

Definition of gifted and talented:

"Gifted and talented learners are those with exceptional abilities relative to most other people. These individuals have certain learning characteristics that give them the potential to achieve outstanding performance."

(Initiatives for Gifted and Talented Learners, Ministry of Education, 2002)

Our ALP is not limited to cater only for the extremely gifted and talented, but is broadly focused upon our **most able academic** students.

Identification process for ALP:

Selection into ALP (i.e. one band) classes involves:

- Independent **entrance tests** assess boys' English, Mathematics and Reasoning skills.
- **Student profiles** – information compiled from application forms and previous schools.
- A six week English, Maths, Science and Social Studies **common test** (with teacher feedback) confirms placements.

Retention within ALP ?

Three guiding criteria are used to determine who remain in the one-band (ALP) classes. These are:

- Evidence of **academic ability and potential** (e.g. test/exam results, report grades)
- **Motivation to excel** academically (e.g. based on reports, academic results and teacher comments).
- Academic **attitude and consideration of others** (i.e. willingness to complete the required work and a sense of service as part of the philosophy to develop well rounded community minded young men).

Focusing on what is best for boys' learning:

Research and best practice clearly shows that boys have a preferred learning style. Learning and teaching at Hamilton Boys' High School is focused on what is best for boys.

How do we extend our gifted and talented students ?

The following are just some of the activities that make up our ALP programme:

- **Differentiated curriculum** – teaching programmes that provide the relevant speed, depth and complexity.
- **Individual Educational Programmes** (IEPs) – not more of the same work but extension and enrichment activities.
- **Curriculum Compaction** – Year 9 Social Studies and Science cover the Level 5 Curriculum objectives in the one year.
- **Academic acceleration** – Year 10 students can study towards NCEA Level 1 Science, History or Geography, Mathematics and English. In Year 11 there are some Level 2 NCEA options, such as Classical Studies.
- **Community Service** – a structured programme to foster a sense of community and participation, with the ultimate aim of developing well rounded and balanced young men.
- **Learning Retreats** – an intensive off site programme aiming to bring together and challenge our most able Year 9 boys.
- **Entry into Competitions** – such as Australasian tests, regional/national and international competitions...to challenge and recognise excellence.
- **Mentoring** – such as advice in subject selection, tertiary and career direction; peer support; guidance and support in academic issues; role modeling with peer group (e.g. reading mileage programme).
- **Special activities** – field trips to enrich teaching programmes, special guest speakers presentations (e.g. University lectures).
- **Wider qualification opportunities** – in addition to our NCEA, there is the opportunity to study towards the Cambridge International Examination qualifications.