



Department of  
Education and Training

## *Media Statement*

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Attention: News Editor / Chief of Staff

04/03/2009

### **Opportunity to shine**

Parents of gifted students entering Years 8, 9, 10 or 11 in 2010 can help their child reach their potential through an outstanding secondary education program in select Western Australian public schools.

Applications for the Department of Education and Training's Gifted and Talented programs at 16 public schools close on Friday 20 March.

The Department's Executive Director of School Support Programs, David Axworthy said families could apply for a place in a Gifted and Talented program in the areas of science, maths, humanities, dance, music, drama, visual arts, artsmedia, music theatre and languages.

"Entry is highly competitive and I urge all interested parents to encourage their child to apply now," he said.

"All applicants must sit the Academic Selective Entrance Test and their performance in this test will determine their eligibility for the Gifted and Talented program."

The Gifted and Talented program is taught by experienced teachers with specialist knowledge and training.

Additional training for teachers and information sessions for parents will be available this month with world renowned and gifted and talented education specialist Professor François Gagné.

Mr Axworthy said professional development such as this enriched the program and helped teachers follow a curriculum to help gifted and talented students excel in their field.

"Gifted students are guided, challenged and learn with other like-minded students, which enables them to enjoy the positive learning environment," Mr Axworthy said.

"Our Gifted and Talented programs provide students with an elite secondary education that develops their specific talents and helps them reach their full potential, without the burden of high fees.

"The program is offered at a number of metropolitan schools with online participation and boarding options available for country students."

Former Shenton College and Gifted and Talented education student Vinayak Hutchinson said the program encouraged his natural ability and helped him to pursue his dream to studying medicine.

16 year old Vinayak was the third-ranked TEE student in Western Australia in 2008 and achieved a perfect TER of 99.95. Vinayak also received a General Exhibition, a Certificate of Excellence and Certificates of Distinction in Chemistry and Economics from the Curriculum Council.

"The Gifted and Talented program kept me motivated and focused. I was challenging myself not competing with others," Vinayak said.

For further information visit [www.det.wa.edu.au/education/gifttal](http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/gifttal) or telephone 9264 5513.

### **Gifted and Talented program schools**

Applecross Senior High School	Arts – Visual Arts
Balcatta Senior High School	Arts – Visual Arts
Churchlands Senior High School	Arts – Music
Comet Bay College	Maths, Science and Humanities
Duncraig Senior High School	Maths, Science and Humanities
Governor Stirling Senior High School	Maths, Science and Humanities
Hampton Senior High School	Arts – Dance
John Curtin College of the Arts	Arts – Dance
	Arts – Drama
	Arts – Music
	Arts – Visual Arts
	Arts – Artsmedia
	Arts – Musical Theatre
	Arts – Visual Arts
Kalamunda Senior High School	Maths, Science and Humanities
Kelmscott Senior High School	Maths, Science and Humanities
Melville Senior High School	Maths, Science and Humanities
Mount Lawley Senior High School	Languages
Perth Modern School	Academically Selective School
Rossmoyne Senior High School	Languages
Shenton College	Maths, Science and Humanities
Willetton Senior High School	Maths, Science and Humanities

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**Media contact:** Amber Gorrie 9264 4667 or email [amber.gorrie@det.wa.edu.au](mailto:amber.gorrie@det.wa.edu.au)