



# GT Online

Connecting bright minds across WA

## Our Commitment

We are committed to providing high quality student care and striving for excellence in academic achievement

### WELLBEING

Teachers are committed to the 'whole child' and focus is given to understanding and nurturing each child's social and emotional wellbeing.



### LEARNING

Development of students as independent and active lifelong learners is a priority, through the provision of high-quality teaching catering to the needs of gifted learners, in a structured and engaging environment.



### ACHIEVEMENT

Students are successfully prepared with the skills and understandings to achieve their personal best and collective excellence.



GT Online learners develop the skills of independent, active learners:

self-motivation

active participation

confident decision making

self-reflection

communication



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GIFTED AND TALENTED ONLINE

## Who can access the GT Online Program?

To gain entry to the GT Online Program students must be successful in the selective entry test administered by the Gifted and Talented Selection Unit.

The program is available for identified students from Year 7 to 10 in government schools in regional and remote Western Australia. In 2021, there are over 80 students enrolled from 34 different locations across WA.

Participating in the GT Online Program is a rewarding and educationally challenging opportunity that sets high standards and promotes the successful attainment of learning outcomes. The program aims to develop independent students with a love of learning, well prepared for upper school and beyond.



## What does the program offer?

GT Online delivers an accessible curriculum differentiated to cater for the needs of gifted students. The program provides a schooling option for highly able academic students in regional areas, giving them the opportunity to reach their full academic potential while still living in their hometown and attending their local school. Courses are delivered in the four core learning areas of Mathematics, Science, English, Humanities & Social Sciences.



**The GT Online curriculum is differentiated for selected academic students using three broad approaches:**

### ACCELERATION

**Compacting the curriculum and increasing the pace of learning. The recognition of prior knowledge and the removal of unnecessary repetition provides time to advance into content from a higher year level as well as for extension and enrichment activities.**

### EXTENSION

**Deepening students' understanding of concepts and topics studied.**

### ENRICHMENT

**Broadening learning experiences—sometimes beyond the curriculum—and encouraging the expansion of knowledge and skills.**

# Curriculum, assessment and reporting

- GT Online courses cover the core skills and understanding critical to each discipline and extend students' higher order thinking. Learning is focused on the achievement of particular objectives or goals through problem-solving and critical and creative thinking. Tasks often involve the creation of a 'product' which achieves the goal of the task and demonstrates the learning.
- Students are given access to online learning tools such as Education Perfect and Mathspace to assist their independent learning. Gizmos online science simulations help to build deep conceptual understanding in science.
- GT Online teachers are experienced in working with gifted and talented students. They work at schools delivering selective academic programs and are immersed in the culture of gifted and talented education.
- The teachers have high expectations of students to complete all of the course requirements, including attendance at lessons and submission of work. They also expect students to participate actively in lessons and to complete work to the best of their ability. High expectations help students to recognise the value of their learning and to take pride in the work they complete. The ability to manage time and to work independently are key skills developed in the GT Online Program, preparing students for senior school and all future learning.
- GT Online teachers monitor and assess student progress and report on student achievement. Letters of Commendation and Letters of Concern are issued to celebrate student progress or indicate areas of underperformance. GT Online interim and semester reports are written by the GT Online teacher and emailed to parents and the home school.

## How does the program work?

On entry, students are guided to commence studying either the Mathematics and Science stream or the Humanities stream (Humanities & Social Sciences and English). Once the expectations of the course are understood and the required time management and organisational skills developed, a review can be undertaken and the option to study all four subjects is available.

Students commit 3 to 4 hours per week of school time to each subject, allowing for two online classes and two independent work sessions. Students do not attend mainstream classes in the subject areas they are studying in GT Online and every attempt is made to schedule their online lessons to match their school timetable.

### Typical workflow

- 1 Students work in intensive, small group classes with their teacher for two periods per week in real time using Webex video conferencing. This platform allows students to communicate with their teacher using voice and video and to work together using a shared visual working space.
- 2 For a further two periods per week, students work independently during school time on learning activities and research tasks in the school library or online room. A secure online learning system called Moodle, provides students with their course program and learning resources. It allows them to communicate with their teacher, participate in online tests and gives access to other interactive tools.
- 3 In addition, 1 to 3 hours of homework will be required depending on year level.

The online class sizes vary, with a maximum of 12 students. Students interact with their online peers at a higher academic level than can normally be provided in the regular classroom.

GT Online classes are timetabled with the principle of minimal interruption to regular school classes. This is achieved by analysing all school timetables to find the best fit for the most students. Multiple 'streams' of lessons are offered to allow for different school timetables.





“

Being in the GT Online program has inspired me and from it I have gained extraordinary knowledge and experience that help define who I am.”

“

This program has helped extend me so much and the teachers are awesome. Also as the classes are small in number it is easy to ask for any clarification, help, etc.”



### Residential Camps

Two residential camps are held in Perth each year. The camps contribute to the academic, social and personal development of students by offering the following:

- Practical and enrichment activities in Maths, Science, English & HASS curriculum.
- Positive teacher-student interactions, promoting participation in the program and positive educational outcomes.
- An opportunity to build social connection among students and promote positive interaction with like-minded peers.

Very often friendships quickly form and students experience a sense of relief and happiness in finding a group of like-minded peers.

### Access to national and international competitions

Competitions are considered an important part of a gifted program, as they play a role in motivating students to perform and excel and provide a platform for students to display their knowledge and skills.

The feedback on performance can be a valuable source of self-evaluation for students and help nurture their experience and skills.

Over the years, many GT Online students have been medal winners and have been recognised for very high levels of achievement from independent organisations.



# GT Online Good Standing Policy

Good Standing is issued when you enter the GT Online program and at the commencement of each school year.

To maintain Good Standing, you need to do the following:

## ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

*I agree to:*

- ✓ Schedule my non-contact time to specific learning areas and make productive use of this time to complete course tasks.
- ✓ Be prepared and on time for all Webex classes and non-contact lessons.
- ✓ Have a high level of attendance — any absence must have a reasonable explanation provided.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

*I agree to:*

- ✓ Login to Moodle every lesson to access work and communicate with my teacher via messages. Respond to messages from my teachers.
- ✓ Complete and submit all work and assessment tasks by the due date.
- ✓ Message my teacher when I am unsure what to do. Request a time to chat one on one with my teacher before or after class if required.
- ✓ Seek help from my Coordinator if I have technical or timetable problems.

## BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

*I agree to:*

- ✓ Give my full attention to the teacher during lessons and maintain my focus on the screen.
- ✓ Participate in lessons, being prepared to contribute to discussions and listen to others.
- ✓ Apply effort to produce work of a suitable standard.
- ✓ Use communication tools appropriately (e.g. Messages and Chat) for educational purposes only.

**Your teachers and coordinators will support you and help you to become a successful online learner. You need to take responsibility for what you can do to make this happen.**

## Loss of Good Standing

The Program Coordinator will recommend loss of Good Standing if you:

- cannot provide reasonable explanation for **persistent** absences
- are **persistently** late to class **without satisfactory explanation**
- are demonstrating **consistent** poor application, late/unsatisfactory completion of homework or coursework, come unprepared for lessons, or do not respect the rights of others to learn.

### Notification

The Program Coordinator will notify you, your parents and School Coordinator when you are at risk of losing your Good Standing. If you do not make a consistent significant improvement, there will be a loss of Good Standing.

### Consequences of loss of Good Standing

Without Good Standing you will:

- have your suitability for participation in the GT Online Program reviewed
- have your suitability to attend the GT Online camp reviewed
- not be selected as a representative of the GT Online Program in extra-curricular activities.

### Return to Good Standing

If you lose your Good Standing your Parents/guardians will be contacted to discuss the loss, what the consequences are in terms of loss of privileges and how Good Standing can be regained.

## Things to do when you're at risk of losing your Good Standing:

- 1 Initiate discussion with the Program Coordinator, your School Coordinator or your GT Online teacher/s.
- 2 Design a plan of action to improve.
- 3 Follow your plan of action.
- 4 Report back to the Program Coordinator, your School Coordinator or your GT Online teacher/s.

The GT Online Good Standing policy is provided to maintain consistency in decision-making processes.

Any decision to withdraw or maintain Good Standing will be at the discretion of the Program Coordinator.



# Program Support

## GT Online Teachers and the Moodle Learning Platform

Students have access to a secure educational website where all learning programs are located. Students have access to resources, tasks and some assessments.

There is a secure, direct messaging tool available to students to communicate with their teachers.

Student upload work to drop boxes and can participate in forums to discuss ideas.

## Program Coordinator

The Program Coordinator is located at Perth Modern School and strives for excellence in the delivery of an online program which meets the needs, concerns and real-life challenges of regional gifted and talented selected entrance program students. The Coordinator is the primary point of contact for schools and parents and is in regular communication with all stakeholders in the program.

## School Coordinator

The GT Online program is reliant on having a school-based liaison person to assist and support students in accessing the online programs at the school level.

The School Coordinator's responsibilities are:

### Timetables

- Provide school timetables to the GT Online Program Coordinator to assist in timetabling of online classes.
- Liaise with the GT Online Program Coordinator to select most suitable lesson times.
- Meet with students to help them coordinate a school + online timetable, providing a Week A and Week B version if Maths and Science are being studied online.
- Ensure school-based teachers are aware of the reason for student's early departure/late arrival to lessons. Students may need assistance initiating this conversation with their teachers.

### Lesson Organisation

**Non-contact lesson time:** students require a quiet place with access to a computer and should not be expected to work in a classroom where lessons are being conducted.

- Organise an appropriate location within the school where the students can work on a school-networked computer for 'live' lessons.
- Organise equipment for students (eg. computer, headset) and ensure it is in good working order.
- Notify GT Online Program Coordinator if headsets need to be supplied.
- Notify GT Online Coordinator of major school events that will impact student lesson attendance.

### Pastoral Care

- Check in with the GT Online students, reassuring them that they have a contact person in the school and someone to ask for help.
- Provide support to students new to GT Online, listening to their concerns and partnering with older GT Online students as mentors if possible.
- Follow up on ongoing unexplained absences from GT Online classes if required.

### Coursework

- Distribute GT Online resources to students and facilitate their return as required.
- Assist students to scan/email completed work to their online teacher.
- Coordinate with students a suitable day and location for them to complete topic tests sent by the online teachers. These tests are to be administered under normal test conditions.
- If required, scan and return completed topic tests to online teachers as soon as possible.



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