

Gifted & Talented Students

PLC Perth is a non-selective school. We do not run a separate Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) programme as you might find in a public school. The strength of our programme is largely due to our inclusive policies that celebrate diversity and inclusion. We recognise that students mature and develop at different stages in their educational journey and, as such, provide opportunities for all students to facilitate their learning.

At PLC, we do not stream or group students based on ability, however, we do identify students as being gifted and talented in various ways, including achievement in class and school activities, teacher feedback, external testing and parent advice.

The PLC approach to catering to gifted and talented students forms part of a broader strategy to ensure the wellbeing of students. It is essential that our girls have the opportunity to thrive and realise their potential fully and we are committed to providing as many activities as possible to achieve this. There is no static, definitive 'list' of students and all girls are offered opportunities to extend themselves throughout their time at PLC.

For girls who are gifted and talented, enrichment, extension and acceleration options are provided to cater to each girl's individual needs.

Extension

Extension opportunities are offered to all students through co-curricular activities and competitions. These cover a range of arts and academic areas and girls are strongly encouraged to seek out events that build their knowledge. Some competitions are distributed through departments so that students are supported; there are often strong links with the specific curriculum outcomes being taught. Other competitions such as Debating, Da Vinci Decathlon, World Scholars' Cup and Tournament of Minds require a commitment from students. A myriad of co-curricular activities exist and more information can be found on our website.

PLC will embark on two new initiatives in 2020 to provide further academic extension opportunities to students in Years 9 to 12.

The Stanford International Institutes Programme is an extension programme offered by Stanford University on campus in California. We hope to form an ongoing partnership between PLC and Stanford. It is anticipated that this tour will be offered in alternate years for a select group of Year 9 and 10 students.

The Innovation Schools Scholarship Programme (ISSP) for High Achieving Students at Curtin University offers high achieving students in Years 10 to 12 first-hand experience of learning at Curtin University while still in school, earning University credit. A number of units will be offered from all faculties at Curtin (Business and Law, Health Science, Humanities and Science and Engineering).

Enrichment

Enrichment is provided in class as part of the curriculum in each department with lessons structured to allow girls to work at various paces and move ahead if they are ready. Teachers at PLC are well-versed in strategies to differentiate lessons and tailor learning to meet the needs of individual students. Specialists within each learning area guide each teaching team and students will rotate through various disciplines as they approach upper school to ensure they have access to professionals who can extend them through open-ended tasks. Teachers monitor individual students' progress in subjects and the enrichment activities offered assist in the identification of students with potential for further extension.

Acceleration

In addition to enrichment and extension, acceleration is sometimes appropriate for individual students. This is a complex process with ramifications for students' broader experience of school life and it is important that the logistics and implications of altering the learning pathway are carefully considered before making significant changes. Students would generally be accelerated, if appropriate, in either Year 9 or Year 10, depending on their needs.

