



GIFTED AND TALENTED

In 2022, Alkimos College was chosen by the Department of Education to offer the Academic Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance Program. The Alkimos GAT program is specifically designed for students who are identified as being gifted learners. Please apply at <https://www.education.wa.edu.au/gifted-and-talented/application-process> on behalf of your child. Students sit the Academic Selective Entrance Test in Year 6 or Year 8 to gain placement in the program for Year 7 or Year 9 respectively. Please note that this program differs to our Academic Extension program (Alpha and Aspire) and students receive further social/emotional support and academic enrichment than our academic extension students. If your child is a gifted learner or high academic achiever, we strongly encourage you to apply for them to be a part of our GAT program, where they will thrive academically and socially.



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Alkimos' GAT students learn with like-minded peers from expert teaching staff in Mathematics, English, Science and Humanities (MESH). The learning programs are designed specifically to challenge and engage gifted learners. Our teachers may use the methods of compacting (accelerating through content quickly), extension (extending beyond year level content when deemed appropriate) or enrichment (broadening the range of experiences) to allow the GAT students to achieve academic success. We recognise that our GAT students often have areas of passion or interest, which we encourage them to ignite through a blend of project-based and explicit instruction methods.



ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

At Alkimos College, we understand that Gifted learners may be identified as Twice Exceptional or struggle with underachievement or disengagement. Our staff provide a holistic approach and endeavour to meet the needs of each individual child, to ensure that they achieve their personal best. This may include tailored Individualised Education Programs or socialisation support or mentoring. We are also very lucky to have a dedicated GAT Education Assistant.



OPPORTUNITIES AND ENRICHMENT

Our Gifted learners are provided with regular opportunities to compete in academic competitions and attend excursions and incursions that help enrich their studies. These include annual competitions such as The Australian Maths competition, Big Science competition, Write a Book in a Day competition, Tim Winton and Novus Lux writing competitions, and the Minister's Innovation Challenge. Students are treated to excursions to the Perth Museum, State Theatre, Zoo, Scitech, universities and more. Incursions from providers such as the Bell Shakespeare, World of Maths, the Water Corporation, the Fremantle Literature Centre, and a variety of guest speakers visit the College to speak to our students.



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WHY CHOOSE US?

Alkimos College has state-of-the-art facilities designed to harness the talents of GAT students. Our teachers are carefully selected to teach GAT based on merit and receive Professional Learning on best practice Gifted and Talented teaching methods. At Alkimos, we celebrate and are proud of our GAT learners and program. Students want to be a part of it and teachers want to teach it - the class sizes are small, the resourcing is excellent, and the students are happy. You can be assured that your child will be supported by us holistically to thrive in their pursuit of personal excellence.

What our parents say...

Our son was in the inaugural GAT class at Alkimos College. We were initially apprehensive, as we think our son was. He was moving from a private school into a public school, and we knew that he would be going there knowing no other students. We also wondered whether being a GAT student he may be subjected to taunting and teasing from other students within the mainstream part of the school. We are delighted to be able to say that our apprehensions were totally unfounded. We have found the GAT program at Alkimos College has been absolutely amazing for our son. In terms of the academic side, we have found that he has grown immeasurably since starting at the school. From what we see as parents, the way that the classes work is that they identify students' strengths and then help stretch them. Where a student needs to be developed, they are helped on their journey. Of particular note is the amount of feedback that we receive from the school, and it is so refreshing to receive positive feedback, rather than only hear when something has not gone so well. From a personal point of view, we have found Paris Noble, the GAT coordinator, to be absolutely wonderful. She knows every child and all the interests and their peculiarities even, and she is always available and on hand to answer any questions that we have and provide the support that we or our child needs. Alkimos College seems to work with a healthy competition frame of mind. Students are encouraged to perform and to develop and to demonstrate appropriate behaviour. When they do so, there are rewards through excursions. There are also a number of competitions which also enable the students to learn whilst creating a sense of interest and fun. We would have absolutely no hesitation in recommending any parents consider Alkimos College as an appropriate place of learning for their child in the GAT program.

– Ian Edwards, Parent

The GAT program at Alkimos College has been a great experience for our family. We have received a lot of support & understanding both socially & academically. The small class sizes with like-minded students is the biggest positive of the program as it gives students the opportunity to have more one on one time with teachers.

– Sarah Kenchington, Parent

[Our son] seems happy to go to school most days and frequently comes home smiling and chatting about his day. It has been quite some time since he appeared to be this engaged and animated about school, so we're very pleased.

– Yasmin Moore, Parent

It was a difficult decision for my daughter to leave the school she'd attended since Kindy and leave all her friends behind to come to Alkimos College for the GAT program but it is absolutely not a decision that she has regretted. My daughter has loved being challenged academically and has taken part in so many exciting incursions and excursions throughout the program. Her teachers have been so encouraging and supportive and, alongside the student services team, have helped her to grow in confidence and happiness over year 7 and 8. My daughter has made some wonderful friends at Alkimos College and she is always happy to come to school. She is excelling academically and socially which reassures us that it was the right choice for her. We are so grateful that the GAT Program was available to my daughter at a school close to our home and that she is fortunate enough to benefit from the amazing facilities on offer at Alkimos College.

– Michelle Bennett, Parent

Alkimos College GAT program has given students that are capable of accepting more challenges to participate and learn new skills and subjects that fit their criteria. It has given them a chance to socialise with peers just like them and interact with learning skills that challenge them. The program offers so many opportunities to students to understand and learn more in depth into the subjects that are taught as their mind is challenged to gain maximum capacity. We have really enjoyed this program at Alkimos College!

– Geeta Bhargava, Parent

