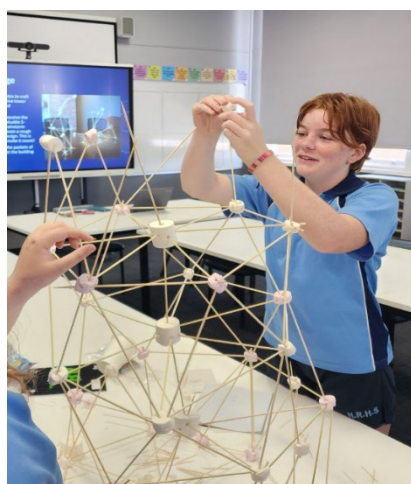
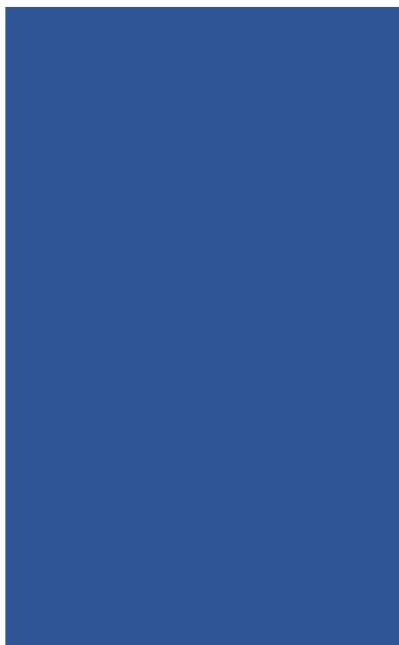


HIGH POTENTIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM



Information package and application
2027 – Year 7 **Exploring Excellence** Class

2027 Year 7 Exploring Excellence (HPGE Program) Important Dates

- **Monday 9 March** – Beginning of application process for Exploring Excellence Program at Year 6 into Year 7 Parent Information Night
- **Friday 1 May** – Step 1, Section A and B returned to primary school
- **Friday 5 June** – Step 2, Section C completed by primary school, compiled with Sections A, B, along with the portfolio and forward completed application to the Hunter River High School
- **Wednesday 5 August** – Step 3, Exploring Excellence full-day in-take session (by invitation only)
- **Friday 25 September** – Step 4, students notified in writing of place in Exploring Excellence class for 2027

High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) Program

About the HPGE Exploring Excellence Program

Hunter River High School's High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) program is designed to nurture students who demonstrate outstanding potential and giftedness across intellectual, creative, social-emotional, and physical domains. The Year 7 Exploring Excellence class provides a differentiated learning environment to help students develop their exceptional talents and interests through targeted support, individual mentorship, and enriched learning experiences.

Students accepted into the Exploring Excellence class will benefit from tailored learning strategies crafted to meet their individual academic and wellbeing needs. This program aims to inspire students to reach their full potential in a stimulating and supportive setting.

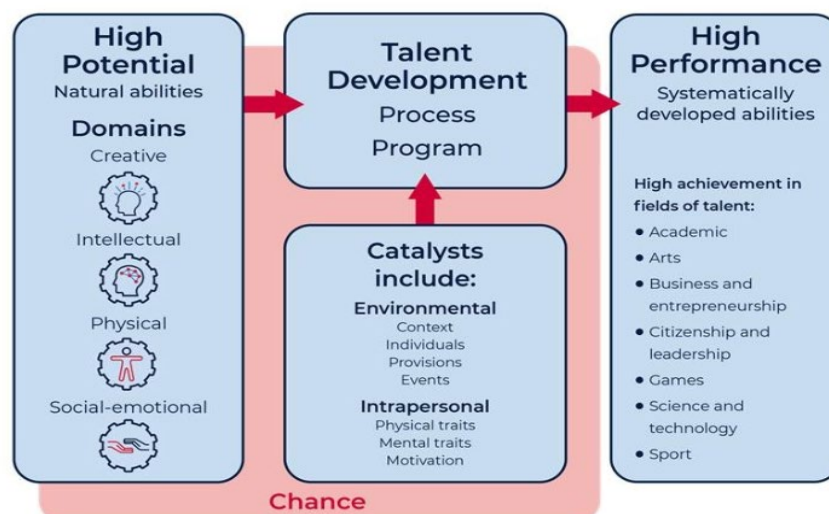
Placement in this program is open to Year 6 students through an application process that involves collaboration between the student, their primary school, and Hunter River High School.

Selection criteria used to determine Exploring Excellence class placement

Focus on Creative and Intellectual Domains

Students considered for placement in the Exploring Excellence Program are assessed across a range of criteria that reflect their potential and demonstrated abilities. The focus is on identifying students who excel or show strong promise particularly in the Creative and Intellectual domains. These criteria include:

- **Strong academic performance across a range of subjects**
Demonstrates consistent achievement and understanding in classroom learning.
- **High potential in the intellectual and creative domains**
Shows advanced thinking skills, creativity, problem-solving ability, and originality.
- **High performance in one or more fields of talent**
Excels in academic areas, arts, science and technology, leadership, entrepreneurship, or other talents.
- **Solid literacy and numeracy skills**
Possesses foundational skills essential for learning across subjects.
- **Ability to be a self-reflective learner**
Can evaluate their own learning and set goals for improvement.
- **Ability to think critically**
Questions information, analyses ideas, and approaches problems thoughtfully.
- **High level of self-motivation**
Demonstrates persistence, focus, and enthusiasm for learning.
- **Positive attitudes to school and learning**
Shows curiosity, resilience, and values education.
- **Positive behaviours which enhance learning**
Engages respectfully with teachers and peers, contributes constructively to class and group activities.
- **High levels of creativity evident in learning tasks**
Produces original ideas and approaches tasks in innovative ways.



How does my young person apply for the Exploring Excellence class in 2027?

How Parents/Carers and Primary Schools Can Support the Application Process

Step 1: Parent/Carer Responsibility (Section A and Section B)

- Complete **Section A and Section B** of the application form.
- Compile a comprehensive portfolio of the student's work including:
 - Original writing sample from 2025 or 2026 in the student's handwriting
 - Completed tasks in mathematics, science, and social science from 2025 or 2026
 - Samples of other work showcasing diverse talents
 - Copies of certificates or awards
 - Most recent school report (photocopy only, no originals)
 - Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN results (photocopy only)
- Submit the completed Sections A and B, together with the portfolio, to the child's primary school Principal by **Friday 1 May 2026**.

Step 2: Primary School Responsibility (Section C)

- The Primary Principal or classroom teacher completes **Section C**, endorsing the student's application based on their knowledge of the student's abilities, attitude, and potential.
- The school compiles Sections A, B, and C along with the portfolio and forwards this complete application to the Hunter River High School Exploring Excellence Program Coordinator by **Friday 5 June 2026**.
- Primary schools are encouraged to provide detailed and supportive comments in Section C to help the Exploring Excellence Panel understand the student's strengths and potential for success in the program.

Step 3: Hunter River High School Review

- The Exploring Excellence Panel, comprising the Year 7 Deputy Principal, Year Adviser, and Program Coordinator, reviews the applications.
- Selected students will be invited to attend a **full-day Exploring Excellence intake session on Wednesday 5 August 2026** at the school.
- This session includes activities that assess critical and creative thinking through individual and group challenges, followed by an individual interview panel to discuss the student's goals, interests, and portfolio.
- A short informal 5-minute Q & A process.
- All aspects of process will be taken into consideration during selection process.

Step 4: Notification and Confirmation

- Parents/carers will be informed of the outcome in writing by **Friday 25 September 2026**.
- Offers must be confirmed by the date specified in the notification to secure the student's place.
- A reserve list will operate if applications exceed placements. Parents of reserve-listed students will be notified if a vacancy arises.

Additional Information for Parents/Primary Schools

- The Exploring Excellence Program is designed to recognise and develop multiple domains of student potential beyond academic achievement alone, including creativity, leadership, and social-emotional strengths.
- It is important that portfolios reflect a broad view of the student's talents and interests; anecdotal evidence or additional comments from parents and teachers are highly valued.
- Parents/carers are encouraged to maintain communication with the primary school and Hunter River High School throughout this process to ensure clarity and support.
- Appeals can be made regarding the selection process and should be directed to the Principal at Hunter River High School.

Contact Information

Exploring Excellence Program

Coordinator: Mr Ben Dibben

Head Teacher Wellbeing

Hunter River High School

36 Elkin Ave,

Heatherbrae NSW 2324

Phone: [\(02\) 4987 2306](tel:0249872306)

Email: hunterriv-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au (Please mark - Attention: Ben Dibben, in the subject line)

Section A: Year 7 Exploring Excellence (HPGE) Application

What strengths or achievements has your young person demonstrated?

What are some areas in which you believe your young person has not yet reached their full potential?

Why does your young person wish to be placed in the Exploring Excellence class?

Section A: Year 7 Exploring Excellence (HPGE) Application

PARENT/CARER SURVEY

Please complete the parent/carer survey below to provide us with additional information regarding your young person's high potential and gifted skills and attributes.

Rating	Description
1	Needs Support – Sometimes finds this challenging and needs extra help to develop this skill or attribute.
2	Developing – Shows growing ability or interest but still learning and improving in this area.
3	Competent – Usually demonstrates this skill or attribute effectively and consistently.
4	Excellent – Exhibits strong ability or exceptional qualities in this area with confidence and ease.

Descriptor	Scale of 1 – 4.	Please provide an example
Has quick recall of information. (e.g. immediately remembers facts, series of numbers, events, words from songs or movies, or parts of conversation heard earlier)	1 2 3 4	
Knows a lot more about some topics than other children that age. (e.g. recounts facts about sports, electronics, maths, books, animals, music, art, etc; finds out a lot about a particular subject on their own)	1 2 3 4	
Uses advanced vocabulary. (e.g. surprises older children and adults with the big words used; uses words unusual for a child, knows the correct terms, exact words or labels for things; acts and speaks like a grown-up when talking to adults)	1 2 3 4	

<p>Shows unusually intense interest and enjoyment when learning about new things. (e.g. has lots of energy and interest when learning; frequently and persistently asks how and why questions; is not satisfied with simple answers; wants to know details; loves how-to-do-it and nonfiction books)</p>	<p>1 2 3 4</p>	
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Section A: Year 7 Exploring Excellence (HPGE) Application

PARENT/CARER SURVEY CONTD

Understands things well enough to teach others. (e.g. teaches other children how to do things; explains things so that others can understand; explains areas of interest to adults)	1 2 3 4	
Is comfortable around adults. (e.g. spends time with and talks to adults who visit the house; likes the company of adults; enjoys talking with adults; understands adult humour and creates funny sayings or jokes adults can appreciate)	1 2 3 4	
Shows leadership abilities (e.g. other children ask my child for help; organises games and activities for self or others; makes up the rules and directs group activities; may be bossy)	1 2 3 4	
Is resourceful and improvises well. (e.g. puts together various household objects to make inventions or solve a problem; uses unusual objects for projects; objects in unusual ways; makes 'something out of nothing')	1 2 3 4	
Uses imaginative methods to accomplish tasks. (e.g. makes creative short cuts; doesn't always follow the rules; good at finding creative ways to get out of work)	1 2 3 4	
Reads at a more advantaged level than their peers	1 2 3 4	

Section A: Year 7 Exploring Excellence (HPGE) Application

PARENT/CARER SURVEY CONTD

Please note any additional information you would like to draw to the attention of the HPGE panel in support of your young person’s application for the Exploring Excellence class.

I understand that Hunter River High School reserves the right to decide class placements, and to make appropriate changes after a review of student performance.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Caregiver

Section B: Year 7 Exploring Excellence (HPGE) Application

STUDENT SUPPORTING STATEMENT

To be completed by the student and submitted to your primary school Principal by Friday 5 June 2026.

Please note – while we would love parents/carers to assist their young person with this section, we would please ask that it is completed by them.

What do you love learning about? (This could be things at school or outside interests)

What challenges you the most about school and learning?

What do you think are your areas of strength? This could be academic, personal, extra-curricular etc.

Why would you like to join the Exploring Excellence class in 2027 at Hunter River High School?

Section B: Year 7 Exploring Excellence (HPGE) Application

I LOVE TO LEARN ABOUT – STUDENT SURVEY

Directions: When you are learning about the things you love to learn about, which of the things described below are true of you? Put a tick beside each one that is true for you.

Description	Tick if true
I get totally silly. My sense of humour goes wild.	
I have a wild imagination. I say things, do things, think things, feel things in ways other kids don't.	
I need to find answers to my own questions, not the teacher's. I want to explore and apply my ideas to see what might work and why.	
I know much more about this than any other kid my age.	
I'm very sensitive. My feelings about these activities, understandings, and the people I do them with are very strong.	
I can describe my ideas very clearly. My explanations might be in words and numbers, but they might also be demonstrated in actions or symbols or music or movement or in some other way.	
I love thinking about these topics. I like to come up with lots of ideas and then predict the consequences before trying to do them.	
I love to solve hard, messy problems by inventing and checking a variety of possible solutions. I live for the challenge!	
I see connections between ideas that other kids don't. I can't explain how I know -- I just know!	
I love learning the tough stuff. It's much easier for me to learn it than it is for other kids my age.	
I absolutely love this stuff even if other kids think it's weird.	
I need to believe in an idea before doing anything about it. If it isn't fair to everyone or if it just feels wrong, I won't do it.	
I want more! I don't want to quit even when I run out of time in class.	

If there is anything else you want to say about your learning? Please write it here.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
student

Section C Year 7 Exploring Excellence (HPGE) Application

PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPORTING STATEMENT

To be completed by the Primary School Principal or Class Teacher

Please forward Section A, B, C, and the student portfolio **by Friday 5 June 2026 to:**

Mr Ben Dibben
Head Teacher Wellbeing
Hunter River High School
36 Elkin Ave,
Heatherbrae NSW 2324

Please note, the following information provided is confidential.

Student Name: _____

Teacher – Learning Survey

Characteristics	Tick if YES	Additional Comments
Reasons well/good thinker		
Learns rapidly		
Has an extensive vocabulary		
Has an excellent memory		
Has a long attention span (if interested)		
Has strong curiosity		
Perseveres (if interested)		
Has a wide range of interest		

Is an early or avid reader/read to		
Is concerned with justice/fairness		
Has keen powers of observation		
Demonstrates a judgment that is mature for their age		
Has facility with numbers		
Is skilled with jigsaw puzzles		
Has a vivid imagination		
Is highly creative		
Is a perfectionist		
Has a great sense of humour		
Has a high degree of energy		
Prefers older companions		
Is sensitive (feels hurt)		
Shows compassion		
Tends to question authority		
Is intense		
Is morally sensitive		

Section C (Continued)

OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Please note any data in the following areas which suggest that this student may be High Potential or Gifted.

Area	Rank in year group (please note the number of students)	Tick if above grade level	Additional Notes
English			
Mathematics			
Science			
Technology			
Social Science			
PDHPE			

Do you support this young person's application for the Exploring Excellence class (HPGE) for 2027?
Why or why not?

Do you support the parent/carers comments outlined in their application?

Section C (Continued)

What would you say are this student's talents or skills? These could be in the domains of (intellectual, creative, social-emotional, physical).

Any additional notes to support this student's application

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Year 6 Class Teacher

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Principal