



KING'S HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC EXTENSION

ACADEMIC EXTENSION: 3. NZQA SCHOLARSHIP

OVERVIEW

Scholarship refers to the systems and programmes designed to support the students of King's in their pursuit of success in the NZQA Scholarship Examinations in November. King's High School sees these scholarship examinations as the ultimate academic goal for a student's intellectual and holistic development in their chosen area(s) of study.

OBJECTIVES

The pursuit of Scholarship satisfies the following key objectives:

- Extend and challenge our most academically able students in their individual areas of passion and strength
- Assist them in the development of character through interaction with their elder peers
- Develop independence, maturity and perseverance in the face of a suitable academic challenge
- Facilitate multiple attempts in a subject at the Scholarship level.

ATTITUDE

At King's, the culture of Scholarship is fundamentally sourced from a belief that Scholarship is something open to all students of all backgrounds. A stigma can exist that it is only for the students who have been in the top class; this is actively refuted at King's. If a student has the ability, passion and work ethic for a subject, then Scholarship is a possibility for them.

STRUCTURE

Scholarship is offered in almost every subject that is available to students at NCEA Level 3. Some subjects have timetabled classes for Scholarship candidates. In 2024 these classes are: Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English, Geography, Physics, and Statistics.

Subjects without timetabled Scholarship classes run independent programmes, often through tutorial classes before or after school.

The school has made liberal use of the University of Otago Scholarship tutorials and contributed to them. These are offered in various subjects and serve as an excellent companion to the work done at King's.

PAST SCHOLARSHIP CANDIDATES

The Academic culture at King's is such that successful Scholarship candidates are encouraged to maintain contact with the school and there is a strong precedent for students to return to offer tutelage. This is carried out on a subject by subject basis and has been a strength of the Academic Extension programme that continues to grow each year.

YEAR 11, 12 AND SCHOLARSHIP

When appropriate, there is an active policy to encourage Year 11 and 12 students to attempt Scholarship. This is not applicable in all subjects due to the nature of the content required, but is offered in a number of subjects. The advantages are obvious and students have achieved high success rates when they have opted to re-sit the Scholarship exam in Year 13.

SCHOLARS ACADEMY

To be a member of the Scholars Academy at King's is to be a student who wishes to achieve academically at the highest level. Membership is open to any student in Year 9 - 13 intent on pursuing academic excellence. The Scholars Academy is cross-curricula and holistic. Its purpose is to foster transferable knowledge, skills and mindsets to help students achieve highly in NCEA, be successful in Scholarship exams, and to prepare them for University and other academic pursuits beyond school. The Academy programme comprises five modules: the Academic Mindset, Critical Thinking, Universal Knowledge and Skills, Academic Writing and Communication, and the Art of Preparation. Students in the Scholars Academy attend fortnightly after school tutorials. They also receive targeted mentoring, attend guest speaker workshops, and have additional support provided by the Academic Dean.



ACADEMIC PHILOSOPHY

OBJECTIVES

There are two primary objectives of the Academic Extension programme:

- The promotion and pursuit of success in the NZQA Scholarship Examinations
- The holistic development of our academically gifted students in terms of their character and intellectual strengths and passions.

The first objective reflects the value we place on the Scholarship Examinations as a school. It is measured objectively and comparatively by the results achieved. They are the premier scholastic opportunity at secondary school level in the country. This is due to their demanding standards, competitively ranked nature and clearly defined purpose:

"New Zealand Scholarship provides recognition and monetary reward to top students in their last year of schooling. New Zealand Scholarship examinations enable candidates to be assessed against challenging standards and are demanding for the most able candidates in each subject."

NZQA website, Scholarship page

The second objective reflects our values as a school and what we desire for the young men in our charge. This objective is more difficult to measure. However, it is ultimately of great importance as it will provide impetus and benefit to both the student and the people they work with beyond their time at King's. The holistic development of our academically gifted students can be observed in many formats. Naturally, the Academic Extension programme provides the necessary level of acceleration to continue to satisfy the academic talents and passions of our students. It also provides opportunities for the students to develop aspects of integrity, independence, maturity, service, and perhaps most importantly, the value of perseverance in the face of significant challenge.



ACADEMIC EXTENSION: 1. ACCELERATION

OVERVIEW

Acceleration enables a student to take subjects at levels beyond his traditional one. To facilitate this, an Individualised Education Plan (IEP) is developed for each student. The Academic Dean monitors each accelerant student and their academic performance as well as their mental and social health.

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of acceleration are to:

- Extend and challenge our most academically able students in their individual areas of passion and strength
- Provide opportunities for personal development through interaction with older peers
- Develop independence, maturity and perseverance in the face of an appropriate academic challenge
- Facilitate multiple attempts in a subject at the Scholarship level.

STRUCTURE

Years 9 to 11

Acceleration is primarily done through three key pathways:

- The Cambridge Year 10 programme in the subjects of English, Global Perspectives, Mathematics and Science
- Interviews between the Rector, the new entrant and their parents and/or caregivers
- The nomination of a student by departments.

Acceleration is not offered in all subjects as not all subjects have the required attributes for extension.

Care is always taken when selecting any potential candidate to ensure he has the necessary qualities.

Once a student is nominated for acceleration, the

Academic Dean will request an IEP meeting with the student and his caregivers. This is usually held in Term 4. An annual review is held with the student and caregivers to discuss progress in accelerated subjects.

Year 12 students in Year 13 subjects

One of the purposes of acceleration is to afford multiple opportunities at Scholarship in a given subject. Usually this will take the form of a student having a first attempt in Year 12 and a second attempt in Year 13.

There are three options available to the student should this situation occur:

- Repeating the Year 13 class. A unique programme of extension is developed for each accelerant student who is participating in a course again
- The pursuit of University study in that subject. Primarily this is via correspondence or distance learning
- Another subject is taken in Year 13. The student will sit Scholarship at the end of the year in the subject they were accelerated in when they were in Year 12.

The most appropriate option for each student is based on discussions with the student and their parents and/or caregivers.

Expectations of Performance

There is the expectation that IEP students will perform to a high standard in their accelerated subjects.

Individualised Timetabling

The initial weeks of the year will see the promotion of accelerant students from the Cambridge programme following confirmation of grades in the IGCSE examinations and through department identification. Individualised timetables are soon developed.

ACADEMIC EXTENSION: 2. CAMBRIDGE

OVERVIEW

Cambridge refers to the IGCSE examination system. This comprises internationally assessed examinations that afford a qualification roughly equivalent to that of a Year 11 student in New Zealand. The delivery of curriculum is generally accepted to be more demanding and has greater breadth than the comparative New Zealand system.

OBJECTIVES

The Cambridge examinations satisfy four key objectives:

- Extend and challenge our most academically able Year 10 students
- Provide an opportunity for students to experience a full examination series prior to their senior years
- Improve performance by developing skills in creative thinking, enquiry and problem solving
- Provide a reliable and independent metric for identifying potential candidates for acceleration.

STRUCTURE

This is a Year 10 only course run for those boys in the top streamed academic class.

Available in four subjects: English, Global Perspectives, Mathematics and Science.

Official Examinations are held in October and November.

IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENTS AT YEAR 9 LEVEL

Candidates for the Cambridge course are identified through consultation between Heads of Department, the Academic Dean and the relevant Senior Leader. In Term 3, rankings of the top 40 Year 9 students in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are combined with teacher comments and observations to determine suitability for the programme. Overall academic strength across the curriculum is prioritised. A draft list is formed and circulated amongst Heads of Department for final approval. An information evening for prospective students is then held in Term 4.

KEY INFORMATION

All students must sit examinations. There is a cost involved for each examination. In order to provide maximum accessibility, financial assistance may be available for those facing hardship.

Students may be accelerated into the Cambridge class on a single subject basis. This happens frequently, however, these students are not considered part of the Cambridge class as a whole.