THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL
Preschool - Year 12

ignite

IGNITE

Ambition belongs here.

The Heights' program for high-ability students, taught by specialist teachers and shaped around each learner, their strengths, their interests and their goals.

A guide for parents and carers

Welcome to Ignite

Ignite is The Heights School's specialist program for gifted and high ability learners. It is a place where your child can be stretched, challenged and genuinely known, and where their ambition is not just welcomed, but expected.

Ignite has been redesigned from the ground up. We have looked closely at what our gifted learners need, listened to students and families, and rebuilt the program so that it responds to each child as an individual rather than asking every child to fit one fixed structure.

At the heart of the new program are our teachers. Ignite teachers have completed specific professional training in gifted education and specialise in teaching high-ability learners. They understand how gifted students think and learn, and how to support the whole child — not only their academic progress.

REDESIGNED

A renewed program, rebuilt around the needs of each gifted learner.

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Teachers trained in gifted education who specialise in this area.

Ignite at a glance

- Smaller classes
- Project-based learning
- Enrichment beyond the classroom
- Coaching and mentoring by international experts
- Differentiated curriculum
- Acceleration where it fits
- Student voice informing senior school offerings
- Local, national and international competitions
- STAR group returns in 2027; new languages available from 2027

OUR APPROACH

Built around your child, not a fixed formula

Gifted learners are not all the same. Some race ahead in one subject; others think across many. Some need more challenge, others more confidence to take risks. Ignite is designed to respond to those differences.

Rather than placing every student into a single, fixed program, our specialist teachers get to know each learner and adjust the level of challenge, pace and support as their needs become clear. Provision is layered: every Ignite student starts from a rich, extended core, and more is added where it will make a difference.

Individualised

A personalised path, planned with families, for students who need it.

Targeted

Extra stretch and opportunity added as strengths and interests emerge.

An enriched core

High-quality, differentiated teaching and curriculum for every Ignite student, every day.

Every family's conversation is different. Our gifted education team will talk with you about how the program applies to your child, and review it together as they grow.

THE IGNITE DIFFERENCE

What sets Ignite apart

Every student at The Heights benefits from quality, differentiated teaching. Ignite builds on that foundation with four distinctive features designed for gifted learners.

Differentiated curriculum

Learning designed for greater depth and complexity, so students explore ideas with more sophistication than a standard sequence allows.

Enrichment

Opportunities beyond the timetable: masterclasses, competitions and interest-based experiences that broaden horizons.

Project-based learning

Sustained, authentic inquiry, often alongside like-minded peers. where students pose real questions and create meaningful work.

Acceleration

Where it is right for the student, the chance to move ahead at a pace matched to their readiness.

Smaller classes

More time with the teacher, richer discussion and feedback that is personal to your child.

Specialist teachers

Ignite teachers have completed specific training in gifted education and specialise in this area.

SENIOR SCHOOL

Student voice shapes what we offer

In the senior years, Ignite students become active partners in designing their own learning. Their ideas, passions and aspirations directly influence the courses we offer.

By listening carefully to what our senior students told us they wanted to explore, we are introducing new interest-based courses, giving young people the chance to pursue subjects that matter to them in real depth, and to build the independence and self-direction they will need beyond school.

1

Students share their interests

Ignite students are regularly invited to tell us what they are curious about and where they want to go.

2

We design around them

Their feedback informs the courses, electives and opportunities we develop.

3

Pathways open up

Interest-based courses sit alongside extension opportunities that help students look ahead to further study.

When our students tell us what they want to learn, we listen and we build it.

LOOKING AHEAD

New from 2027

RETURNING IN 2027

The STAR group

Our STAR group is being reactivated, bringing curious minds together to explore the universe and the science that powers our world.

Astronomy
Exploring space, stars and the night sky

Applied sciences
Science put to work on real problems

STEM projects
Hands-on design, building and testing

Interest-based enrichment
Led by what students want to explore

中文

NEW LANGUAGE OPTION

Mandarin

From 2027, Ignite and pre-Ignite expands its language options with the introduction of Mandarin, opening a door to one of the world's most widely spoken languages and the cultures behind it.

WORKING TOGETHER

Partnerships that open doors

You know your child best. Ignite works because students, parents and our specialist teachers work closely together, setting goals and adjusting the path as your child grows.

Students

Have a real say in their learning and help shape the opportunities on offer.

Parents and carers

Are kept informed, consulted on planning and welcomed as partners.

Specialist teachers

Bring expertise in gifted education and respond to each learner's needs.

Growing the whole child

Alongside academic stretch, Ignite supports students' social and emotional growth, resilience, a healthy relationship with high expectations and the confidence to take risks, with support for families at home too.

UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

Flinders University

Through our partnership with Flinders University, Ignite students can access guaranteed or early entry into university courses - a head start on the future they are working towards.

Medical sciences **Engineering** **and more pathways**

FIND OUT MORE

Ambition belongs here.

Key dates and steps

For 2027 enrolments and 2028 Ignite entry

IGNITE 2028

Early November

Registrations open

Begin the registration process for the Ignite 2028 program.

Early February

Assessment period

The assessment period for Ignite 2028 applicants.

Late April – early May

Offers issued

Offers for the Ignite 2028 program are communicated.

SECONDARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT

By 22 May

Primary school transition nomination

Public primary school students nominate their preferred school.

5–7 August

Secondary school offers

Offers for transition from primary school are issued.

25 September

Enrolment forms due

Final date for submitting completed enrolment forms.

Out-of-zone enrolments in the mainstream, outside of the Ignite process, will be considered on a limited basis.

IGNITE ENQUIRIES

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Respect | Resilience | Integrity | Collaboration

ignite

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