



PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE - CATALYST

APPLICATION FORM

At Albany Creek State High School, the Academic Program of Excellence: Catalyst has been developed to broaden the educational opportunities available to students who demonstrate strong academic ability, curiosity, and motivation in **Science** and **Mathematics**.

The program reflects our commitment to fostering innovation, critical thinking, and deep conceptual understanding in students who are ready to engage with learning at an accelerated level. The program compresses Years 7–9 into two years, preparing students for early entry into Senior ATAR pathways.

To be considered for the program, the following will be considered:

- Completion of the Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST), developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). Results from this test are used as part of the selection process to determine suitability for the accelerated learning environment. **Please note there will be a fee for sitting the test (\$107).**
- Completed Student Response *[included as part of this application overleaf]*
- General academic achievement

It is essential that this application form is returned to the school by **Monday 1 June 2026**.

For additional information please contact excellence@albanycreekshs.eq.edu.au

Please print clearly

Student Name:	Date of Birth:
Current school:	Year level in 2026:
Parent Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Email:	
I accept the conditions of application and entry into the program.	
Parent/Carer signature:	Student signature:

Please complete the section below with the most recent information available to you.

SCHOOLREPORT results		Year 5 NAPLAN results	
English		Reading	
Mathematics		Writing	
Science		Spelling	
Humanities		Grammar & Punctuation	
		Numeracy	



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EXCELLENCE
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Student Response:

Please write a short paragraph answering the following question:

“Tell us about your passion for Mathematics and Science and why you feel this course is the right fit for you.”



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Year 7 2027 only

All students in Year 7 in 2027 are eligible to apply for the Program of Excellence – Catalyst at Albany Creek State High School. Acceptance to the program is based on the outcome of the **Higher Ability Selection Test (HAST)** held at the high school in June 2026.

- **HAST date** Saturday 13 June 2026 9:00am
- **Location** Albany Creek State High School - N Block
- **Cost** \$107.00

Please Note: Applications are required by 1 June so invoices can be issued

What is the difference between Catalyst and regular classes?

Catalyst provides an accelerated pathway in Science and Mathematics for students who are ready for increased academic challenge. Students complete the Years 7–9 Australian Curriculum achievement standards across two years rather than three, while also engaging in deeper inquiry, problem-solving and analytical learning experiences.

Will the program increase my child's workload?

Yes. Due to the accelerated nature of the program, students are expected to complete regular homework and revision to support their learning. Students should expect:

- Approximately 30 minutes of homework after each Science and Mathematics lesson during the first two years of the program, with the expectation that homework and independent study requirements will gradually increase as students progress into the Catalyst Preparation Courses and senior pathways.
- Weekly Mathsmate tasks
- Additional revision during assessment periods

Developing strong organisation and time-management skills is an important part of the program.

Can students participate in sport, music or other excellence programs while enrolled in Catalyst?

Students enrolled in the Catalyst Program are encouraged to remain involved in extracurricular activities such as sport, music and leadership opportunities.

However, students are only able to participate in one formal Program of Excellence pathway while attending Albany Creek State High School. Families should therefore carefully consider which program best aligns with their child's strengths, interests and future goals.

What happens if my child finds the program challenging?

Catalyst is designed to provide appropriate academic challenge, and students may experience learning that is more demanding than previous schooling experiences. Teachers provide support through:

- Explicit teaching
- Feedback and conferencing
- Structured scaffolding
- Opportunities for revision and improvement

Students are encouraged to develop resilience and persistence when working through challenging concepts.

Can students leave the program?

Yes. The school recognises that accelerated learning pathways may not suit every student long term.

If concerns arise regarding student wellbeing, workload or academic progress, families will work collaboratively with the school to determine the most appropriate pathway for the student.

PROGRAMS OF EXCELLENCE

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APPLICATION PREFERENCE FORM

At Albany Creek SHS, our Programs of Excellence provide students with opportunities to extend their talents and interests across Academic, The Arts and Sporting pathways.

Please note that this form is to be completed when applying to **more than one POE** and attached to the relevant POE application forms.

All applications are to be emailed to excellence@albanycreekshs.eq.edu.au

Please print clearly

Student Name:	Date of Birth:
Current school:	Year level in 2026:
Parent Name:	
Telephone Number:	
Email:	

Program of Excellence Preferences

Please preference the Programs of Excellence below with 1 being your first preference. **ONLY** preference those programs that you would accept an offer in. Please note that Torch is a signature program and can be taken alongside one Program of Excellence in The Arts. **All other programs cannot be taken alongside another program.**

	PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE	PREFERENCE
ACADEMIC	CATALYST	
	TORCH *	
THE ARTS	DANCE	
	MUSIC	
	VISUAL ART	
	MEDIA ARTS	
SPORT	AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL	
	FOOTBALL (Soccer)	
TORCH & ARTS Combination <small>If offered through TORCH, please indicate which ARTS Program of Excellence you would also like to select.</small>		

* Torch is an academic signature program

Please note that ALL Programs of Excellence have their own selection criteria. This is outlined in the respective application forms and you must ensure all criteria have been met when applying.