

Better to illuminate than to merely shine...

– St. Thomas Aquinas



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

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FAITH | COURAGE | COMPASSION | BELONGING





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ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

VISION

The *Illuminate Academic Excellence Program* is grounded and aligned with the Aquinas College Vision and Mission as it aims to ignite a love of learning and a sense of wonder in the students within our learning community.

The *Illuminate Academic Excellence Program* aims to inspire academically minded students in Years 7 - 10 to reach their potential by motivating and challenging students with extra academic stimulation to enhance their academic abilities. Students in the program will discover new learning opportunities working both independently and collaboratively to achieve their goals across multiple subjects. Students will be equipped with 21st century skills that inspire them to become innovators, entrepreneurs, lifelong learners and empower the students to be the difference in our world.

PROGRAM

The *Illuminate Academic Excellence Program* is offered to students in Year 7 - 10. Successful applicants will be placed together in a core class for Religion, English, Maths, Science, HASS, and Health and Physical Education. Elective subjects will not be part of this core class timetable. While following the Australian Curriculum for each year level, students will participate in enrichment opportunities to undertake self-directed, inquiry-based learning. The program supports students who have a strong desire to achieve excellence in education with emphasis placed on the study of more complex and abstract concepts.

Following a successful academic year, students already in the *Illuminate Academic Excellence Program* will complete an expression of interest that will be considered by the program teachers and coordinator. Students who have applied themselves and shown strong commitment to the program will transition into the *Illuminate* program again for the following year.

PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

All students in the *Illuminate Academic Excellence Program* are expected to maintain a high level of academic performance in their core and elective subjects, as well as actively participate in College life.

Each semester, student results and participation will be monitored using the following criteria:

- High level of achievement in all core and elective subjects each semester.
- Consistently (C) for effort in all subjects.
- Attendance Rate of >95%.
- Active participation in College life (E.g. liturgies, social justice initiatives, ANZAC Day, musical, sporting or cultural activities, leadership, tutorials etc.)

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

ENTRY

Entry into the *Illuminate Academic Excellence Program* is by application only. Students must be enrolled to attend or currently be attending Aquinas College to apply.

To apply, students are to complete the application form and hand deliver a student portfolio that contains all documentation set out on the application form to the main office. Applications open Term 1 and the successful applicants will be notified via email.

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THE ILLUMINATE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

ROUND 1 APPLICATION FORM - 2027

Applicants Name:

Current School and Year Level:

ROUND 1 Applications for the Illuminate Academic Program 2027 close on **Friday 20 March 2026**.

Successful applicants will be notified via email.

With this application form students are to submit portfolio containing the following items. This is to be **hand delivered** to Aquinas College main office.

- A personal statement or letter, 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.
- A letter from the student's parent endorsing the student's application to the program.
- Year 5 Semester 2 Academic Report.
- Year 5 NAPLAN Report.
- Personal reference from a teacher, team coach or school leadership member
- Any other additional documentation to support the application (awards, co-curricular involvement, community service etc.)

Please ensure that only photocopies are provided - these will not be returned.

Applications for the Illuminate Academic Program 2027 close on **Friday 20 March 2026**.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Name of Student:

Signature:

Date:

Name of Parent/Caregiver:

Signature:

Date: