



Welcome to Catalyst

Catalyst is Woodcrest State College's extension program designed to develop and challenge high performing students to maximise their potential.

The Catalyst students develop a base understanding of the Australian Curriculum more quickly and independently than core Junior Secondary classes. This allows the class to spend more time in relating knowledge gained to their own context, building critical thought processes and transferring new knowledge into other areas.

Catalyst students are encouraged to be critical and creative thinkers who use imagination and innovation in both teacher facilitated and collaborative inquiry based learning activities.

The Catalyst classes provide an environment for similar minded learners to establish positive relationships; work effectively in teams; handle challenging situations constructively; and to build and enhance the skills required for success beyond school.

Specialised Learning Opportunities

Catalyst students have many opportunities to participate in a variety of specialised learning activities that complement and enhance their learning experience in core classes. The specialised opportunities for students include:

Competitions: Catalyst students are expected to participate in annual maths, science and history competitions.

Excursions: Participation in a range of academic focused excursions such as to the Brisbane Writers Festival.

Extension programs: Catalyst students are given the opportunity to participate in IMPACT extension programs including the Critical Thinking course.

Incursions: Experts in the field and specialists are invited in to talk to students and link their learning to real-life contexts.

In addition to these opportunities, the Catalyst Program maintains close links with universities, TAFE, and Woodcrest's own WestEC technical institute. The Catalyst Program also has partnerships with businesses in Springfield and the greater Brisbane area.

Organisation of the Program

The program runs through years 7, 8 & 9 during which time Catalyst students will remain together as one group for all four core classes.



Application Process

Students participating in the Catalyst Program complete in-depth studies in all subjects for the full academic year, with the notion of maintaining this focus through Junior Secondary into Senior Secondary pathways commencing in Year 10. Entrance into these classes will be based on demonstrated evidence of:

- A high level of performance ability in core subject areas (English, Maths, Science and Humanities);
- Evidence of consistently high levels of behaviour and effort in all subjects;
- Evidence of consistently high levels of Literacy and Numeracy results in Year 5 NAPLAN;
- A high aptitude in problem solving and critical thought as evidenced in the Catalyst entry examination.

Stages of Application Process

1. Complete an Enrolment Form, indicating your interest in the Catalyst Program, and return to the Secondary Administration at Woodcrest State College.

2. Register, via the office, for the ACER General Ability Test (45 minutes). Test dates are below:

8am – Tuesday 25 May 2021

8am – Tuesday 17 August 2021

3. On the test date, book an interview with Catalyst selectors. Interviews will occur over two weeks.

Week 1 – week beginning 19 July 2021

Week 2 – week beginning 13 September 2021

4. Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application no later than 8 October, 2021.

Expectations

Catalyst Program students will demonstrate minimum 95% attendance:

- all absences must be explained
- parent must advise the student's roll teacher of any serious medical or family issues which may be impacting upon the student's attendance

Catalyst Program students are expected to strive to represent themselves and Woodcrest State College in a positive way. This expectation will be met by consistently demonstrating:

- punctuality to school, classes and extra-curricular commitments
- high standards of school uniform compliance
- high standards of behaviour, including a minimum of B standard behaviour for all subjects
- high standards of respect to all staff, students and community members



Catalyst Program students are expected to actively and positively engage in all aspects of school life, both in and out of the classroom. Very high standards of effort are expected at all times, in all learning areas and through enrichment opportunities. This expectation will be evidenced by:

- meeting homework, bookwork and assessment expectations (including due date)
- being prepared for learning, bringing all necessary books, equipment and materials to class
- actively participating in service learning and growth mindset activities
- seeking to discover and capitalise on their strengths
- at least a B standard for Effort and Academic Achievement for all core subjects

Catalyst Program students must also agree to join the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) so they will have full access to learning resources and agree to the school’s BYOD scheme. Details about the BYOD program are available from our college website.

Catalyst Program students are strongly encouraged to demonstrate excellence and engagement in extra-curricular activities. It is expected that students complete **two from each of column:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Maths Competition • Australian History Competition • Australian Geography Competition • STEM Challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debating team • “Great Spelling Bee” Competition • Interschool Sporting Team • Representative Sport • Music Program/Arts-related club • CrestCrew Dancing • Student Council
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Student signature: _____

Date:

Parent/Carer signature: _____

Date:

Catalyst Coordinator signature: _____

Date:

Student Support

Despite the high standards and expectations for Catalyst students, there are support measures in place for any students feeling overwhelmed, anxious or stressed. Students are encouraged to speak to any of their teachers, the guidance officer, if they are experiencing any of these struggles. Each student is assigned a roll teacher to help them with their well-being, academic tracking, and character building.

If results are below standard in academic achievement (not A nor B in English, Humanities, Mathematics and Science subjects) or effort and behaviour report comments (not all Excellent or Very Good), students will be spoken to and mentored by the Catalyst Coordinator.

Parents/carers will be contacted by the Catalyst Coordinator to specifically discuss relevant concerns. Teachers will informally check the student’s progress and report any concerns or improvements to the coordinator who will continue to monitor the student.

The situation will be reviewed at the completion of the term and if the results have not improved, the student will be withdrawn from the Catalyst Program.

To minimise impacts on the classroom, movement of students will only occur:



- After consultation with all teachers of the student
- After discussing options with parents/carers
- At the beginning of each new term.

Level of Support	Support Option
1	Talk to your roll teacher or classroom teacher Parents/carers should contact the teacher with any concerns.
2	Students will be mentored, parents/carers contacted, teacher's informally check student's program, Catalyst Coordinator continues to monitor student.
3	Parents/carers contacted if situation does improve to advise students will be able to continue in the Catalyst Program. Parents/carers contacted if situation does not improve to advise student will be withdrawn from the Catalyst Program for the remainder of the year. If the student does improve, they may reapply to be in the Catalyst Program the following year.

For further information

Please direct any enquiries to catalyst@woodcrestsc.eq.edu.au or via telephone at 07 3280 2444.