



9 October 2025

2026 MIDDLE SENIOR SCHOOL HONOURS PROGRAM

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Hilda's School, we are deeply committed to extending and enriching each student's learning journey. The Honours Program offers students in Years 7-10 opportunities for academic challenge and development of their learning dispositions, fostering excellence and a capacity to engage with ideas that extend and deepen their knowledge and understanding.

Purpose

The Honours Program offers rigorous intellectual inquiry that challenges students to think critically, explore diverse perspectives, and apply their learning in new and meaningful ways. It provides differentiated pathways to support diverse learning needs and interests, while also nurturing social-emotional growth through the development of leadership, collaboration, and resilience.

Aligned with our vision to develop confident, creative and articulate young women who are globally connected and inspired to make a positive difference in their community, the Program encourages students to engage deeply with new knowledge, grapple with complexity, and demonstrate independence in their learning.

Expectations

All students in the Honours Program are expected to model our learner dispositions across the four learning domains: Resilient, Resourceful, Relational, and Reflective Learner, as well as to live out our School values of Love, Compassion, Forgiveness, Hope, and Grace.

Program placements are determined by the Head of Teaching and Learning in consultation with the Director of Studies and the relevant Head of Faculty.

Selection Criteria

Students will be selected for the Honours Program using the following data:

- Overall academic performance to the end of Term 3, 2025
- Expression of interest supported by academic results and Head of Faculty recommendation (Year 9, 2026 English and Science nominated by students through the Elective Subjects)
- OARS Tests (PAT Maths, Reading)
- ACER General Ability Test (AGAT)
- NAPLAN

English Honours Program Structure

Year 7	<p>Form classes with flexible groupings; differentiation within class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term 1: Students learn in form classes. • Terms 2-4: Students learn in flexible class groups that align with dimensions of English (Creative, Analytical, Persuasive). Teachers will be differentiating learning, gathering formative and summative information about students' capabilities across each of the dimensions of English.
Year 8	<p><i>Semester 1:</i> Placement determined end of Year 7, 2025. <i>Semester 2:</i> Placement reviewed end of Term 2, 2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students learn in form classes. • During timetabled English lessons, selected students will attend an Honours Program lesson each week with a specialist English Gifted & Talented teacher. • Students will focus on curriculum extension activities and deeper exploration of concepts within the different dimensions of English, which will operate per cohort and semester.
Year 9	<p>Placement determined end of Year 8, 2025; option to nominate English Honours elective.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 8, 2025 students can nominate for the Year 9, 2026 English Honours Program as an elective during Term 3 2025 Subject Selections. This elective is in addition to core English undertaken by all students.
Year 10	<p>Honours students may commence QCAA Literature Units 1 & 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 9, 2025 students who have already demonstrated achievement beyond the Year 9 English Australian Curriculum standards will be invited into Year 10 accelerated QCAA Unit 1 & 2 Literature as part of the Honours Program approach. This will see them complete Units 3 & 4 Literature by the end of Year 11.

Assessment

Years 7–9: Cohort-based tasks aligned with Australian Curriculum v9.0, with extension opportunities.

Year 10: Completion of Year 11 Unit 1 & 2 assessment in Terms 1-3; results recorded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory for QCE.

Mathematics Honours Program Structure

Year 7	<p>Form classes, flexible groupings, and high differentiation of learning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term 1: Students learn in form classes. • Terms 2-4: Students learn in flexible class groups according to levels of challenge.
Years 8-9	<p>Honours placement determined at the end of 2025; extension and acceleration opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semester 1 and 2: Students learn in class groups based on learner progress with the Honours offered as an invitation (acceleration).
Year 10	<p>Honours students may commence QCAA Mathematical Methods Units 1 & 2 (see Accelerated Mathematics Program Outline).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semester 1 and 2: Students progress into Year 10 Honours and commence undertaking the QCAA Mathematical Methods Unit 1 & 2 curricula if they are achieving at the level required to succeed. This will see them complete Units 3 & 4 Mathematical Methods by the end of Year 11. • Please refer to the Accelerated Mathematics Program Outline.

Assessment

Years 7–9: Cohort-based tasks aligned with Australian Curriculum v9.0, with Honours students commencing Year 10 curriculum.

Year 10: Completion of Year 11 Unit 1 & 2 assessment in Terms 1–3; results recorded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory for QCE.

Science Honours Program Structure

Years 7-8	Form classes, flexible groupings, and high differentiation of learning. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students learn in form classes throughout the year.• Students will engage in a highly differentiated program that is academically challenging.• Throughout the program, students will have the opportunity to complete extension activities which will explore topics in greater depth and provide real world examples.
Year 9	Honours placement determined at the end of 2025; extension and acceleration opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 8, 2025 students can nominate a Science Honours Program as an elective during Term 3, 2025 Subject Selections. This elective is in addition to core Science undertaken by all students.
Year 10	Honours placement determined at the end of 2025; extension and acceleration opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 9, 2025 students can nominate a Science Honours Program as a Year 10 Elective. This elective is in addition to core Science undertaken by all students.

Assessment

Years 7–8: Cohort-based tasks aligned with Australian Curriculum v9.0. Assessment Tasks will include extension questions, requiring students to think more critically, provide more detailed explanations and apply their learning to different contexts.

Years 9-10: Assessment Tasks will include extension questions, prompting students to demonstrate their scientific reasoning beyond the curriculum.

Communication, monitoring and evaluation

We will continue to regularly monitor your daughter’s progress through teacher feedback, student surveys, and project evaluations. We will also continue our annual review of the Honours Program to assess its effectiveness and make adjustments as needed.

Please contact Mrs Alma Loreaux, Head of Teaching and Learning via aloreaux@sthildas.qld.edu.au should you have any queries about the Honours Program for 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Alma Loreaux
Head of Teaching and Learning



Mr Peter Shaw
**Deputy Principal
Middle and Senior School Operations**