Dear Parent/Caregiver of a year 6 student,

Hastings Secondary College is currently planning the 2016 High Achievers’ classes at each campus. The classes’ purpose is to enhance and extend the learning experiences of gifted and high achieving students.

Students are offered a place in the High Achievers’ classes based on the following

- Academic ability and achievement
- Skills in literacy and numeracy
- Ability to work independently
- Successful expression of interest from parents and caregivers
- Primary teacher nomination

If you would like your child to be considered for the High Achievers’ class in 2016, please complete the attached Application Form to help in the selection process. You will also need to complete a DEC Expression of Interest form, a link for which is on the Hastings Secondary College website. Both forms must be submitted to your child’s preferred campus by **Monday 9th March**. Please note this is earlier than the date published on the DEC Expression of Interest form.

Students in the High Achievers’ class at each campus will have opportunities to participate in a range of academic, cultural and sporting extra curricular activities to enhance their learning. Students will study the core curriculum in common with their year cohort, however the curriculum is compacted and made more challenging to allow time for enrichment, extension, problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Our high achieving and gifted students will participate in showcase evenings providing them with authentic audiences to celebrate their achievements. Further opportunities include choir, band, musical performances, Tournament of Minds, debating, specific programs run in partnership with our local universities and peer support leadership training.

Additional information about this class will be provided at the Hastings Secondary College Information Evenings being held at Hastings Valley Community of Schools primary schools over the next two weeks or you may contact the Hastings Secondary College Gifted and Talented Coordinator, Karen Mann via phone 65831844 or email karen.mann1@det.nsw.edu.au.

Dr Wayne Ible
Executive Principal
Hastings Secondary College

Lorraine Haddon
Principal
Port Macquarie Campus

Ian Gowan
Principal
Westport Campus
HIGH ACHIEVERS’ CLASS 2016

APPLICATION FORM

To be completed and returned to your child’s preferred campus by Monday 9th March 2015.

You will also need to return the DEC Expression of Interest form at this earlier date.

Student information

First Name __________________________________________ Last Name __________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________________________________________________________

School currently attending in Year 6 ______________________________________________________________________

Parent/Caregiver Contact Details

First Name __________________________________________ Last Name __________________________________________

Email ________________________________________________________________

Phone (w) _____________________________ (h) _____________________________ (m) _____________________________

Expression of Interest

I would like my child to be considered for inclusion in the High Achievers’ classes at Hastings Secondary College and have provided information and comments about my child’s achievements, abilities and skills overleaf to support this expression of interest.

Signature ___________________________________________________________ Date _____________________________
Please tick the most appropriate box for the following characteristics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Most of the time</th>
<th>Often</th>
<th>Some of the time</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recalls facts easily</td>
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<td>Expresses herself/himself fluently</td>
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<td>Asks reasons why – questions almost everything</td>
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<td>Has a keen sense of humour</td>
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<td>Puts unrelated ideas together in new and different ways</td>
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<td>Wants to know how things work</td>
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<td>Is impulsive – acts before thinking</td>
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<td>Has a great deal of curiosity</td>
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<td>Becomes bored easily</td>
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<td>Likes grown up things and to be with older people</td>
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<td>Is an avid reader</td>
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<td>Tends to dominate others if given the chance</td>
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<td>Is persistent. Sticks to task</td>
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<td>Is an independent learner</td>
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<td>Has a great interest in the future and/or world problems</td>
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<td>Follows complex directions</td>
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<td>Enjoys complicated games</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has a broad attention span, which allows concentration on and perseverance in problem solving and pursuit of interests</td>
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At what age did your child begin to read? ________________________________ Is he/she self-taught? ________________________________

At what age did your child show an understanding of numbers, puzzles and patterns? ________________________________

Does your child have an interest in music? _______________ If so, what is he or she learning and what level has been attained? ________________________________________________________________

In what activities does your child participate outside school hours? ________________________________________________________________

What are your child’s special hobbies or interests? ________________________________________________________________

What books has your child enjoyed reading lately? ________________________________________________________________

Please make comments, where appropriate, on any of the following; outstanding accomplishments, special talents, relationships with others, preferred activities when alone, special needs, language/cultural background. ________________________________________________________________

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