The Kalamunda Senior High School Academic Excellence Program

is designed to not only develop academic talent but also leadership, resilience and persistence, to enhance each student’s ability to achieve success at school and beyond.

Students are initially chosen to enter the program through a testing program held during Term One for Year 6 students. However, any student attending Kalamunda Senior High School is eligible to be considered for entry provided they fit the program’s entry criteria. To be eligible students must be of above average academic ability in three out of the four academic learning areas - English, Mathematics, Science and Society & Environment - and be recommended by their teachers.

Academic Excellence students are Resilient, pursue a Love of Learning and take Pride in their achievements.

The focus of the Academic Excellence Program is on the academic learning areas English, Mathematics, Science and Society & Environment.

Students in the program remain together as a single class in these learning areas. In the remaining learning areas they combine with other students in their year group.

Specialist teachers for the program are selected to deliver the academic program as is expected in all Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 classes.

These specialist teachers enhance the regular curriculum using their experience and knowledge to add breadth and depth to subjects, stimulating and enhancing academic talent.
The school and teachers within the program have high expectations of students offered places in the program. Their progress and behaviour is closely monitored. Students falling below the expected standards undergo a review and consultation process which may mean that they are removed from the Program. If places become available in these classes during the year, they may be offered to other students in the Year group who show talents within the Humanities or Science/Maths areas, or both.

Each year students in the program attend excursions and incursions where leadership, self confidence and problem-solving activities are emphasised. This includes visits to Universities which gives students an insight into possible future studies and university life.

Year 8 and 9 students carry out an extended research project during Term 3 culminating in the “AEP Presentations week”. During this week all students present their research findings to a panel of peers from the year group above them. Students also produce a written report which is assessed by specialists in the area of the topic.

Students in the Program are strongly encouraged to be involved in opportunities available outside of the normal school program, for example the BioGENEius Challenge, The Premier’s ANZAC Student Tour Awards, Scientists in School, The Science Experience, The Science and Engineering Challenge, Murdoch University Science & Engineering Summer School as well as academic competitions.

At the of Year 10 a graduation ceremony is held to celebrate with and congratulate the Academic Excellence Students.