

Julian Tenison Woods Program (Gifted and Talented Education)

At MacKillop College, we strive to meet the intellectual and social-emotional needs of gifted, talented and high ability students. The Julian Tenison Woods Program (JTWP) is a school-wide talent development initiative that aims to identify students with high abilities across all areas of school life, and to nurture those abilities by providing meaningful opportunities to help them reach their full potential.

Our programs incorporate contemporary principles of education for high ability learners, offering opportunities for **extension, acceleration and enrichment**. They are designed to support and challenge high-achieving students through enriched, differentiated learning experiences that promote deep thinking, creativity, and academic growth.

Telescope Class

The Telescope Class is a select-entry program for students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in both literacy and numeracy through NAPLAN and PAT testing. These students engage in an enriched curriculum that extends learning in both breadth and depth across all subject areas. Students remain in the Telescope class throughout Years 7 and 8, benefiting from a cohesive and academically rigorous program. They learn alongside like-minded peers, fostering a collaborative and intellectually stimulating environment.

Advocacy Students

Advocacy students are identified as high-achieving in either literacy or numeracy through testing or teacher recommendation. These students are placed in mainstream classes throughout Years 7 and 8, and receive targeted extension work and support to meet their advanced learning needs in core subjects. The program ensures that high potential is nurtured through differentiated teaching and curriculum adaptation.

VCE Acceleration

Students in Year 10 may be offered the opportunity to undertake one or two VCE subjects as part of their academic pathway. VCE Acceleration allows students to gain valuable experience with the VCE structure and workload ahead of Year 11. By completing a VCE subject early, students are able to undertake six VCE subjects across their senior years and may also open up the opportunity to enrol in a university elective course in Year 12. This pathway supports depth in subject knowledge, broader academic exploration, and enhances tertiary readiness.

Co-curricular Activities

In addition to these programs, students are offered a wide range of enrichment opportunities to explore and deepen their interests and strengths. These include:

- Inter-school Debating
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- Thriving Minds Philosophy Conference
- WynSpeak Public Speaking Competition

- Australian Mathematics Competition
- A variety of STEM-focused experiences

These activities extend learning beyond the classroom and encourage students to apply their skills in diverse and challenging contexts, fostering confidence, creativity and a lifelong love of learning.