



The Scots College
Sydney Australia

**HONOURS AT
THE SCOTS COLLEGE**



Honours at the Preparatory School

The Honours Program is a multi-faceted approach to accommodate the learning needs of our most able students. It is a gifted program that delivers significantly differentiated courses in the core subjects of English, Mathematics and the basic tools of effective thinking, Thinking Skills. It is designed to ensure students are exposed to daily learning experiences tailored to the boys' level of readiness regardless of the normal expectations of chronological age. The Preparatory School Honours Program is designed and delivered to provide a cohesive and continuous experience within a Transition to Year 6 model.

Intent

In keeping with the College's aim to provide rigorous, innovative, high-quality learning and teaching focused on the achievement of excellence relevant to the diverse needs of our boys, the Honours Program is customised to the specific requirements of our highly capable students. It is designed to explicitly develop their academic, collaborative and self-management skills to cultivate engaged and independent learners appropriate to their stage of development.

Selection Process

The attitude and academic achievement of each boy is carefully considered to ensure their success with advanced pitch, pace and complexity of the learning experiences embedded in each course. We conduct standardised and off-level testing, collect key work samples and review teacher, parent and student nominations to help determine who might benefit from the program. Evidence of high achievement, individual creativity, leadership, collaboration and self-management skills is taken into consideration to ensure each boy's readiness for one or more subjects within the Honours Program. In the Early Years, careful teacher observations occur, looking at the multitude of indicators of advanced achievement within the Reggio Emilia appreciation of the 100 Languages. These observations identify the informal expression of early aptitude for more formal learning experiences.

Curriculum Design

The curriculum design emerges out of the College's Brave Hearts, Bold Minds education philosophy which is designed to explicitly engage each boy's interests and capacities, and to develop future-focused cross-disciplinary skills within the context of strong discipline-based understandings. Passionate teachers who specialise in their subject and the design of rigorous, differentiated curricular, deliver conceptual and complex units of work. Collaborative planning across year groups ensures alignment with the standard learning outcomes as a minimum requirement and extension experiences, which in turn, enhance core content. Each unit of work explores essential understandings and their application to the real world. An appreciation of the body of knowledge and the pioneers of the field inspire authentic learning that is grounded in the values of integrity and service to the global community in which our boys live.

Year Level	English	Mathematics	Thinking Skills
ELC Cubs and Lions	In-class grouping for advanced reading and writing.	In-class grouping for advanced numeracy and problem solving.	An Honours class for students who demonstrate advanced thinking and reasoning skills. One lesson per week from Term 2.
ELC (K-Year 1)	An Honours class for advanced literacy, four and five lessons per week respectively.	An Honours class for advanced numeracy, four and five lessons per week respectively.	An Honours class for students who demonstrate advanced thinking and reasoning skills. Two lessons per week from Term 2.
Junior Prep (Years 2-4)	An Honours class per year level for advanced literacy, five lessons per week.	An Honours class per year level for entire subject content, six lessons per week.	
Senior Prep (Years 5-6)	An Honours class per year level for entire subject content.	An Honours class per year level for entire subject content, six lessons per week.	



Alignment

The close alignment of the Honours Program to the scope and sequence of the core curriculum facilitates a flexible structure that can enable additional candidates to join the program or allow any student who may be better suited to return to the core groups. Students have been carefully selected and are closely monitored to ensure their success. However, in rare cases, it may be decided, in consultation with parents, teachers and boys, that the regular curriculum is more appropriate for them at certain times.

Communication

Parents receive notification if their son has been offered a place or are continuing in the Honours Program. As courses commence, boys and parents will be introduced to the teachers of each subject. All teachers of the Honours Program are available for Parent Teacher Interviews and the teacher responsible for that subject completes semester reports. Parents are encouraged to contact the individual teachers for matters relating to the specific subject or Mrs Natalie Lawand (Coordinator of Honours) in the Preparatory School (EYC to Year 6) regarding any questions or concerns about any aspect of the program.



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Honours Quest – Honours at the Senior School

The new Honours Quest Program in the Senior School has moved away from a ‘top class’ in three core subjects (Maths, Science and English) in Years 8 and 10 to a broader, more inclusive and aspirational model. This model will challenge all our scholars in a quest to achieve Honours in either the Applied Sciences, the Creative Arts, the Humanities, or the Social Sciences. Scholars may specialise in one of these disciplines, choose to attempt Honours across two of these faculties, or attempt the ultimate challenge – to be a true Scots Scholar, and attain Honours in any three of these faculty programs. In the Senior School the Honours Quest Program operates across the top academic classes and eligible students work to earn Honours over the period of a year.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Honours Quest Program, potential scholars must demonstrate a Grade Point Average (GPA) over four and achieve consistent A grades in the faculty in which the Honours Quest is undertaken. Students may also be nominated by the Dean of Faculty based upon evidence to achieve at these levels. Students in Year 7 will have the opportunity to demonstrate equivalent eligibility during the course of Term 1.

Application

Students who have met the eligibility requirements must complete an application and submit it to the relevant Dean of Faculty. If pursuing Honours in more than one faculty area, separate applications must be made. As part of the application, potential scholars will be required to submit evidence of meeting eligibility requirements (applications are available from Mr Bowles in the Learning Enrichment office).

Requirements

In order to be awarded Honours, scholars must achieve consistent excellence in the following categories:

1. Maintain an A grade in all tasks undertaken in the Honours Quest.
2. Complete 15 hours of general community service plus 5 hours of Faculty-specific community service.
3. Complete to a high standard the Dean’s Major Project.
4. Attain 100 points for each Honours Quest (see Faculty information sheet for more detail).



Details

Community service

Scholars must provide service to the community and be signed off by the relevant supervisor to verify length and type of service provided (note: this could also be put toward a Duke of Edinburgh Award). Scholars undertaking the Honours Quest in more than one faculty are required to do a total of no more than 20 hours of community service, but must complete five hours in each of the Honours Quest faculties.

Dean's Major Project

Each year, participants in the Honours Program will have to complete the Dean's task. The task will be provided at the start of the year and will be due at the end of Term 3. The Dean's task will be a substantial undertaking with potential cross-disciplinary elements within the faculty.

Quest Tasks

A variety of in-class extension activities, forums, competitions, enrichment and publishing opportunities will be accredited with points to be earned for participation or completion of tasks at a high standard. All tasks will require verification from teachers or organisers of events.





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