



## ➔ ACCELERATION POLICY ⇐

### What is 'Acceleration'?

Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox College acceleration program is a strategy designed for outstanding or exceptional students who have been identified as Gifted or Talented. It is pertinent to know that 3-5% of the population is considered Gifted or Talented. This means they have demonstrated an outstanding level of achievement of the outcomes and are remarkable students within the subject candidature. According to the educational research, giftedness implies a broad cognitive ability or an "exceptional" ability well beyond the level typical of age-peers while talented is a level of achievement far above other students of the same age. Giftedness is outstanding potential whereas talented is an outstanding performance at present.

### The Management of the Acceleration Program

#### Cross KLA / Executive Level

Acceleration is managed by the Acceleration Committee (Acc Committee).

This Committee comprises HoF Acceleration, HoF of relevant Subject, Head of Academic Quality, Deputy Head of College, Head of College. The HoF Acceleration signs correspondence on behalf of the Acc Committee.

### Determining Student Social and Emotional Readiness

- Determining if a student is socially and emotionally ready for the Acceleration Program will be based on:
  - The student's positive interactions within the college community
  - the student's level of motivation and maturity
  - evidence from teachers.
- Should there be evidence that an accelerated student is not socially or emotionally ready, they may be managed out of the acceleration program. This includes a meeting with the parent, student and Head of Acceleration as well as issuing of a warning letter.

### Acceleration Procedure – Criteria-Based Decision Making

Table A (below) provides the criteria in which the intake and managing out of students occurs:

Criteria	Intake Thresholds	Managing Out Thresholds
<b>1a. Year 7</b>	Cumulative Report Mark 85% or above.	No Acceleration Program in Yr 7
<b>1b. Year 8</b>	Semester I and II ranks 1 and 2 within the cohort eligible for Acceleration Entrance Examination	A student will exit the program if they achieve less than 85% in two tasks across the year. A warning letter will be issued at the first task that is less than 85%.
<b>1c. Year 9</b>	Semester I ranks 1 and 2 within the cohort eligible for Acceleration Entrance Examination	A student will exit the program if they achieve less than 85% in two tasks across the year. A warning letter will be issued at the first task that is less than 85%.
<b>2. Marks in other core subjects</b>	Above average results in each non-accelerated subject for the semester in each non-accelerated course.	Below class average results in each non-accelerated courses for the semester
<b>3. Attendance</b>	90% attendance at school is required	Continue to monitor attendance and be in discussion with parents with assigned plan

## The Content Compression Structure

Table B (below) presents the content structure for each cohort / class involved within the Mathematics acceleration program.

**Table B: Content Structure – Mathematics**

Grade	Structure
<b>Year 7</b>	No acceleration program offered; However, Year 7 results are used to determine entry into the acceleration program.
<b>Year 8</b>	The Year 8 accelerated Mathematics (8MAT1) class compresses 2 years of content in 1 year. Semester 1 – Year 8 content Semester 2 – Year 9 content (The Core & Advanced Course)
<b>Year 9</b>	Year 10 content (The Core & Advanced Course)
<b>Year 10</b>	Preliminary HSC content for Advanced / Extension 1 courses combined and completed within the allocated periods of the Year 10 timetable for that course.
<b>Year 11</b>	HSC content for Advanced / Extension 1 / Extension 2 courses completed within the Year 11 timetable.
	HSC content for Ext 2 will be based on Ext 1 Preliminary Results

## Acceleration Procedure – Managing intake and Managing-out

### Internal intake procedure

1. Year 7 students will be eligible to apply for the Mathematics Acceleration Program at the end of Term 4 in Year 7 if their Final Assessment mark is 85% or above.
2. Parents and students will be provided with the policy, procedures and application forms.
3. Recommendations will be made to the Acc Committee based on a review of the application by the HoAcc where each applicant's eligibility will be based on their performance in all core courses and attendance for the year.
4. If the application is successful Parents must attend an Acceleration Program Meeting at the College with the Acceleration Committee in order to secure their child's place within the program. If they are unable to attend their child may not enter the program.

### External Individual Acceleration Intake

- Applications for new enrolments to the college will be received by HoAcc on behalf of the Acc Committee.
- An entry examination will be conducted for the student as required.
- The HoAcc will liaise with the previous school to receive the students reports, results and liaise with relevant teachers and the acceleration committee– to ensure that the applicant has formally covered all the previous year syllabus / pre-requisites in an approved school-based environment (tutoring NOT included).
- The HoAcc will inform the Acc Committee and the applicant of the results and decision.

## Steps of Policy Implementation – as of January 2024

### Implementation of Revised Policy

- Information sessions for students and parents interested in acceleration will be held at the beginning of each new year.
- Policy & Procedures to be uploaded to College website for public access and referral.

### Perform a Detailed Review of Accelerated Students

- A detailed review across all accelerated students on a per task basis is conducted to ensure compliance.



## ➔ ACCELERATION APPLICATION FORM ➔

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject a student wishes to be considered for acceleration: \_\_\_\_\_

Student wishes to be considered for acceleration because he/she: (tick all applicable boxes)

- ☐ This application is submitted 2 weeks prior to the end of Term 1 or Term 2
- ☐ Is successfully achieving results at 85% or above in the non-accelerated course
- ☐ has covered all mandatory NESA required previous knowledge and/or outcomes in this subject at school
- ☐ achieves above cohort average in all other subject areas
- ☐ shows social and emotional maturity to achieve in an accelerated environment
- ☐ Has proven attendance at or above 90%

Any documentation that may support your application? Yes or No (please circle one)

(If yes, please outline and attach each document/evidence which must be signed by both student and parent).

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***I have read, understood and agreed to the conditions of the Acceleration Program and its policy.***

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

By adhering to this Policy, we aim to ensure the safety and well-being of all staff and students at Saint Mark's Coptic Orthodox College. Your cooperation in following these procedures is greatly appreciated.

*This policy is subject to review and modification as necessary, and any updates will be communicated to staff, parents and legal guardians promptly.*

**Approved By:** Mrs Deb Grohala  
Deputy Head of College

**Date of Policy: 11 December 2023**

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#### **Contact Information**

For questions or clarifications regarding this policy, please contact the College's' main office at  
**(02) 9825 6768** or email [office@stmarks.nsw.edu.au](mailto:office@stmarks.nsw.edu.au).

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## FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

### **What is the Acceleration Entrance Examination?**

The Acceleration Entrance Examination is a standardized test designed to assess the eligibility of students for acceleration, allowing them to skip ahead to higher-level courses based on their academic proficiency.

### **Who are considered as Ranks 1 and 2 within the Cohort?**

Ranks 1 and 2 within the cohort refer to the students who have achieved the highest academic performance in their respective cohorts during both Semester I and II.

### **Is participation in the Acceleration Entrance Examination mandatory for Ranks 1 and 2 students?**

No, participation in the Acceleration Entrance Examination is not mandatory. It is an optional opportunity for high-achieving students to accelerate their academic journey.

### **How many Acceleration Entrance Examinations are held in a year?**

TWO – one at the end of Term 2 and the other at the end of Term 4

### **Can I request an Acceleration Entrance Examination at other times?**

NO

### **How can students prepare for the Acceleration Entrance Examination?**

Preparation for the Acceleration Entrance Examination may include reviewing the material covered in the courses they seek to study, engaging in additional study, and seeking guidance from teachers or mentors.

### **What if a student does not pass the Acceleration Entrance Examination?**

If a student does not pass the Acceleration Entrance Examination, they will continue their academic journey following the regular progression outlined by their educational institution.

### **Are there any limitations or considerations for students who accelerate their academic progress?**

Students who accelerate their academic progress may need to adjust to the increased rigour of higher-level courses and ensure they have a solid understanding of foundational concepts before moving forward.

### **Who should students contact for more information about the Acceleration Entrance Examination?**

Students should reach out to Head of Faculty (Maths) and Head of Acceleration for more information about the Acceleration Entrance Examination, including eligibility criteria, preparation tips, and the examination process.

### **What does it mean to "exit the program" if a student achieves less than 85% in two tasks across the year?**

Exiting the program means that the student will no longer be able to continue in their current academic program due to failing to meet the academic performance threshold set by the College.

### **What is the purpose of the warning letter?**

The warning letter serves as a formal notification to the student that their performance has fallen below the required standard and that they are at risk of exiting the program if they do not improve.

**What actions should a student take upon receiving a warning letter?**

Upon receiving a warning letter, the student should take proactive steps to improve their academic performance, seek assistance from instructors or academic advisors if needed, and strive to meet the required standards for future tasks.

**Can a student reapply to the program after exiting due to academic performance?**

Students interested in reapplying should inquire about the process and eligibility criteria as stated in the acceleration policy.

**What does "above average results in each non-accelerated subject for the semester" mean?**

This means that students are expected to achieve grades that are higher than the average performance in each subject within their non-accelerated courses for the semester.

**How is the average performance determined for each subject?**

The average performance is typically calculated based on the grades achieved by all students enrolled in the same course or subject during the semester.

**What happens if a student does not achieve above average results in a non-accelerated subject?**

If a student does not achieve above average results in a non-accelerated subject, they may need to reassess their study habits, seek additional support from instructors or tutors, and make necessary adjustments to improve their performance.

**How can students ensure they achieve above average results in non-accelerated subjects?**

Students can ensure they achieve above average results by attending classes regularly, actively participating in discussions and activities, seeking clarification on difficult concepts, and dedicating sufficient time to studying and completing assignments.

**What happens if a student does not meet the 90% attendance requirement?**

If a student does not meet the 90% attendance requirement, they may face consequences such as exiting the acceleration program. The decision of the college is final.

**What is the Mathematics Acceleration Program, and who is eligible to apply?**

The Mathematics Acceleration Program is an opportunity for Year 7 students to advance their mathematical studies at an accelerated pace. Students are eligible to apply if they achieve a Final Assessment mark of 85% or above at the end of Term 4 in Year 7.

**How will parents and students receive information about the program and the application process?**

Parents and students will be provided with the policy, procedures, and application forms for the Mathematics Acceleration Program. This information will be distributed by the school to ensure transparency and accessibility to all interested parties.

**How will the eligibility of applicants be assessed for the Mathematics Acceleration Program?**

The Head of Mathematics (HoAcc) will review each applicant's performance in all core courses and attendance for the year. Based on this review, recommendations will be made to the Acceleration Committee (Acc Committee) regarding each applicant's eligibility for the program.

**What is the next step after submitting an application for the Mathematics Acceleration Program?**

If the application is successful, parents must attend an Acceleration Program Meeting at the College with the Acceleration Committee. This meeting is crucial for securing the child's place within the program. Failure to attend may result in the child not being able to enter the program.

**Can students participate in the Mathematics Acceleration Program if their parents are unable to attend the Acceleration Program Meeting?**

No, it is mandatory for parents to attend the Acceleration Program Meeting with the Acceleration Committee in order for their child to secure a place within the program. If parents are unable to attend, their child may not enter the program.

**Who handles the reception of applications for new enrolments to the college?**

Applications for new enrolments to the college are received by the Head of Faculty - Maths on behalf of the Acceleration Committee (Acc Committee).

**Will new enrolment applicants in Year 8 be required to undergo an entry examination ?**

Yes, an entry examination will be conducted for new enrolment applicants as part of the application process.

**How does the college ensure that new enrolment applicants have covered the necessary syllabus or prerequisites from their previous school?**

The HoAcc will liaise with the applicant's previous school to receive reports, results, and liaise with relevant teachers and the acceleration committee. This ensures that the applicant has formally covered all the previous year's syllabus or prerequisites in an approved school-based environment (excluding tutoring).

**What happens if a new enrolment applicant has not formally covered all the previous year's syllabus or prerequisites in an approved school-based environment?**

If a new enrolment applicant has not formally covered all the previous year's syllabus or prerequisites, they may be required to fulfill additional requirements or undergo further evaluation as determined by the Acc Committee.

**Who informs the applicant and the Acc Committee of the results and decision regarding their application?**

The HoAcc is responsible for informing both the Acc Committee and the applicant of the results and decision regarding their application for new enrolment.

**Are there any specific criteria or guidelines for the entry examination?**

The specific criteria and guidelines for the entry examination may vary depending on the college's policies and the requirements of the Acc Committee. Applicants should consult with the HoAcc or relevant college authorities for more information on the entry examination process.

**When will information sessions for students and parents interested in acceleration take place?**

Information sessions for students and parents interested in acceleration will be held at the beginning of each new year to provide detailed information about the revised policy and procedures.

**What can attendees expect from these information sessions?**

Attendees can expect to learn about the requirements, benefits, and procedures for acceleration, as well as have the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification from college.

**Where can I access the revised policy and procedures for acceleration?**

The revised policy and procedures for acceleration will be uploaded to the College website for public access and referral. You can find them under the relevant section or by searching for "acceleration policy" on the website.