sean Richards

## ***Faculty Leaders***

Arts/Technologies  
Languages  
Humanities  
English  
Health & Physical Education  
Mathematics  
Science

Mr Ben Smith  
Ms Lean Foo  
Mr Michael Spence  
Ms Sarah Sandford  
Mr Alan Schack  
Mr Sonny Bingham  
Ms Tegan Manger

## ***Department Managers***

Student Wellbeing Manager  
I.T. Manager  
School Bursa

Mr Wombat Lyons  
Mr Joel Gunning  
Ms Sharon Lowater





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