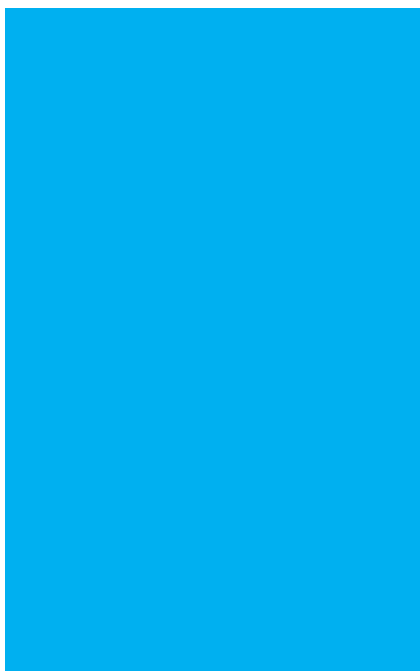


# HIGH POTENTIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION

Information package and application

2023 – Year 7 **SPARK** Class



We **learn** for life

# 2023 YEAR 7 SPARK IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 6 May**

Phase 1 - Section A and B  
returned to primary school



**Friday 3 June**

Phase 2 - Section C completed by  
primary school and submitted to  
WWHS



**Friday 24 June**

Phase 3 - Spark full-day in-take  
session (by invitation only)



**Friday 19 August**

Phase 4 - students notified in writing  
of place in Spark class for 2023

Please note - special consideration available for late  
applications. See application package.

West Wallsend High School - High Potential and Gifted  
Education

# High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) Program

The High Potential and Gifted Education (HPGE) processes embedded at West Wallsend High School acknowledges our commitment to high quality educational outcomes for all high potential and gifted learners.

As such, the Year 7 Spark class (HPGE) provides young people with access to a differentiated classroom environment which **provides students with additional opportunities to ‘spark’ their talents in the intellectual, creative, social-emotional and physical domains of learning.** Students in the Spark class have access to a homeroom and talent development opportunities, including individual mentorship, and differentiated teaching and learning practices, ensuring that their specific learning and wellbeing needs are met.

**Placement in the Year 7 Spark class is through an application process for Year 6 students who within the intake area of West Wallsend High School.** The application process includes:

- Submission of a student portfolio
- Spark in-take day and interview process
- Academic data and results provided by primary schools and parents/carers as well as primary staff statements of support.

## Selection criteria used to determine Spark class placement

- Strong **academic** performance across a range of subjects
- High potential **in one or more HPGE domains** (intellectual, creative, social-emotional, physical)
- High performance in **one or more fields of talent** (academic, arts, entrepreneurship, cultural, leadership, science and technology, sport)
- Highly competent **literacy and numeracy** skills
- Highly developed ability to be a **self-reflective** learner
- Highly developed ability to be a **critical thinker**
- High level of **self-motivation**
- Positive **attitude** to school and learning
- Positive **behaviours** which enhance learning
- High levels of **creativity** evident in learning tasks

Further information about the Spark class as well as a copy of this application may be found on the West Wallsend High School website: [www.westwalls-h.school.nsw.gov.au](http://www.westwalls-h.school.nsw.gov.au)

# How does my young person apply for the Spark class in 2023?

## Phase 1 – Parent and student completes application sections

Parent/carer and student complete **section A and Section B of the application** and compile the **Student Portfolio** and provide these to your primary school Principal by **Friday 6 May 2022**. The portfolio should include the following:

- A 2022 sample of original writing completed by the student in their own handwriting
- A 2022 sample of a completed task in mathematics
- A 2022 sample of a completed task in science
- A 2022 sample of a completed task in social science
- A sample of any other work chosen by the student to show ability in other areas
- Copies of recent certificates or evidence (ie photos) related to achievement in competitions, awards, etc. These can be in or outside of school.
- A copy of the most recent school report (please do not send original)
- A copy of Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN results (please do not send original)

## Phase 2 – Primary school completes and submits application sections

The primary school principal (or classroom teacher) will complete **Section C** to endorse the student application for the Spark class. **The primary school should then forward Section A, B and C of the application with the student portfolio to:** the Spark Program Coordinator, Ms Lauren Holding, West Wallsend High School, 20 Appletree Road, West Wallsend 2286 by **Friday 3 June 2022**.

## Phase 3 – Intake session at WWHS (including student interview)

The Spark Panel (consisting of the Year 7, 2023 Deputy Principal, Head Teacher Wellbeing and Head Teacher Instructional Practice / Spark Program Coordinator) will review the applications and invite short-listed students to a full-day Spark intake session at West Wallsend High School on **Friday 24 June 2022**.

When students receive notification of a position at the Spark intake session, they will receive further information regarding how to effectively prepare for this. Essentially, students will be involved in a full-day workshop focused on independent and group critical and creative thinking skills. Furthermore, they will engage in an individual interview with a panel of staff from West Wallsend High School. During this interview, we would like to get to know your young person better, talk through their work in their portfolio and discuss their learning goals and interests.

Please note, not all students who apply for the Spark class will receive a position in the Spark intake session. Students who were not successful in obtaining a place in this session will be notified of this in writing.

## Phase 4 – Notification of application outcome

Successful students will be notified in writing by **Friday 19 August 2022**. Where the number of short-listed students exceeds the number of places available, a reserve list will be established.

No further information about the reserve list will be available following initial notification in writing. Should a place become available for those placed on the reserve list students will be notified immediately in rank order.

Parents/carers must confirm an offer of enrolment by the date indicated in the notification letter. Failure to do so will cancel the offer and allow the place to be made available to another student.

Placement in the Spark class is competitive and merit based. Students in this class are individually case managed by Spark staff throughout their learning journey and parent/carers will be notified if we have any concerns so that additional supports may be put in place.

## Appeals process

Appeals can only be made regarding the process and should be made to: Krystal Bevin, Principal, West Wallsend High School, 20 Appletree Road, West Wallsend 2286.

The Spark panel will coordinate all information concerning placement in the Year 7 Spark class. For further information please phone the school on 02 4953 2111 or send an email to the school at: westwalls-school@det.nsw.edu.au - please mark "Attention Lauren Holding" in the subject line.

## Special consideration process

Students who are offered enrolment at West Wallsend High School **outside of the Spark application timeframe** due to moving into the area later in the year or via a late non-local enrolment offer may be considered via the special consideration process.

In this circumstance, please complete Sections A, B and C of the application with the student portfolio and submit it directly to the office at West Wallsend High School: Attention to Lauren Holding – 2023 Spark Special Consideration Application.

If the application progresses, parents/carers will then be contacted directly to invite their young person to be involved in an alternative Spark intake session. Parents/carers will be contacted, in writing, if their young person's application was successful before the end of the 2022 school year.

# Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section A

## PARENT/CARER SUPPORTING STATEMENT

To be completed by parent/carer of the applicant and submitted to your primary school Principal by **Friday 6 May 2022**.

Insert/attach photo of student applicant here.

STUDENT INFORMATION			
Student family name:		Date of birth: / /	Gender:
Student given names:		Student preferred name:	
Student address:	Street number / name:		
	Suburb:	Postcode:	
Current primary school:			
Other applications:	Have you applied for a place in a selective high school? Yes / No		
PARENT/CARER INFORMATION			
Name of parent/carer:			
Relationship to student:			
Another child is currently enrolled at this school:	Yes / No		
Contact numbers:	Mobile:	Daytime contact:	
Email:			
<p><i>I acknowledge that I have carefully read and understand the information provided as well as the application process in relation to the Spark class for 2023.</i></p>			
Name of parent/carer:			Date: / /
Signature of parent/carer:			

## Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section A cont.

**What strengths or achievements has your young person demonstrated?**

**What are some areas in which you believe your young person has not yet reached their full potential?**

**Why does your young person wish to be placed in the Spark class?**

# Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section A cont.

## PARENT/CARER SURVEY

Please complete the parent/carer survey below to provide us with additional information regarding your young person’s high potential and gifted skills and attributes.

Descriptor	Scale of 1 – 10 <i>Please select an option: 1 = not applicable and 10 = very applicable</i>	Provide an example
<b>Has quick recall of information</b> (e.g. immediately remembers facts, series of numbers, events, words from songs or movies, or parts of conversation heard earlier).		
<b>Knows a lot more about some topics than other children their age</b> (e.g. recounts facts about sports, maths, books, animals, music, art. Finds out about a subject on their own).		
<b>Uses advanced vocabulary</b> (e.g. uses big words; uses words unusual for a child, knows the correct terms, exact words or labels for things; acts and speaks like a grown-up).		
<b>Shows unusually intense interest and enjoyment when learning about new things</b> (e.g. has lots of energy and interest when learning; frequently and persistently asks questions; is not satisfied with simple answers; wants to know details; loves nonfiction books).		
<b>Reads at a more advantaged level than their peers.</b>		
<b>Understands things well enough to teach others.</b> (e.g. teaches other children how to do things; explains things so that others can understand; explains areas of interest to adults).		
<b>Is comfortable around adults</b> (e.g. spends time with / enjoys talking to adults; likes company of adults; understands adult humour).		
<b>Shows leadership abilities</b> (e.g. other children ask my child for help; organises games and activities for self or others; makes up the rules and directs group activities; may be bossy).		
<b>Is resourceful and improvises well</b> (e.g. puts together various objects to make inventions or solve a problem; uses unusual objects for projects; makes ‘something out of nothing’).		
<b>Uses imaginative methods to accomplish tasks</b> (e.g. makes creative short cuts; doesn’t always follow the rules; good at finding creative ways to get out of work).		



# Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section A cont.

## PARENT/CARER SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Please outline any additional information you would like to bring to the attention of the Spark panel in support of your young person’s application for the Spark class in 2023.

*I understand that West Wallsend High School reserves the right to offer class placements based on the program criteria and will also make appropriate changes to enrolment through regular reviews of effort and performance for those students placed in the program.*

<b>Name of parent/carer:</b>	<b>Date:</b> /    /
<b>Signature of parent/carer:</b>	

**Please Note:** Only those students whose application form is received by the due date may be considered for placement in the Spark class.

# Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section B

## STUDENT SUPPORTING STATEMENT

To be completed *by the student* and submitted to your primary school by **Friday 6 May 2022**.

Note: While we would love parents/carers to assist their young person with this section *it is important that it is completed genuinely by the student*.

**What do you love learning about?** (This could be things at school or outside interests)

**What *challenges* you the most about school and learning?**

**What are your *areas of strength*?** This could be academic, personal, extra-curricular etc.

**Why would you like to join the Spark class in 2023 at West Wallsend High School?**

# Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section B cont.

## I LOVE TO LEARN ABOUT – STUDENT SURVEY

When you are learning about the things you love to learn about, which of the things described below are true of you? *Put a tick beside each one that is true for you.*

Description	Tick if true
I get totally silly. My sense of humour goes wild.	
I have a wild imagination. I say things, do things, think things, feel things in ways other kids don't.	
I need to find answers to my own questions, not the teacher's. I want to explore and apply my ideas to see what might work and why.	
I know much more about things than lots of other kids my age.	
I'm very sensitive. My feelings about activities, understandings, and the people I do them with are very strong.	
I can describe my ideas very clearly. My explanations might be in words and numbers, but they might also be demonstrated in actions or music or movement or in some other way.	
I love thinking about lots of topics. I like to come up with my own ideas and then predict the consequences before trying to do them.	
I love to solve hard, messy problems by inventing and checking a variety of possible solutions. I live for the challenge!	
I see connections between ideas that other kids don't. I can't explain how I know -- I just know!	
I love learning the tough stuff. It's much easier for me to learn it than it is for other kids my age.	
I absolutely love some unusual topics / interests - even if other kids think it's weird.	
I need to believe in an idea before doing anything about it. If it isn't fair to everyone or if it just feels wrong, I won't do it.	
I want more! I don't want to quit even when I run out of time in class.	

**If there is anything else you want to say about your learning?** Please write it here.

<b>Name of student:</b>	<b>Date:</b> /    /
<b>Signature of student:</b>	

# Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section C

## PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPORTING STATEMENT

**Section C is to be completed by the primary school principal or the student's class teacher.** *Please note: the primary school statement remains confidential.*

Once complete the primary school should forward the full application (containing completed sections A, B, C) and the student portfolio by **Friday 3 June 2022** to: **Ms Lauren Holding at West Wallsend High School**

## Learning survey about student applicant

Characteristics	Tick if YES	Additional Comments
Reasons well/good thinker		
Learns rapidly		
Has an extensive vocabulary		
Has an excellent memory		
Has a long attention span (if interested)		
Has strong curiosity		
Perseveres (if interested)		
Has a wide range of interest		
Is an early or avid reader/read to		
Is concerned with justice/fairness		
Has keen powers of observation		
Demonstrates mature judgment for age		
Has facility with numbers		
Is skilled with puzzles / problem solving		
Has a vivid imagination		
Is highly creative		
Is a perfectionist		
Has a great sense of humour		
Has a high degree of energy		
Prefers older companions		
Is sensitive (feels hurt) easily		
Shows compassion		
Tends to question authority		
Is intense and/or very serious		
Is morally sensitive		

## Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section C cont.

### SNAPSHOT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Please note any data/evidence in the following areas which suggests that this student may identify as High Potential or Gifted.

Key area	Rank in year group <i>where relevant</i>	Tick if <i>above</i> expected level	Additional Notes
English			
Mathematics			
Science			
Technology			
HSIE			
PDHPE			
CAPA			
Sport			
Leadership			

Do you support this young person's application for the Spark class at West Wallsend High School in 2023? Why or why not?

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## Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section C cont.

Do you support the parent/carers comments outlined in their application?

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What would you say are this student's talents/skills/key areas of achievement? These could be in the HPGE domains of intellectual, creative, social-emotional or physical.

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Please add any additional notes to support this student's application.

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<b>Name of Year 6 teacher in 2022:</b> <b>Signature of teacher:</b>	<b>Date:</b> /    /
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<b>Name of principal in 2022:</b> <b>Signature of principal:</b>	<b>Date:</b> /    /
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**Thank you for your contribution to this young person's Spark 2023 application.** Please forward the full application (containing completed sections A, B, C) and the student portfolio by **Friday 3 June 2022** to: **Ms Lauren Holding at West Wallsend High School**