



**CALLAGHAN  
COLLEGE**

# **ASPIRE**

**Program for Aspiring Students**

**Collaborating to  
empower learners**



# What is Aspire?

Callaghan College prides itself on providing extensive opportunities for high potential and gifted students from Callaghan Education Pathway schools.

Callaghan College's Aspire program, available at both Wallsend and Waratah Campuses, is designed for students who demonstrate high potential and advanced learning capacity for their age. Our College leaders and dedicated Aspire teachers provide targeted, specialised learning programs to ensure high achieving students reach their full potential as future focused learners.

Callaghan College is committed to ensuring high expectations for all students, including high potential and gifted students.

## High potential and gifted children tend to:

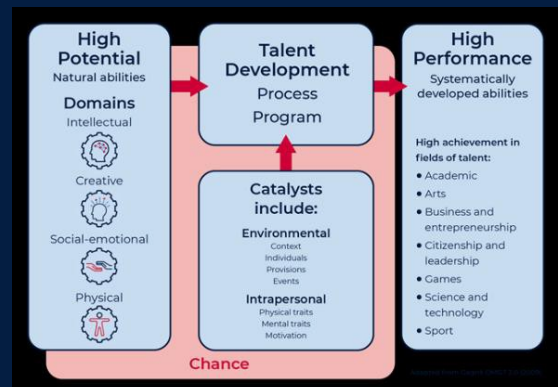
- be intensely curious
- learn new ideas or skills quickly and easily
- display a good memory
- ask complex questions
- be creative
- enjoy thinking in complex ways
- require fewer repetitions when learning new things
- become intensely focused in their area of interest or passion.

A rapid rate of learning means these children may enjoy opportunities beyond the typical level of other children their age. Children with high potential like to be challenged.

## High Potential and Gifted Student Education?

Aspire responds to the latest High Potential and Gifted Education Student Policy from the NSW Department of Education (2019). The Department of Education identifies High Potential students as those whose potential exceeds that of students of the same age in one or more domains; intellectual, creative, socio-emotional and physical.

The definition of giftedness adopted by the Department of Education NSW and Callaghan College is evidence-based and influenced by leading researcher in the field, Francois Gagne. His body of research provides a framework for understanding 'giftedness' and supports educators to implement learning experiences that foster talent development in all students.



# The Aspire Vision

## Personalised opportunity for discovery for your child

Aspire engages and supports every student to achieve their educational potential, through talent development opportunities and differentiated teaching and learning practices to ensure that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met.

Aspire's culture of learning excellence, brings high potential students together to collaborate (known as cluster grouping) - further enhancing and enriching each child's learning experience.

While Aspire students are taught the core curriculum, students will be provided with a number of opportunities to enrich and accelerate their learning across intellectual, creative, social- emotional and physical domains.

## Learning through discovery

Using Inquiry Based Learning methodology, Aspire provides students with an environment that stimulates problem solving, critical and creative thinking; building skills that will extend each student to master future learning and prepare them for the world beyond the classroom. This encompasses:

- Personalised learning goals, responsive to every student's need
- Enhancement of technology skills using innovative learning experiences
- Building self-directed learning skills and reflective practice
- Course extension and acceleration opportunities
- Real world initiatives that enable enrichment in a student's area of interest and talent.

## Opportunities beyond class

### Industry and academic partnerships

Aspire students will interact regularly with our academic and industry partners such as the University of Newcastle, Regional Development Australia Hunter, HunterWise and UAVAIR. Aspire students will be provided opportunity for external assessment and testing, along with the chance to participate or compete in competitions and tournaments.

### Leadership Opportunities

Throughout the year, there are numerous opportunities for your child to represent the College in leadership roles, including the Student Representative Councils, Junior Aboriginal Educational Consultancy Groups (JAECG), Leader Link, peer support and mentoring.

### Extra – curricula choice

Aspire students have a range of extra- curricular possibilities from excursions, sport teams, music, performance, art and competitions for chess, debating, public speaking and writing. Callaghan College partners with the University of Newcastle and our industry partners to provide opportunities for students to attend the Children's University, as well as STEM and engineering challenge events.



## Callaghan College recognises high potential

Callaghan College provides support and challenges for every student across intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical domains, while identifying and addressing the wellbeing and learning needs of high potential and gifted students in the following ways:

- Identify Aspire students and provide targeted differentiation for every learner
- Implement evidence-based learning and teaching strategies
- Collaborate with families and the wider community to enhance growth and achievement for all high potential and gifted students
- Callaghan College High Potential and Gifted Education Team work with teachers across all campuses to build teacher and student capacity. This engagement, quality research and ongoing professional learning on effective practices improves growth and achievement for all high potential and gifted learners.

For more information about Aspire, including how to apply, please contact the Campus Aspire co-ordinators, Mr Marc Unthank – Deputy Principal, Wallsend Campus, or Miss Jessica Rose – Head Teacher of Engagement and Innovation, Waratah Campus.

## About Callaghan College

Callaghan's multi-campus design allows our College to provide dedicated learning environments for middle and senior school years. This provides high- quality learning environment where all students have an equal opportunity to reach their full potential.

### Wallsend and Waratah Campuses Year 7 to 10

The middle school 7-10 is a stepping stone between primary and senior schooling, easing the transition into secondary education for students and their families. A comprehensive range of core curriculum and elective courses are available for students to access, including specialised learning pathways. Every student can explore additional learning opportunities in areas such as English and Languages, Creative and Performing Arts, STEM, Humanities, Sport and Technology through Callaghan's many programs.

### Jesmond Senior Campus Year 11 and 12

Senior school provides students more choice than any other school in the Newcastle region, with over 65 courses on offer. A new state of the art Creative Arts and Performing Arts Centre opening at Jesmond in 2020 which will include a professional theatre, as well as recording and dance studios. The facility will become the hub of creative pursuits for students across our Callaghan Education Pathways.

# The Waratah Aspire Application process

## How do I apply?

Here at Callaghan, we are constantly looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint and create more seamless communication methods, to this end we are moving our Aspire Application online for the 2021 cohort.

If you are interested in applying, please complete the online application form by going to Callaghan College Waratah's website and selecting the High Achiever under *Our Enrichment* tab by Friday 20th March, 2020.

A hard copy of the application is also available online and from your Partner Primary schools.

Applicants will be invited to attend an interview style presentation early in Term Two and will be notified of their acceptance into the program within a few weeks.

Where the number of short-listed students exceeds the number of places available, a reserve list will be established. Should a place become available, those placed on the reserve list will be reconsidered for placement.

Parents/Carers are to confirm an offer of enrolment by the date indicated in the notification letter. Failure to do so may cancel the offer and allow the place to be made available to another student.

## What are the selection criteria?

- Strong academic performance across a range of subject areas
- Evidence of higher order thinking skills
- Well-developed literacy and numeracy skills
- Highly competent research skills and desire to learn
- High level of self-motivation
- Positive attitude to school and learning, including homework
- Ability to work in a team in learning situations
- Positive behaviours that enhance learning
- High levels of creativity evident in learning tasks
- Interest and engagement in extra curricula activities

## What is the selection process?

A panel of staff from Waratah Campus will consider written applications, followed by an invitation to all applicants to attend the interview style presentation. The presentation will require students to discuss and present a piece of their work they have selected which they feel demonstrates their special skills and interests.

Part of the application also includes recommendations from the Primary Principal and/or Year 6 teachers and further consultation with these teachers will take place if necessary.

Successful students will be expected to maintain a high level of performance throughout their placement in the class. Class positions may be reviewed at the end of each school term.

## What happens After Year 7?

The High Achievers Program, Aspire, will continue into Year 8, supporting our philosophy of quality middle schooling and best practice.

At the commencement of Stage 5, GATS enrichment/extension programs will be offered, and priority given to students engaged in the High Achievers program in the form of:

- STEM Program where students further develop their skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
- Personal Pursuit Program elective where students peruse their area of talent or interest through self-designed assessment and presentation
- Students participating in the High Achievers program may be able to be accelerated in subjects from Year 8 onwards.
- Students from the existing Year 8 High Achievers class are invited into this program.
- Waratah Technology Campus also offers acceleration through VET Metals and Engineering and VET Hospitality
- Extra-curricular opportunities for acceleration in English, HSIE and CAPA. Comprehensive and diverse ranges of academic courses are available to students in Year 11 and 12 at Callaghan College Jesmond Senior Campus and we offer a supportive transition process into Senior Studies.

### Appeals

Appeals can only be made on the process and should be made to Ms Hayley Macdonald Principal, Callaghan College, Waratah Technology Campus.

### Contact

Ms J. Rose, Head Teacher of Engagement and Innovation at Waratah Technology Campus, coordinates all information concerning placement and curriculum in our High Achievers Program. For further information, please feel free to contact her via the school.

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