

Friday, 13 March 2026



ST THOMAS'
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Educating the whole child

E-Challenge at St. Thomas' Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers of students in Years 4-6,

Although all classes offer extension and enrichment within the class, a Gifted and Talented extracurricular program is provided by the school. At St. Thomas' this is called E-Challenge. The E-Challenge class is an enrichment and extension class that incorporates modules with an emphasis on higher order thinking and developing critical and creative thinkers.

Primarily, students are selected through testing. The AGAT (General Ability Test) is based on verbal comprehension, knowledge and understanding using vocabulary, problem solving items of a mathematical kind and verbal reasoning by analogy.

To open it up to as many people as we can, modules in E-Challenge change each term which allows those children with specific talents to be incorporated e.g. the Solar Car Challenge is a STEM based module whereas Night of the Notables is an English based module. Modules change from year to year to suit the Gifted and Talented students in Years 4-6. Therefore, the group may change according to the challenge.

There are also competitions such as Tournament of the Minds, Academic All Stars, MAWA's Have Sum Fun, Junior Ethics Olympiad, Da Vinci Decathlon, to name a few. We need to select the right team for the tasks. We look at test results, in-class work, how students think, how students question, have they the ability to work in a team, can they stay on task, do they persevere, have they independent work habits and are they problem solvers.

You will be notified at the beginning of the term if your child is chosen for a module within E-Challenge. As this is an optional program the students will be aware that: their classroom teacher is able to remove them from the group if they are not coping with classwork, parents are able to remove them from the group if they don't feel it is beneficial, I am able to remove them from the group for failure to keep on task or if I feel the module does not suit their needs or talents.

The purpose of this program is to extend and challenge those who meet the criteria for extension beyond the curriculum and what is offered in the classroom, not all students will meet the criteria but will continue to be challenged and extended appropriately within the classroom.

Kind regards,

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