

## **Gifted and Talented Students (Children With Special Abilities – CWSA)**

**Worrying how your gifted and talented child will  
cope in the future? Read on:**

### **Introduction**

*While all individual students have strengths and abilities, gifted and talented students have exceptional abilities. They have certain learning characteristics that give them the potential to achieve outstanding performance.*

*Ministry of Education 2002*

### **Giftedness and talent can be seen in the following areas:**

- **Intellectual/Academic** refers to students with exceptional abilities in one or more of the essential learning areas (i.e. language and languages, mathematics, technology, health and physical education, social sciences, science, the arts).
- **Creativity** refers to students with general creative abilities as evidenced in their abilities to problem-find and problem-solve, and their innovative thinking and productivity.
- **Expression through the visual and performing arts** refers to music, dance, drama and visual arts.
- **Social/Leadership** refers to students with interpersonal and intrapersonal abilities and qualities which enable them to act in leadership roles.
- **Culture-specific abilities and qualities** refers to those valued by the student's cultural or ethnic group, including traditional arts and crafts, pride in their cultural identity, language ability and service to the culture.
- **Expression through physical activity/sport** refers to students with excellent physical abilities and skills, as evidenced through sport and/or health and physical education programmes.

At Ōtūmoetai Intermediate School, we are committed to ensuring that all students reach their full potential. It also includes an awareness and recognition of the social and emotional needs of gifted and talented students. This includes a student's emotional development, their level of perseverance, resilience and inter-personal skills within a typical group of peers.

We also recognise that some identification methods, and isolating gifted and talented students from their peers, could potentially have negative effects upon their social and emotional development in the long term.

This is why we have developed a range of approaches including our **Incredible Minds Programme** for educating gifted and talented students (CWSA) that are tailored to their needs. Students who are identified as having advanced ability, are clustered together and placed in a class that includes other clusters of students. This provides groupings representative of the wider community, but also enables these CWSA students to have advanced learning in a differentiated class room. Our gifted students, as well as having their needs met, also have the opportunity to develop leadership skills and work collaboratively with a wide range of students while not being labelled as 'different'.

Emphasis is on developing each student's emotional IQ alongside academic targets.

Students are also given the opportunity to participate in our **Friday Incredible Minds Programme** which includes Mansfield and Rutherford academic classes, Arts Academy, Sports Academy, Digital Arts and Leadership Centre.

## **Description**

Giftedness is a complex phenomenon and because of this, our identification process is multidimensional. We draw upon a selection of objective and subjective sources to gather the information. These include using valid and reliable instruments such as PAT results, specific selection tests, teacher observations and parents' knowledge. Creativity is a key characteristic of giftedness and this is valued and nurtured at our school.

All students who meet the criteria will be involved in our specialised programmes. Information gathering is also on-going to ensure we have detailed and accurate information that assists in planning suitable strategies and curriculum adaptations to enhance the learning of these students. We also appreciate cultural perspectives when collecting data on students.

We have staff who have been identified as having skills and being passionate about working with gifted students and they are continuously involved in professional development. We are aware of the vulnerability of highly gifted students in areas such as: uneven development, adult expectations, self-definition, inappropriate environments, perfectionism, alienation, intense sensitivity and role conflicts, and ensure that the environment is supportive in order to assist students to cope with these vulnerabilities.

Extension opportunities may include: Music Composition, Visual Arts, Dance and Drama, Design, Computer Skills such as web page design and presenting, 3D printing, Robotics, Science, Philosophy, Mathematics, Debating, Japanese, Technology and Leadership.

Students gifted and talented in the area of psychomotor aspects of education such as athletics, dancing/mime and sporting disciplines are given the opportunity to participate in elite skill opportunities and activities.

## **Friday Incredible Minds Programme for Gifted and Talented Students (Children With Special Abilities)**

### **Year 7 and 8 Academic High-Performance Classes (Friday Programme)**

In 2025 the school will have two academic high-performance classes in Year 7. One of these will be the Year 7 Rutherford class and the other the Year 7 Mansfield class. There will also be the same two academic high-performance classes in Year 8.

The Rutherford classes cater for students who are gifted and talented in the sciences and mathematics and the Mansfield classes cater for students gifted and talented in literacy. These classes operate on Fridays and complement the home class differentiated learning for the CWSA student clusters.

Entry is by invitation for the following classes:

- **Year 7 Rutherford class**
- **Year 7 Mansfield class**
- **Year 8 Rutherford class**
- **Year 8 Mansfield class**

At the same time as these selections are being made for Year 7 and Year 8, students will be able to audition or try out for the other Incredible Minds academies. Selections for both Year 7 and Year 8 will be finalised by the end of Term 1.

Students will only be able to participate in one of the Academic High-Performance Classes or Academies in any one year. As a result, some students who have been accepted for more than one of these, will need to make a choice. They will have many opportunities to become involved in sports, digital learning and the arts outside of the Friday programme.

### **Criteria for Selection**

To be selected, students must be achieving at a minimum of stanine 8 or 9 in PAT tests and asTTle Level 5 for Year 7 or asTTle Level 6 for Year 8. The top 25 students will be selected for these programmes.

## Programme

The programme for the Year 7 Mansfield classes covers: Japanese, History, Film Studies and Philosophy.

The programme for the Rutherford classes will be a combination from: Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Digital Technologies.

## Digital Arts Groups



It is anticipated we will continue to provide an opportunity for students to apply for advanced multimedia learning in 2025. This develops the students' ability to animate, create films and use advanced software.

Groups will also be formed for Robotics and 3D design and printing.

## Sports Academy

The Sports Academy provides opportunities for two different groups of school athletes, namely those identified through individual learning pathways as being our top achieving elite athletes and those students selected to represent the school at selected tournaments. There will of course be many students who fall into both of these categories.



The Academy will provide a programme of seminars and practical training sessions for those identified through individual learning pathways. Seminar and workshop topics will include:

- Fitness and training.
- Nutrition.
- Professional sports career pathways.
- Sports physiology.
- Tertiary training options.
- Sport BOP.
- Guest speakers.
- Skills workshops.

The core group of students selected for this academy will be drawn from Year 8 with students having demonstrated their ability during Year 7. Students will be invited to apply for the Sports Academy early in term 1, 2025.

## Arts Academy



The Arts Academy provides opportunities for three different groups of students in the disciplines of Visual Art, Dance/Drama and Music. The Arts Academy programme runs simultaneously with the academic classes and other academies as part of our school's Incredible Minds programme. It involves students who have been identified as being our top gifted and talented students in these three disciplines.

Selection to the visual arts, music and performing arts classes in this academy will be by application in the first weeks of term 1, 2025. Students will be invited to complete an application form followed by auditions. Students will be selected from these auditions and all applicants advised of the outcome of their application.

Successful applicants will spend each Friday involved in extension activities in visual arts, drama/dance or music.

Programmes include:

- Advanced tutoring individually and on a group basis.
- Workshops with experts from the community.
- Out of school visits and tours.
- Entry to a variety of competitions and productions.
- Individual coaching towards career opportunities.
- Guest speakers and mentors.

## Leadership Programme



The Leadership Programme will provide opportunities for students identified as having potential in this area. Selection to the Leadership Centre is carried out at the end of Year 7. Students can nominate themselves or are nominated by their teachers to participate in a series of activities. Based on the outcome of these activities, student leaders are selected to lead the school in Year 8.

Students will also have responsibilities to perform around the school. These activities will be subjects for discussion groups at regular intervals throughout the year as part of a school council. These will include:

- The running of school assemblies.
- Acting as school ambassadors on such occasions as orientation days for our contributing schools etc.
- Taking responsibility for environmental issues that impact on the school.
- Being the student voice as part of the school decision making process.

- Assisting with the organisation within school events, Year 8 social, etc.
- Year 8 students will be used to mentor Year 7 students who need support with transition into our school.
- Communication of school notices.

The aim of this programme is to empower Ōtūmoetai Intermediate students who demonstrate leadership attributes and skills. It will give them the opportunity to mix with other students who also demonstrate these skills and to provide outcomes that will assist them to demonstrate excellent leadership knowledge and skills in their future.