

IGNITE ACADEMIC PROGRAM



PROSPECTUS 2022/2023





WELCOME FROM OUR PRINCIPAL



**Salt of the earth ... You are the light of the world ...
let your light shine before others'. Matthew 5:13-16**

We invite students in Stage 4 of St Joseph's Catholic High School to apply for our Ignite Academic Program. The Stages 4 and 5 Ignite Academic Programs will have a significantly different focus to each other.

The program will focus largely on the skills associated with critical thinking. Students will participate in a series of set units across 4 years (Yr 7 to Yr 10). These units include the following set units:

- Understanding critical thinking
- Research skills to support the critical thinker

As well as a selection of optional units from the list below:

- Predicting the future: How certain can we be?
- Conspiracy Theories: Where are the facts?
- Strategies and Innovations in sports: The path to victory
- Solving problems of today and tomorrow
- Recreating the human mind: The future of artificial intelligence (AI)

Students are also expected to complete a Personal Interest Project across each year of the program. This is a compulsory element of the program and is based on a student's personal area of interest and strengths.

I want to ignite their passion and keep the fire for learning alive through the high school years. We look forward to embracing this program with you.

Ms Amanda Wilson
Principal



SAMPLE STAGE 4 PROGRAM

The Stage 4 program will look at skills and knowledge development that can be utilised across all content areas. The program focus areas are as under.

Semester 1

1. Understanding Critical Thinking (Pt 1)

- Define critical thinking and demonstrate an understanding of the dispositions that contribute to critical thinking.
- Personal Interest Project.
- Appreciate the role of critical thinking in developing a deep understanding of content.
- Evaluate the barriers to critical thinking, including thinking biases and cognitive fallacies.
- Personal Interest Project.

Semester 2

2. Predicting the Future

- Explain the difference between guessing, possibility, and probability as methods of predicting the future, using specific examples to illustrate the differences.
- Evaluate a variety of methods used through human history to predict future events in a wide range of contexts, for example:
 - Natural phenomena to influence decisions.
 - Prophecies.
 - Experiences, observations, and pattern-seeking.
 - Mathematical models and forecast (data-driven).
- Personal Interest Project.
- Investigate the evolution and refinement of explanatory models over time and the impact it has on individuals and society, for example:
 - Weather prediction and climate modelling.
 - Using trends and patterns in investment (e.g. property, stock market).
 - Epidemiological modelling.
- Personal Interest Project Submission/Presentation.

Semester 3

1. Understanding Critical Thinking (Pt 2)

- Reflect on and categorise the different types of thinking that they undertake in their lives.
- Personal Interest Project.
- Learn about higher-order thinking skills, including the place of critical thinking in the thinking matrix.
- Apply the Toulmin model of argumentation to demonstrate critical thinking in matters of personal, social, political, scientific, historical or sporting importance.
- Personal Interest Project.

Semester 4

2. Strategies and Innovations in Sport

- Research the impact innovative ideas, rule changes and strategic development can have on the success of a team or individual using specific examples.
- Investigate the role science, technology, psychology, and statistics play in providing evidence to:
 - Improve gameplay and performance.
 - Support the development of new sports e.g., introduction of T20 cricket.
 - Outcomes in sports.
- Personal Interest Project.
- Critically analyse an unsuccessful situation in sport and evaluate a range of recommendations to improve performance when considering technology advancement, strategy and tactics, or data analysis.
- Personal Interest Project Submission/Presentation.



Students will be expected to participate in a "Gratitude Project". This is a compulsory element of this program. Students will be out of class and catch up on some work. The projects will be based around the students areas of strength.

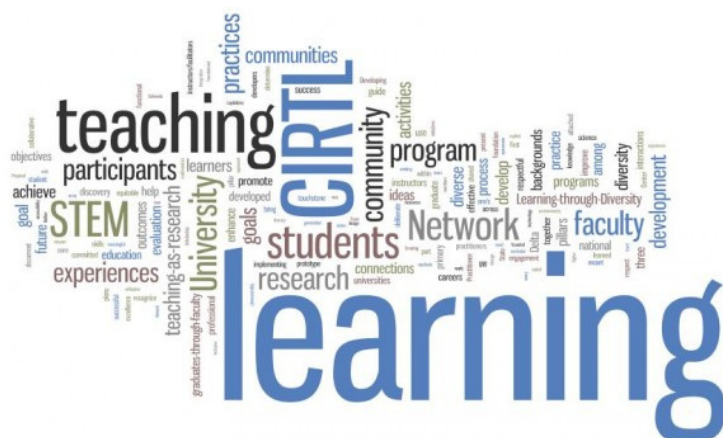


SELECTION CRITERIA

- The Ignite Academic Program is open to students in Stage 4.
- To be eligible to apply for selection into the Ignite Academic Program, the following criteria must be met.
 - An excellent attitude towards school
 - A minimum of 4 A's or B's on their report card in any subject
 - A passion to learn.
 - A commitment to the school values outlined in the school diary with a sound behaviour record
 - 100% commitment whilst in the program.

Failure to meet these requirements may lead to removal from the program.

- There will be a capped number of students chosen to participate in the Ignite Academic Program.



ENROLMENT PROCESS

- Enrolment into the Ignite Academic Program requires an annual application. There is no automatic guarantee of acceptance. Students may apply the following year if they are not selected.
- The applications will close **4pm on Friday 25 November 2022**. Application forms are available online at www.sjchsdown.catholic.edu.au.
- All relevant copies of reports, references, certificates, awards, and/or achievements must be attached to the application for consideration.
- Students may be interviewed and/or photographed by the media. It is a requirement that a 'Consent for the use of Student Image' form is completed for all students selected into the program.
- On the basis of the selection criteria for enrolment, the applications will be reviewed to assess their suitability. Selection Criteria for Enrolment must be met to be accepted into the program.
- Successful applicants will be sent an Acceptance of Offer/Code of Conduct for entry into the Ignite Academic Program. By signing this, both students and parents/carers indicate their acceptance of the conditions of enrolment into the program.
- A non-refundable administration fee of \$50.00 is to be paid with the submission of the Acceptance Offer. If this is not paid, the acceptance may be deemed unsuccessful. Due to Covid administration fee can be added onto school fees.



PROGRAM COMMITTEE STAFF

The following staff are involved with the Stage 4 Ignite Academic Program.



Amanda Wilson



Sarah-Jane Janson



Erin Vanderburgh

If you require any further information regarding the program, please send us an email at info@schjsdow.catholic.edu.au or contact the school Office on 4230 8500 and we will get back to you with an answer to your enquiry as soon as possible.

