



Opportunity

Innovation

Success

[orara-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:orara-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

[www.orara-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.orara-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

Facebook: Orara High School

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# Information Package

## Excel Year 7 Critical and Creative Thinking Class

# 2024

## **Excel Year 7 Critical and Creative Thinking Class 2024**

Orara High School's aim is to provide opportunity, innovation and success to all students including offering the Excel extension class for Year 7 students.

### **What is the Excel Critical and Creative Thinking Class?**

The Excel class curriculum is modified in breadth, depth and nature to provide a stimulating, enriched and engaging learning environment. With a focus on developing critical thinking and creative thinking skills.

High Potential students need a climate where they can take risks and make mistakes, identify and develop their own strengths, undertake challenging activities, have opportunities for creativity and student-initiated activities, and are encouraged to achieve excellence.

Students undertaking the Excel program will be challenged and supported to participate in a range of curricular activities such as excursions, workshops and cross faculty projects.

It is envisaged that students who undergo this program will develop positive attitudes to learning and advanced academic skills.

The Excel class will remain as a discrete group for Years 7 and 8.

### **How are students selected for the Excel Critical and Creative Thinking Program?**

Entry to the program is by application, interview, testing and supporting nomination by a student's primary school.

### **How and when do we apply?**

Complete the enclosed application form in cooperation with your primary school and return to Orara High School's office by close of business Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Parents and students will be notified of interview appointment times and invitations to join the class will be mailed out to successful students.

Where the number of shortlisted students exceeds the number of places available, a reserve list will be established.

Parents/carers must confirm an offer of enrolment into the Excel Extension Program by the due date advised. Failure to do so may cancel the offer and allow the place to be made available to another student.

For enrolment into Orara High School, the following will also need to be completed:

**Government Primary Schools** - An Expression of Interest form will be issued by your primary school for completion and return to the primary school by the due date advised.

**Non-Government Primary Schools** – An Expression of Interest form is available from Orara High School's office for completion and return to Orara High School by the due date advised.

Students who are being offered a position at Orara High School will be sent An Application to Enrol in a NSW Government School, to be completed and returned by the due date advised.

**What is the selection criteria used to determine class placement?**

- Strong academic performance in one or more subjects
- Good literacy and numeracy skills
- Sound research skills, including library and internet skills.
- High level of self-motivation
- Positive attitudes to school and learning
- Ability to work as part of a team in learning situations.
- High levels of creativity evident in learning tasks
- Good communication skills

Important additional criteria are enthusiasm and motivation for learning, ability to work independently and ability to work cooperatively with others.

The teachers at Orara High School are committed to providing a quality teaching and learning environment. Teachers of the Excel class will provide challenges and exciting opportunities for students to expand their interests and develop their skills in all subject areas.

Applications will be considered by a panel of staff from Orara High School. Part of the application includes recommendations from Year 6 teachers and further consultation with these teachers will take place if necessary.

Applicants will be required to sit for an entrance test in the areas of literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and creative thinking.

**Students will be judged on Year 6 work completed in class during Semester 1. All class placements are provisional, dependent on the student's performance.**

**What happens after Year 7?**

The Excel class will continue into Year 8 as a discrete academic group.

**Placement in the class is competitive and merit based & positions in the class are regularly reviewed.**

**Students will be required to reapply for placement in the Year 8 class at the end of Year 7.**

**Orara High School  
Excel Extension Class**



**Student Application  
Year 7 2024**

**Student Application  
Excel Year 7 Extension Class 2024**

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender:** (Please circle) **Male/Female/ Prefer not to say**    **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Do you identify as:** (Please circle)    **Aboriginal/ Torres Strait Islander**    **EaLD**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary School currently attended:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Contact**

**Parent/Carer Name (s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer contactable email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer contactable phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secondary Contact**

**Parent/Carer Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer contactable phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer contactable email:** \_\_\_\_\_

An online application is available at <https://forms.gle/vErBkn34k75Ywbtv6>

<b>Supporting documentation/evidence you will need to bring to the interview:</b>
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In a folder or display book, please bring the following documents that have been completed by your son/daughter:

**General Tasks**

- A sample of original writing completed in their own handwriting.
- A sample of a completed task in mathematics.
- A sample of work from a science and technology lesson.
- A sample of any other work chosen by your son/daughter to show ability in other areas.
- Optional - copies of certificates from competitions, awards, etc.

**Statistical information**

- A copy of your son/daughter's - Last report card
- YR5 NAPLAN

**PART A** (Student to complete)

**STUDENT SELF-NOMINATION**

Why do you wish to apply for the Excel class for Year 7? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your favourite subject and why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Have you participated in any of the following extra-curricular activities or school clubs in Year 5 and or 6? (Circle all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	SRC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Speaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peer Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Debating	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sport Team/s	<input type="checkbox"/>	Debating
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross Country	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEM	<input type="checkbox"/>	Buddy Reading
<input type="checkbox"/>	Canteen Helper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Athletics Carnival	<input type="checkbox"/>	Spelling Bee
<input type="checkbox"/>	Swim Carnivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Choir	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mathematics Competition
Other:					

**PART A** (Student self-nomination continued)

What are your Academic Strengths (Circle all that apply)

	Organisation		Collaboration		Communication
	Decision Making		Critical Thinking		Creative Thinking
	Presentation		Focus in class		Citizenship
	Literacy		Numeracy		Information Technology
Other:					

Please give examples of why you perceive (believe) these to be your academic strengths

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What are your Academic Opportunities (places for improvement) (Circle all that apply)

	Organisation		Collaboration		Communication
	Decision Making		Critical Thinking		Creative Thinking
	Presentation		Focus in class		Citizenship
	Literacy		Numeracy		Information Technology
Other:					

Please give examples of why you perceive (believe) these to be your academic opportunities.

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**PART A** (Student self-nomination continued)

What type of reading materials do you read? Choose all that apply.

	Chapter books		Magazines		Newspaper
	Comic Books		Graphic Novels		Other types of Books
Other:					

How many hours would you read per week ? (Circle which applies)

None      15min - 1hr      1-2 hrs      2-3hrs      more than 3hrs

When you are not at school, what do you do? E.g.: hobbies/sports/ drama etc...

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In general, how would your teachers describe your effort, attitude, and behaviour in class? Check the boxes which apply to you.

	Poor	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent
Effort					
Attitude					
Behaviour					

In general, how would your teachers describe your class interactions - Check the boxes which apply to you.

<b>Class Interaction</b>	<b>Never</b>	<b>Sometimes</b>	<b>Usually</b>	<b>Always</b>
Has a positive attitude to learning,				
Has a positive attitude to learning,				
Are able following instructions,				
Is respectful towards all members of the class (teacher and peers),				
Is prepared to learn at all times,				
Is striving for excellence in all aspects of academics,				
Is able to complete all class tasks,				
Is highly motivated and enthusiastic about learning,				
Is able to work collaboratively with all members of the class,				
Shows resilience when coming up against hard tasks				

Describe how you have completed homework, assignments and group learning activities outside of school hours.

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If you were given the opportunity to meet anyone from the past or present, with whom would you most like to meet and why?

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**PART A** (Student self-nomination continued)

What sorts of things interest you? Do you know a lot about certain things? What are they?

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Please tick the frequency of characteristics which you think you display:

<b>CHARACTERISTIC</b>	<b>MOST OF THE TIME</b>	<b>SOME OF THE TIME</b>	<b>RARELY</b>
Recalls facts easily			
Expresses himself/herself fluently			
Is always asking questions			
Has a sophisticated sense of humour			
Finds unusual uses for things			
Tends to lead/initiate activities			
Is curious			
Has a long attention span			
Is easily bored			
Is an avid reader			
Thinks logically and has an accurate recall			
Mixes with older children and adults			
Is impulsive			
Is an independent learner			
Is concerned about world issues			
Has high personal standards regarding schoolwork			
Shows impatience with limitations, repetition and injustices			

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:**    /    /

**PART B** (Parent/Carer to complete)

**PARENT NOMINATION**

What academic strengths or achievements has your son/daughter demonstrated?

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Please comment on your son/daughter's attitude to learning, including homework and extension activities. Why is your child interested in becoming a member of the Orara High School Excel Class?

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**PART B** (Parent/Carer nomination continued)

Please tick the frequency of characteristics displayed by your son/daughter:

<b>CHARACTERISTIC</b>	<b>MOST OF THE TIME</b>	<b>SOME OF THE TIME</b>	<b>RARELY</b>
Recalls facts easily			
Expresses himself/herself fluently			
Is always asking questions			
Has a sophisticated sense of humour			
Finds unusual uses for things			
Tends to lead/initiate activities			
Is curious			
Has a long attention span			
Is easily bored			
Is an avid reader			
Thinks logically and has an accurate recall			
Mixes with older children and adults			
Is impulsive			
Is an independent learner			
Is concerned about world issues			
Has high personal standards regarding schoolwork			
Shows impatience with limitations, repetition and injustices			

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date:    /    /

**So, what happens now?**

- After your Principal/ Teacher has completed Part C, and all Parts to be returned by the 29th of May.
- Applications will be reviewed, and you will be contacted if successful for an interview
- Interviews will be held approximately Week 7 of Term 2 and students will find out about the placement by Week 1 Term 3.

**ORARA HIGH SCHOOL EXCEL EXTENSION CLASS  
STUDENT APPLICATION FOR YEAR 7 2024**

**PART C** (Primary School Principal/Class Teacher to complete)

**SCHOOL NOMINATION (CONFIDENTIAL)**

Please forward Section A, B and C **by Wednesday 29 May 2023 to the Excel Co-ordinator, Orara High School - Please contact [Kate.herwig@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Kate.herwig@det.nsw.edu.au)** if there are any issues.

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide comments on the following aspects of this student's abilities:

Academic strengths and achievements

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Attitudes to learning, including homework and willingness to participate in extension activities.

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Classroom behaviour and willingness to work co-operatively.

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Attendance

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**Year 5 Check-In Data**

<b>Literacy</b>	
<b>Numeracy</b>	

In general, how would you describe the student's effort, attitude and behaviour in class?

	Poor	Below Average	Average	Above Average	Excellent
Effort					
Attitude					
Behaviour					

What is the rank of the student in relation to other students in their class/ cohort

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In general, how would you describe the student's class interactions.

Class Interaction	Never	Sometimes	Usually	Always
Has a positive attitude to learning,				
Has positive social interactions with peers,				
Are able following instructions,				
Is respectful towards all members of the class (teacher and peers),				
Is prepared to learn at all times,				
Is striving for excellence in all aspects of academics,				
Is able to complete all class tasks,				
Is highly motivated and enthusiastic about learning,				
Is able to work collaboratively with all members of the class,				
Shows resilience when coming up against hard tasks				

Anything other information to support their application.

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Principal/Teacher Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: / /