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Main Office

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions for the Maribyrnong College ACE Program can be divided into the following categories:

1. The ACE Program
2. The Application Process
3. The Day of the Test

The ACE Program

Q. What is the ACE Program?

A. ACE classes are grouped together for all core subjects. This grouping not only allows high achieving students to enjoy the stimulation of working with their intellectual peers, but ACE classes typically offer an increased pace and complexity to the standard curriculum and are designed to offer a challenging and enjoyable learning environment. A detailed vision statement can be found on the school website.

Q. How many students are selected into the ACE Program?

A. Entry to the ACE Program is competitive and numbers of students selected for the program will be based upon the number of suitable applicants each year.

Q. Is it possible for my child to enrol in the Maribyrnong College Sports Academy *and* the ACE program?

A. Yes. Many of our ACE students are also in the Sports Academy.

Q. How much homework can I expect my child to be given?

A. At Maribyrnong College, ACE students are given more challenging homework than students who are not in the ACE Program. Generally, students in Year 7 and 8 should expect to undertake 45-60 minutes per night on homework. Students in Year 9 should expect to undertake 60-90 minutes per night. These guidelines are in line with DEECD recommendations and are applicable to students in the entire school. ACE students can expect to have homework set to the upper limits.

The Application Process

Q. What are the key dates that I need to know?

A. The college website has a timeline of key dates including the deadline for applications and notification of offers.

Q. How are students selected?

A. Students applying for entry into the Year 7 ACE program are required to sit the ACER High Ability Selection Test (HAST). The cost of sitting these tests and administration fees is \$85. Selection is based on the results of this test as well as school reports and NAPLAN results.

Q. If my child is applying for other schools that run the ACER test, do they have to sit multiple tests?

A. Yes. ACER provides different tests for each school, so results cannot be shared across schools.



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Q. What is the ACER test?

A. There are three papers in the ACER Test: a reading comprehension (multiple choice), a written expression, and a mathematical reasoning (multiple choice) paper.

Q. How can I help my child prepare for the test?

A. There are no past papers available, however, a sample question booklet may be purchased from the ACER website (www.acer.edu.au). The ACER website also has a Candidate Information Bulletin, which contains a small number of questions at no cost. Maribyrnong College will mail the ACER Candidate Information Bulletin to all applicants, along with the other applicant information, prior to the test. Parents and carers should also emphasise to their children the importance of ensuring their multiple choice answers in the question booklet correspond to the correct question in the answer booklet. Unfortunately, no extra time can be granted to students who realise their answers are out of synch at the end of the test.

The Day of the Test

Q. What does my child need to bring?

A. A blue or black pen, a HB or B pencil, an eraser, a pencil sharpener, a reading book and a snack for morning tea.

Q. When does the test take place?

A. The test runs from 10:00 until 12:45. Please arrive by 9:30.

Q. Where is the test held?

A. Parents should take students to the Joan Brogden Theatre where they will sit the test in the hall. Applicants will be provided with a map prior to the test date.

Q. Will there be parking available?

A. For the safety of our current students, we ask that parents do not park on the school grounds. Parking is available on the streets surrounding the College, as well as at the nearby Aquatic Centre and Highpoint Shopping Centre.

Q. Can I stay with my child during the test?

A. Parents are not permitted to accompany children into the test.

Q. How can I find out more information

Tours run throughout the school year and are an excellent opportunity to see the school and ask any questions. To make a booking, please contact the General Office during office hours on 9091 8100.

For general enquiries, please contact the ACE Program Manager: Ms Emily.Frawley
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