



1 June 2020

## Year 5 entry to an Opportunity Class in 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Department of Education is committed to the continued education of all students across NSW, including advanced learning programs for high potential and gifted students. The 2021 Year 5 opportunity class placement process was put on hold in April 2020 due to the COVID-19 situation. The Department of Education has now rescheduled and streamlined the application process.

### Why have changes been made to the 2020 opportunity class placement process?

Due to the shorter time frame available for the OC placement process. The department is committed to supporting the continuity of learning and transitions for each child, and the revised application and placement process will ensure students are placed in 2021 Year 5 opportunity classes as soon as possible.

### What changes have been made?

The 2020 opportunity class placement process has been revised to accommodate the shorter timeline due to the postponement of the test. To ensure the fair and consistent assessment of students across all schools and regions of NSW, this year students will be placed on test results only. Taking this approach reduces the effect of the disrupted start to the school year, which could compromise school assessment scores, and ensures that all students are placed using the same test under the same conditions. The test is created by an independent educational assessment provider and measures academic ability, not achievement, giving a reliable method for identifying highly gifted applicants which is not subject to the variable classroom conditions experienced this year. The illness/misadventure or appeals process will not be available this year.

### What are the key dates I should be aware of?

Parents are advised to review the new dates carefully and ensure an application is submitted by the closing date for their child to be eligible to sit the placement test as, owing to the shorter timeline, late applications will not be accepted.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2021, you need to apply between **Tuesday 9 June 2020** and **Friday 26 June 2020**. You will need to access the online application at <https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-5>. You must **not** use the child's email address and you must submit only **ONE application** for each student. **Important – the school cannot apply on your behalf.**

**The application site closes on Friday 26 June 2020 at 5pm and no late applications are accepted** by the High Performing Students Unit.

Students who wish to be considered for opportunity class placement will sit the Opportunity Class Placement Test on **Wednesday 16 September 2020**.

Action	Date
Applications open	9 June 2020
Applications close	26 June 2020
Opportunity Class Placement Test date	16 September 2020
Parents and schools advised of placement outcome information	From 1 December 2020
Parents accept or decline first round placement	By 15 December 2020
Principals arrange orientation day for successful candidates	December 2020
Reserve places offered	From mid-December 2020
Authority to attend an opportunity class letter sent to parents	Late January 2021
Successful candidates enrol in Year 5 at a school with an opportunity class	Late January 2021

For more information please access the *Applying for Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2021* document at: <https://schoolsequella.det.nsw.edu.au/file/49795d1c-b339-43e9-aa48-02e496d165f1/1/oc-applicpack.pdf>

If you have any queries please contact Mrs Meiring through the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Bert Lo Campo  
Principal

Katherine Meiring  
Assistant Principal