



A.B. PATERSON COLLEGE



A.B. PATERSON COLLEGE HONOURS SOCIETY



Central to the very heart and core of A.B. Paterson College is the aim of developing young men and women of character – leaders now and for the future. The College's Mission 'to challenge the individual to achieve, and to act with purpose and character' is embodied in every engagement, interaction and opportunity within the College.

This Mission is encapsulated within the College's Academic and Co-curricular programmes, thereby providing many opportunities for all students of the College.

The Academic Talent Development Faculty has the core strategic goal of supporting the needs of academically gifted and high ability learners. This Faculty co-ordinates and offers a significant number of academically enriching and challenging activities for students, ranging from opportunities for staged acceleration through to national level competitions.

In 2016, the Academic Talent Development Faculty is pleased to introduce a new and highly significant opportunity for our leading academic students. This initiative, now termed the 'Honours Society', has been developed to more effectively challenge our most academic students, and provide them with the opportunity to follow their academic pursuits and interests.



The *Honours Society* is a prestigious and challenging enrichment and extension programme for academically talented students, which aims to:

- Develop research, communication, creative and critical thinking skills;
- Encourage self-directed and student-centred learning;
- Provide individually tailored and negotiated programmes for students to further engage in their area of passion and expertise;
- Allow time and flexibility for enrichment studies during the school day;
- Contribute to the advancement of students' results at the end of Year 12; and
- Recognise and reward Academic Excellence.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION AND STRUCTURE

The *Honours Society* is a prestigious and exclusive opportunity. Selection for entry into this programme is by invitation only, and is determined by academic ability and achievement. Details surrounding the selection process and course acceptance are as follows:



- The highest achieving and academically capable students in the Senior School will be given a formal invitation to join the *Honours Society* in each academic year;
- Students will be given an opportunity to select a topic which aligns with one of their subjects of passion and expertise. This enables students to extend and enrich their knowledge and understanding within a subject/discipline of interest through a self-directed, extended Research Project;
- Selected students will be required to submit an in-depth proposal outlining the nature of their extended research project, which will be the basis of their *Honours Society* thesis (NB: The proposed project must be discussed, negotiated with, and supported by the nominated Faculty Mentor. Additional Mentors may also be sourced from one of the College's University Partners or through external professional communities);
- Submissions will be considered and assessed. In order for a submission to be approved, students must receive an A grade in their subject of choice, undertake a panel interview and have the support of their chosen Faculty Mentor;
- Once approval has been given, the student's academic course content will be analysed and compacted with the assistance of the Academic Talent Development Faculty. This will enable the student to devote normal curriculum time to their Research Project;
- It must be noted that membership to the *Honours Society* is dependent upon the student maintaining an appropriate level of academic achievement, and a minimum of an A Grade in their chosen subject of interest;
- Students admitted into the *Honours Society* will be formally recognised through the Awarding of an *Honours Society* tie, as a component of the College uniform;
- Students, who successfully complete the Research Project in each academic year, will be formally recognised by the Award of '*Honours Society Colours*' (in the year of completion) and be permitted to have these Colours embroidered on their College Blazer.



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