Selection
Parents who intend for their child to attend Viewbank College in 2016 are invited to book their student into the placement testing which will take place at the College on Saturday, May 9th, 2015 between 10.00am sharp (please arrive 15 minutes early) and 12.30pm. Applications are to be made via Trybooking by accessing the link http://www.trybooking.com/GGFB
Applications close Monday, May 4th, 2015 at 8pm sharp.
No late registration will be accepted.
There will be a non-refundable test fee of $50.00 plus a 30 cent Trybooking fee.

The selection processes are designed to identify students for whom this type of program is appropriate. These tests provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate that they have the appropriate academic skills to allow them to benefit from an accelerated curriculum. Students will be required to sit three short tests to assess aptitude and ability in Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning and Literacy. Applicants who gain suitable test scores across the whole range of skills tested may be interviewed. Information may also be sought from the student's primary school as deemed necessary.

A class of 25 students will be selected and parents will receive a letter advising whether their child has been offered a place in this class in August around about the same time that Primary Schools are notifying parents of acceptance into secondary schools. This program is both challenging and rewarding, thus it is essential that students have a high level of maturity and commitment and be capable of independent learning. It is important that parents do not pressure students unduly to participate in the program. The motivation to be involved should come from the student.

It is important to understand that an Enhanced/Acceleration program will not suit every student who is academically talented and that many parents do not want their student to be accelerated. Viewbank College recognizes that there is a need to extend and enhance all students, particularly those talented and highly motivated students in mainstream classes.

Review
Continuation in the special program will be dependent on satisfactory progress in all studies. Students are closely monitored throughout the year. The progress of each student will be reviewed at the conclusion of each semester and parents and the student will be consulted should there be concerns over the student's progress. It is possible a student may wish to leave the program and join peers in mainstream classes, however parents and the student would need to discuss this with the College.

Should you have further enquiries please contact
Mrs. Maree Gaffney, Assistant Principal on 9458 2811
Our Enhanced Acceleration Test is 3 tests produced by Viewbank College based on Mathematics, Verbal Reasoning and Literacy.

Context
In 1995, the Education Department launched the *Bright Futures* policy which aims to enhance teaching and learning; particularly in providing additional opportunities for and recognition of gifted and talented students in government schools. The policy recognises a broad definition of ‘giftedness’ embracing and encouraging excellence in all forms of intellectual, academic and creative endeavour. Three focus areas have been identified for more able students:

- **Gifted students** - in the top 5% in each year level, these students are capable of very high performance in a wide range of areas, although they may not always achieve at the level of their ability.

- **Talented students** - they are a diverse group spread across the whole achievement range. They have exceptional ability/interests in particular areas.

- **Faster learners** - the top 30-40% in each year level, these students have the capacity/interest to learn quickly and are able to work a year or more in advance of the average student.

Enhanced/Acceleration at Viewbank College
Viewbank College is a member of an Enhanced/Acceleration Education Network. The Viewbank College Enhanced/Acceleration program is designed to offer *gifted and talented* learners who have been identified as very capable, committed and enthusiastic students, the opportunity to work in a challenging and stimulating environment with students of similar ability. The team of teachers delivering this program endeavours to create learning situations that will allow these students to achieve their maximum potential. Suitable students will have academic skills above those of their age peer group.

Their needs will be accommodated by a curriculum which:
- offers a faster paced study structure which is non-repetitive, thus covering traditional curriculum in a shorter amount of time.
- provides opportunity to study more abstract, complex, and in-depth content within a subject area.
- enables students to work independently to achieve their academic potential.
- provides the opportunity for students to interact with intellectual peers.
- challenges by involvement in both individual and collaborative learning projects.
- provides opportunities to draw connections by exposure to integrated studies.
- develops positive self-esteem.
- nurtures and develops self-confidence to learn.
- extends their powers of reasoning and logic by critical thinking activities.
- encourages participation in a wide range of enrichment activities offered at the College.

Structure
Students in the Enhanced/Acceleration Program may undertake a learning program that differs from mainstream classes in that their studies will be compacted over the first 3 years of their secondary schooling, allowing students to undertake a broader range of VCE subjects and maximize their achievement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Course Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 7 Enhanced and part Year 8 work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Part Year 8 Enhanced and Year 9 work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Part Year 9 Enhanced Year 10 work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>A mixture of Yr 10 Enhanced &amp; Yr 11 work (depending on readiness for VCE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Unit 1 &amp; 2 and 3 &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Unit 3 &amp; 4</td>
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</tbody>
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Students in this program will be encouraged and are expected to be involved in a range of College activities such as sport, the College production, debating and music. They are also expected to be involved in a number of competitions and programs as outlined in the *Activities for Enhancement and Acceleration* handbook.