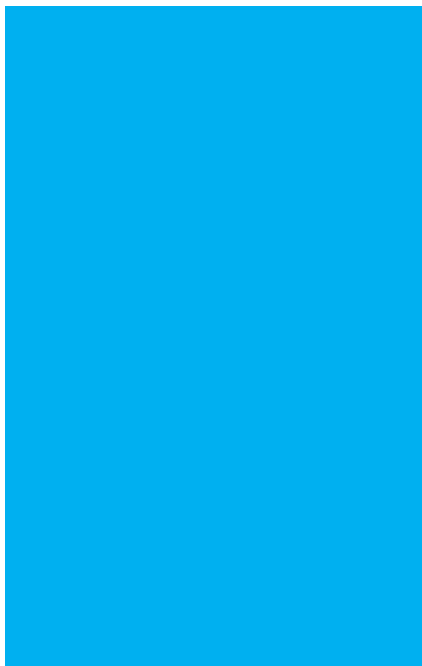


HIGH POTENTIAL AND GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Information package and application
2026 – Year 7 **Spark** Class



We **LEARN** for Life

2026 Year 7 Spark (HPGE Program) Important Dates

- **Friday 9 May** – Phase 1, Sections A and B returned to primary school
- **Friday 6 June** – Phase 2, Section C completed by primary school and submitted to West Wallsend High School
- **Friday 20 June** – Phase 3, Spark full-day intake session (by invitation only)
- **Friday 17 October** – Phase 4, students notified in writing of place in Spark class for 2026

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 Year 6 application only.**

West Wallsend High School engages in the holistic recognition of HPGE potential through a student portfolio, Spark intake day and interview process. This is in addition to the use of academic data provided by primary schools and parents/carers and 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, business and entrepreneurship, leadership, science and technology, sport)
- Solid literacy and numeracy skills
- Ability to be a self-reflective learner
- Ability to be a critical thinker
- High level of self-motivation
- Positive attitudes to school and learning
- Positive behaviours which enhance learning
- High levels of creativity evident in learning tasks

How does my young person apply for the Spark class in 2026?

Phase 1 –

Please complete **Section A and Section B** and return to your primary school Principal by **Friday 9 May 2025**. As part of this, please submit your portfolio which needs to include the following:

- A 2025 sample of original writing completed by the student in their own handwriting
- A 2025 sample of a completed task in mathematics
- A 2025 sample of a completed task in science
- A 2025 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 for competitions, awards, etc.
- Most recent school report (please do not send originals)
- Year 3 & 5 NAPLAN results (please do not send originals)

Phase 2 –

The primary school principal (or classroom teacher) will complete **Section C** to endorse your application for the Spark class. They will then forward your Sections A, B and C with your portfolio to the Spark Program Coordinator, Mr Corey Bubb, West Wallsend High School, 20 Appletree Road, West Wallsend 2286, by **Friday 6 June 2025**.

Phase 3 –

The Spark Panel (consisting of the Year 7, 2026 Deputy Principal, 2026 Year Advisor and the Spark Coordinator) will receive the applications and invite successful students to a full-day Spark intake session at West Wallsend High School on **Friday 20 June 2025**.

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 –

Successful students will be notified in writing by **Friday 17 October 2025**. 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 those placed on the reserve list 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 can only be made regarding the process and should be made to Michael Chandler, Principal (Rel.), West Wallsend High School, 20 Appletree Road, West Wallsend 2286.

The Spark panel will co-ordinate all information concerning placement in the Year 7 Spark class. For further information please phone the school on 02 4953 2111 or email westwalls-school@det.nsw.edu.au - please mark "Attention Corey Bubb" in the subject line.

Please note –

Students who are unable to apply by the timeline outlined above are eligible to apply through the special consideration process. This may include students who move into the West Wallsend High School enrolment area later in the year or students who currently do not attend our partner primary schools. In this circumstance, please complete Sections A, B and C of the application and submit it directly to the office at West Wallsend High School with the following note – Attention Corey Bubb – 2026 Spark Special Consideration Application.

If their application progresses through to the next phase, 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 2025 school year.

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. 1 being not applicable and 10 being very applicable	Please provide an example
Has quick recall of information. (e.g. immediately remembers facts, series of numbers, events, words from songs or movies, or parts of conversation heard earlier)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Knows a lot more about some topics than other children that age. (e.g. recounts facts about sports, electronics, maths, books, animals, music, art, etc; finds out a lot about a particular subject on their own)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Uses advanced vocabulary. (e.g. surprises older children and adults with the big words used; uses words unusual for a child, knows the correct terms, exact words or labels for things; acts and speaks like a grown-up when talking to adults)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	
Shows unusually intense interest and enjoyment when learning about new things. (e.g. has lots of energy and interest when learning; frequently and persistently asks how and why questions; is not satisfied with simple answers; wants to know details; loves how-to-do-it and nonfiction books)	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	

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

PARENT/CARER SURVEY CONTD

<p>Reads at a more advantaged level than their peers</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	
<p>Understands things well enough to teach others. (e.g. teaches other children how to do things; explains things so that others can understand; explains areas of interest to adults)</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	
<p>Is comfortable around adults. (e.g. spends time with and talks to adults who visit the house; likes the company of adults; enjoys talking with adults; understands adult humour and creates funny sayings or jokes adults can appreciate)</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	
<p>Shows leadership abilities (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)</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	
<p>Is resourceful and improvises well. (e.g. puts together various household objects to make inventions or solve a problem; uses unusual objects for projects; objects in unusual ways; makes 'something out of nothing')</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	
<p>Uses imaginative methods to accomplish tasks. (e.g. makes creative short cuts; doesn't always follow the rules; good at finding creative ways to get out of work)</p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p>	

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

PARENT/CARER SURVEY CONTD

Please note any additional information you would like to draw to the attention of the HPGE panel in support of your young person's application for the Spark class.

I understand that West Wallsend High School reserves the right to decide class placements, and to make appropriate changes after a review of student performance.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Parent/Caregiver

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 principal by Friday 9 May 2025.

Please note – while we would love parents/carers to assist their young person with this section, we would please ask that it is completed by them.

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 do you think are your areas of strength? This could be academic, personal, extra-curricular etc.

Why would you like to join the Spark class in 2026 at West Wallsend High School?

Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section B

I LOVE TO LEARN ABOUT – STUDENT SURVEY

Directions: 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 this than any other kid my age.	
I'm very sensitive. My feelings about these 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 symbols or music or movement or in some other way.	
I love thinking about these topics. I like to come up with lots of 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 this stuff 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.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
student

Year 7 Spark (HPGE) Application – Section C

PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPORTING STATEMENT

To be completed by the primary school principal or class teacher

Please forward Section A, B, C, and the student portfolio by **Friday 6 June 2025** to:

Mr Corey Bubb
Spark Coordinator
West Wallsend High School
20 Appletree Road
WEST WALLSEND NSW 2286

Please note, the following information provided is confidential.

Teacher – Learning Survey

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 a judgment that is mature for their age		
Has facility with numbers		
Is skilled with jigsaw puzzles		
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)		
Shows compassion		
Tends to question authority		
Is intense		
Is morally sensitive		

Section C (Continued)

OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Please note any data in the following areas which suggest that this student may be High Potential or Gifted.

Area	Rank in year group (please note the number of students)	Tick if above grade level	Additional Notes
English			
Mathematics			
Science			
Technology			
Social Science			
PDHPE			

Do you support this young person's application for the Spark class (HPGE) for 2026? Why or why not?

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

Section C (Continued)

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

Any additional notes to support this student's application

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Year 6 Class Teacher

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Principal