



ACADEMY PROGRAM

Year 7 – Year 9

Overview and
Application Process

2027

MANGO HILL STATE SECONDARY COLLEGE



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Academy Programs

Overview

The Academy Program is specifically designed to further enrich and challenge high-achieving Years 7- 9 students through a tailored enrichment program. Building on the College vision of 'Real Learning for the world of tomorrow', students are challenged to advance their critical thinking, problem solving, resilience and passion for learning, and prepare for the dynamic and evolving demands of the modern world.

Students involved in the Academy Program will engage with an innovative curriculum designed to challenge and inspire. This curriculum not only sets high standards for excellence but also empowers students to achieve outstanding academic success. Through a considered approach to the program objectives, students will be equipped with the strong academic foundation and skills necessary to confidently navigate and meet the demands of their senior secondary pathway and post schooling options.

Objectives

- Enhance students' academic capabilities through a rigorous and engaging curriculum, tailored to student's strengths, interests and future aspirations
- Encourage students to analyse situations, evaluate information, devise innovative solutions and approach challenges with confidence and creativity
- Provide unique opportunities for students to collaborate with community and industry to provide real-world experiences and insights into various career pathways
- Ignite students' intrinsic motivation to pursue knowledge and personal growth
- Foster and uphold high expectations for attendance, engagement, behaviour and academic performance within the program

Learning Pathways

The curriculum program for students engaged in an Academy Program learning pathway aligns with the broader structure for students in Year 7 2027, offering a range of learning areas directed by the Australian Curriculum, with targeted and tailored learning specific to the program. Students in an Academy Program will remain together as a core class grouping for all of Year 7.

The Academy Program is intended as a three-year program and students joining in Year 7 2027 will continue their studies in Year 8 in 2028, and Year 9 in 2029, provided they continue to meet the expectations of the program. The learning pathway will continue to align with the Australian Curriculum offerings of Year 8 and 9 for the College, with targeted learning in the specific subjects relevant to the Academy Program.

The Years 7–9 Academy program is designed to build the academic foundations, learning habits, and intellectual curiosity required for success, preparing students to confidently transition into the rigour of senior schooling and beyond at Mango Hill State Secondary College.

Applications for Year 8 and 9 2027 are welcome. Please note acceptance into the Year 8 and 9 program in 2027 is subject to waitlist and class capacity.



Academy Program Learning Pathways

Academy Program Subjects studied for two semesters (year-long)	Mathematics Science Technologies – For example: Digital Technology, Engineering, and Materials Specialisations, Food Specialisations and/or Technologies English Humanities – History and Geography
Subjects studied for one semester only	Health and Physical Education Italian (languages)
Elective subjects studied for one term only	Please note that students in the Academy complete a year-long technologies program in Year 7, and as such do not engage in the Arts in Year 7. Opportunity to engage in the Arts will be provided in the Year 8 curriculum program.
LYF – Living Your Future	Well-being subject studied once a week for all year levels.

Eligibility and Application Process

The Academy Program is a selective entry program. The entry process for 2027 enrolment involves the following stages:

	Details	Date
Stage 1	Application Process	Due Monday 15 June 2026 (Week 9 Term 2)
Stage 2	Acer General Ability Test (AGAT) Program specific short response testing and interview	3.00pm Thursday 23 July 2026* (approx. one hour/*pending numbers) Full Day Friday 24 July 2026 (Week 2, Term 3) *Reserve Full Day Wednesday 29 July 2026 (Week 3, Term 3/ pending numbers)
Stage 3	Offer of Acceptance	Issued end Week 5 Term 3

*This day may also be used to accommodate high numbers of applicants.

Acceptance into the program will be decided upon based on the selection criteria included in the relevant applications, including:

- Completed application
- Two most recent Academic Reports
- Most recent NAPLAN report (if applicable)
- Creative Writing sample
- Diagnostic and short response testing undertaken as part of Stage 2
- Interview conducted as part of Stage 2



Applications open Wednesday 29 April 2026. Newly enrolling students applying for an Academy Program must have a submitted enrolment application for the 2027 school year at the time of application, that meets the expectations of the [College Enrolment Process](#).

Please note that students who live outside of the MHSSC catchment area cannot be considered for the Academy Program unless offered a place at the College via the 'Out of Catchment Expression of Interest' process.

Expectations

Students who are selected for the Academy Program will be committed to the course for the three-year program (Year 7-9), unless the student does not meet the expectations of program.

A student will maintain enrolment within the Academy Program if they continue to meet the standards upon which their acceptance was initially determined. Students must maintain a high level of achievement in all subjects in order to maintain their position in the program throughout the year.

Student performance will be reviewed at specific junctures, and students will be required to adhere to the high level of expectations through achievement, effort, behaviour and attendance across all subjects as indicated through semester results and other data sets available to the College.

At Mango Hill State Secondary College, students in the Academy Program who are identified as at risk of not meeting academic expectations are first supported through a proactive Academic Coaching and Reflection process. Using the GROW model, students reflect on their progress, identify barriers, set achievable goals, and develop strategies to strengthen their independent learning skills and habits. This is a supportive, coaching-based intervention—not a disciplinary response—designed to build ownership, confidence and improved academic outcomes.

At any time, Mango Hill State Secondary College reserves the right to remove a student from the Academy Program for reasons of behaviour, attendance, engagement and/or academic suitability. The Principal reserves the right to remove a student from the program at any point.

If a student elects to move to a core class grouping throughout the program, or at the end of a year, written communication from a parent/carer is required. Depending on timetabling considerations as well as a consideration of the stage of learning occurring at the time, a move may not be possible immediately. A move to a core grouping will be actioned by the Deputy Principal for the year level, and allocation to a class group determined by the College.

Waitlist Process

The College will operate a wait list process for the Academy Program with the order of students on the wait list determined through the application testing and interview process. The College will adhere to the maximum class size of 28 students, and as positions in the program arise, offers of acceptance will be made from the wait list.

Students new to the College in 2027 may apply to join a waitlist for consideration should a position become available. Current students enrolled at the College who wish to be considered for Year 8 or 9 2027



may apply during the 2026 school year. All applications are reviewed through the Academy selection process, with final decisions made by the College to ensure alignment with the integrity, expectations and capacity of the program.

Course and Resource Fees

Students in the Academy Program will need access to a range of texts and resources in order to participate in the course. Therefore, enrolment within the program is contingent upon Student Resource Fees (SRS) having been paid in full, or on an agreed payment plan.

The Academy Program will involve a range of excursions and external competitions that will incur further costs (pending year level). Where these costs can be anticipated, they will be included in a Subject Fee for the Academy Program, published as part of the 2027 Student Resource Scheme information. Additional costs will be informed through consent processes and invoiced accordingly for any other competitions or excursions as they arise. This will include travel costs which cannot be determined as part of a subject fee.

BYOx Expectations

The College operates a BYOx program for students in Year 7 – 9. Students involved in the Academy Program will be expected to be participating in the College BYOx program and have access to a personal device that can be used for learning.

If your child is successful in gaining entry to an Academy Program and are experiencing financial difficulties that impact engagement with course and resource fees and/or the BYOx program, please contact the College to arrange an appointment to discuss options. Any information that you provide will remain confidential.

Application Checklist

Use the following checklist to support completion of applications for the Academy Program. Applications are available on the College Website via Enrolments.

Checklist	✓
Application form completed and attached	
Your child's two most recent report cards attached	
Your child's most recent NAPLAN report attached (if applicable)	
Creative Writing Sample	
Completed enrolment application / Out of Catchment Expression of Interest application submitted to enrolments@mangohillssc.eq.edu.au	

Applications and supporting information must be emailed by the due date to Academy@mangohillssc.eq.edu.au

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.



Important Dates for 2027 Enrolment and Application:

College Enrolments Open	Wednesday 29 April 2026
2027 Academy Program Applications open	Wednesday 29 April 2026
Stage 1 Academy Program Applications close Note: Late submissions will not be accepted	Monday 15 July 2026
Stage 2 Academy Program Testing and Interviews	3.00pm Thursday 23 July 2026* (approx. one hour) Full Day Friday 24 July 2026 (Week 2, Term 3) *Reserve Full Day Wednesday 29 July 2026 (Week 3, Term 3)
Stage 3 Academy Program Offer of Acceptance Due	Issued end Week 5 Term 3

* This day may also be used to accommodate high numbers of applicants.

The Academy Program

Overview

The Academy Program at Mango Hill State Secondary College is an enriching and dynamic pathway designed for students who demonstrate curiosity, creativity and a commitment to academic excellence across all core subject areas: Science, Mathematics, Technologies, English and Humanities.

The program is suited to students who possess a passion for literature and communication, a strength in analytical and critical thinking, and an enthusiasm for real-world problem-solving. Through a rigorous and engaging curriculum, students are supported to deepen their understanding, refine their skills and extend their thinking.

- In English, students explore challenging and captivating fiction and non-fiction texts, engaging with complex ideas while developing their own distinctive writing styles and voices.
- In Humanities, students build strong analytical capabilities as they investigate historical periods from Ancient to Modern History and examine contemporary global issues through Geography, Economics and Business, and Civics and Citizenship. Students are empowered to think critically about society, sustainability and entrepreneurship, equipping them to innovate and contribute meaningfully to the world around them.
- In Science, students engage in authentic, inquiry-based learning experiences that foster curiosity and confidence. Through hands-on experiments and practical investigations, they develop the ability to analyse data, think critically, question deeply and apply scientific understanding to real-world contexts.
- In Mathematics, students strengthen their mathematical reasoning through complex problem-solving and real-world applications. They build confidence in analysing data, identifying patterns and applying advanced mathematical thinking to solve authentic and meaningful challenges.



- In Technologies, students participate in engineering design challenges, coding and digital technologies projects that promote innovation and creativity. Through collaborative projects and simulations, they develop strong problem-solving skills, computational thinking and the ability to design solutions for real-world issues.

The Academy Program cultivates a dynamic learning environment where teamwork, communication and mutual respect are embedded in daily practice. Learning is grounded in real-world contexts, ensuring students see relevance and purpose in their studies. Through carefully designed extension opportunities, students are challenged in their learning journey and supported to deepen their level of understanding.

A strong focus is placed on developing higher-order skills, including critical thinking, analysis, creativity and complex problem-solving. Lessons are thoughtfully designed with flexibility in mind, adjusting the pace of learning to suit students' capacity and readiness, while maintaining high expectations for achievement. Students are encouraged to take intellectual risks, embrace challenge and grow in confidence as they take increasing ownership of their learning — creating the independent learner.

Through meaningful connections with industry, emerging fields and future-focused career pathways, students gain valuable insight and inspiration. As a result, they are well prepared for Senior School, equipped with the academic foundations, resilience and independence required to thrive.

Through this comprehensive and future-oriented approach, the Academy Program nurtures confident, capable and innovative learners prepared to lead and contribute in an ever-evolving world.

Enrichment Opportunities and Competitions

Students will be provided with rich opportunities to engage in a diverse range of learning experiences that connect classroom learning to real-world contexts. The following enrichment activities and competitions are examples of opportunities aligned to the Academy Program. Students may also participate in additional experiences as part of their learning journey.

Science, Mathematics and Technologies Enrichment Opportunities:

- Queensland University of Technology High School Student Workshops
- Young ICT Explorers
- Murrumba Maths Tournament
- Advanced Manufacturing Future Skills Program
- ICAS Competitions
- CSIRO CREST Awards



English and Humanities Enrichment Opportunities:

- Voices on the Coast Literature Festival
- Brisbane Writers Festival
- Writer in Residence Program
- Museum excursions and workshops
- Reader's Cup
- Australian Geography Competition
- Australian History Competition
- National History Challenge

These experiences are designed to extend learning beyond the classroom, deepen understanding through authentic application, and inspire students to pursue excellence across all core subject areas.