

Alpha / Aspire Guidelines

1.0 Rationale

The Academic Extension Program (AEP) at Alkimos College is a school-based extension and enrichment program for students from Years 7 to 9 and has two pathways, Alpha and Aspire. Both pathways accommodate students who have a desire for academic success and a strong work ethic. The program provides a wide range of enrichment activities and opportunities that will allow our students to explore innovative, interactive and engaging curriculum. The Program aligns with the college motto of Aspire, Act, Achieve.

2.0 Curriculum

The Academic Extension students make up the top two mainstream classes in each year group.

- Set 1 Alpha;
 - Set 2 Aspire.
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- Both pathways cater for the needs of our academically talented students, providing them with enrichment opportunities to broaden the curriculum and extension activities through a differentiated curriculum.
 - There are opportunities to collaborate with like-minded peers, develop critical and creative thinking skills and celebrate the success of our students.
 - Students stay with their Alpha/Aspire classes in the MESH areas (Maths, English, Science, HaSS), Physical Education and Anchor.
 - Enrichment opportunities are provided and may include additional fun and engaging incursions and access to competitions.

3.0 Selection Criteria

- The Academic Extension Program is a school-based program. The number of students selected to participate in this program is limited depending on class sizes. Students in the program are selected based on the following:
- Evidence of ability (Primary School data)
During Term 4 Alkimos College sends each primary school a survey for teachers to complete. The survey asks for up-to-date information on student academic performance and suitability for the program, based on teacher recommendation. The results of these surveys are compiled to assist in determining student eligibility.
- Current formal school reports and, when available, NAPLAN data are used to confirm the final selection of students going into the program.
- Online Student Information records are also used to assist in determining suitability.
- Students offered a place will receive confirmation via email. The Associate Principal responsible for Special Programs will identify students in Year 6 and induct them into the program for Year 7, if suitable. The college may undertake further diagnostic testing and rely on additional feedback from teachers, if places are limited.

4.0 Scholarship

An academic scholarship to the value of \$500 is offered to two (2) eligible Year 6 students. To be eligible, students must be enrolled in one of our partner primary schools: (Alkimos Beach PS, Alkimos PS, Shorehaven PS and John Butler Primary College). Eligible students are invited to apply in writing to access the scholarship.

5.0 Expectations

The college staff and teachers within the program have high expectations of the students who have been offered places.

- Student behaviour and academic progress is closely monitored, and extensive tracking of students and results is done on a regular basis.
- The college expects students to maintain Good Standing and uphold the school motto of Aspire, Act and Achieve.
- Progress of students is monitored throughout the term and placements in classes are reviewed each semester or at the discretion of the Associate Principal in charge.

6.0 Exiting the Program

Progress of students is monitored throughout the term and placements in classes are reviewed each semester or at the discretion of the Associate Principal and Program Coordinator.

- Students not able to maintain the required academic rigour or behaviour within the program may be placed into another class.
- Other reasons students may exit the program include:
 - Student has not met the requirements of Good Standing
 - Student has been suspended
 - Recommendation of class teachers
 - If places are competitive, a student with a higher average in the Aspire program can be given a place in the Alpha Program, if the student/s in Alpha has a lower overall percentage across all learning areas.
- All movements are done at the discretion of the Associate Principal and are not limited to the end of semester. There will be times when movements may occur at the end of or during a term.

7.0 History of Changes

Effective	Last Updated	Policy Version	Notes
14/02/22		1	