

Better to illuminate than to merely shine...

– St. Thomas Aquinas



*illuminate*

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

**APPLICATIONS OPEN TERM 3 - 2022**

MERCY | JUSTICE | FAITH | COURAGE | SERVICE | COMPASSION





## The Illuminate Academic Excellence Program

*Better to illuminate than to merely shine.... – Thomas Aquinas*

### **Vision**

Aquinas College is a welcoming community enthused by the teachings of Jesus Christ where **academic excellence is valued** and all are nurtured and empowered to create a future of hope. In living our vision we are inspired by the academic excellence exemplified by Thomas Aquinas who was one of the greatest medieval theologians and philosophers.

The *Illuminate* Academic Excellence Program aims to inspire academically minded students to reach their potential across their core and elective subjects in Year 7. The Program will motivate students to enhance their academic abilities, discover new learning opportunities and become independent learners. Students will be equipped with 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that inspire them to become innovators, entrepreneurs, lifelong learners and responsible global citizens.

### **Structure of the Program**

The *Illuminate* Academic Excellence Program will continue at the College in 2023 for Year 7 students. Following a successful academic year, students will transition into the program in Year 8 & Year 9. Successful applicants will be placed together in a core class for Religion, English, Maths, Science, Geography/History, and Health and Physical Education. Elective subjects will be taken with the remainder of the cohort.

The Program will allow students to work collaboratively with like-minded peers and engage with teachers who share a passion for teaching. The Australian Curriculum, which informs teaching and learning at Aquinas College, allows for: flexibility to meet the individual learning needs of gifted and talented students, opportunities to work with learning area content in more depth or breadth, encompassing specific aspects of the general capabilities learning continua and/or focusing on cross-curriculum priorities (ACARA, 2016).



## **Program Expectations**

All Year 7 students in the Program are expected to not only maintain a high level of academic performance in their core and elective subjects, but to actively participate in the religious, cultural and sporting life of the College. Each semester, student results and participation will be monitored using the following criteria:

- Achievement of A or B in all core subjects each semester (English, Maths, Science, Religion, Geography/History/, HPE)
- Achievement of A or B in all elective subjects each semester (Design Technologies (Engineering and Materials), Design and Technologies (Food Specialisations), Digital Technologies, Japanese, Drama, Music, Media Arts and Visual Arts)
- Consistently (C) or Generally (G) for Effort in all subjects
- Attendance Rate of >95%
- Participation in at least one religious, sporting or cultural activity offered at the College

The College will review a student's place in the Program if the above criteria are not met.

## **Who can apply?**

Year 6 students currently enrolled to attend Aquinas College or who are in the process of enrolling for Year 7 2023.

## **How to apply?**

Complete the application form and ensure that all documentation is submitted by **Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022** . Successful applicants will be notified by Week 2 of Term 4 2022.



## The Illuminate Academic Excellence Program Application Form

Student Name:	
Current School:	
Are you currently enrolled to attend Aquinas College in 2023?	

Students applying for the program must complete the following:

- \* Complete the application form
- \* Submit all required documentation

The following documents are required before the application will be considered:

- Academic Reports from Year 5 (Semester 1 and Semester 2) and Year 6 (Semester 1)
- NAPLAN Report for Year 5
- Personal Reference from a teacher or Leadership Member at your current school
- A personal statement, handwritten by the applicant, explaining why you would like to be considered for the Program. Outline your academic achievements and any other contributions to your school community. Consider your religious, cultural and sporting endeavours.

Please ensure that only copies of reports are provided.

Applications close on **Friday 2nd September 2022** and successful applicants will be notified via email in Week 2 Term 4, 2022.

Please submit your application form with attachments to [illuminate@aquinas.qld.edu.au](mailto:illuminate@aquinas.qld.edu.au)

Name of Student:	Signature:	Date:
Name of Parent/Caregiver:	Signature:	Date: