

STEM ACADEMY



Learning Opportunities

The STEM Academy is focused on providing students with a wide variety of experiences over the course of the year. International research indicates that 75 % of the fastest growing occupations now require STEM skills and knowledge. The demand for STEM skills is likely to continue to grow in the future. The learning experiences of the STEM Academy change from year to year to provide continued stimulation to students who continue in the program over a period of several years. The activities include:

- Attending excursions to STEM-related locations
- Conducting science shows and workshops at local primary schools
- Participating in workshops run by university or industry experts
- Individual and small group projects of students' choice
- Creating content such as videos or designs
- Individual or small group competitions
- Visits from faculty staff providing relevant presentations

Application Criteria

There are two separate entry pathways for acceptance into the STEM Academy.

Standard Entry

- To qualify for standard entry, a student must have:
- An A or B for effort and behaviour across all subjects
- Either, A in Science or Maths on the end of the previous year's report card (for Year 6-9) OR B (preferably a high B) or better in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematical Methods or Specialist Mathematics on the end of the previous year's report card (for Year 10-11)
- An informal interview with the teacher of the STEM Academy or the STEM Academy Head of Department to discuss why they want to be in the STEM Academy.



Standard Entry

Students who have not been in the STEM Academy in the previous year who are applying for standard entry need to attach a copy of their most recent report card to the application form. Students who are already in the STEM Academy who still meet the standard entry requirements do not need to complete another application, but do need to let Mr Cossalter (bcoss9) or Mrs Trims (strim4) know by e-mail that they wish to continue in the Academy.

Alternative Entry

Students who do not meet the requirements of standard entry may apply for special consideration via the alternative entry pathway. This pathway is generally for students who:

a) miss out on the standard entry requirements by a narrow margin (for example, by getting a C for effort in one subject);

OR

b) can demonstrate a level of giftedness in an area of STEM but who do not meet the standard entry criteria, because their skill does not correlate exactly with a subject area (for example, skills in Engineering that are not obvious from science or maths results).

To be considered for alternative entry, students must provide evidence of a high level of skill in science, technology, engineering or maths. This would generally take the form of an individual project that a student has completed in their own time, with minimal assistance. Students also need to participate in an interview in which they present their evidence and make their case as to why they believe they should be in the Academy. Students entering via the alternative pathway will have their progress in the Academy reviewed on a more regular basis to ensure adequate participation in the program.