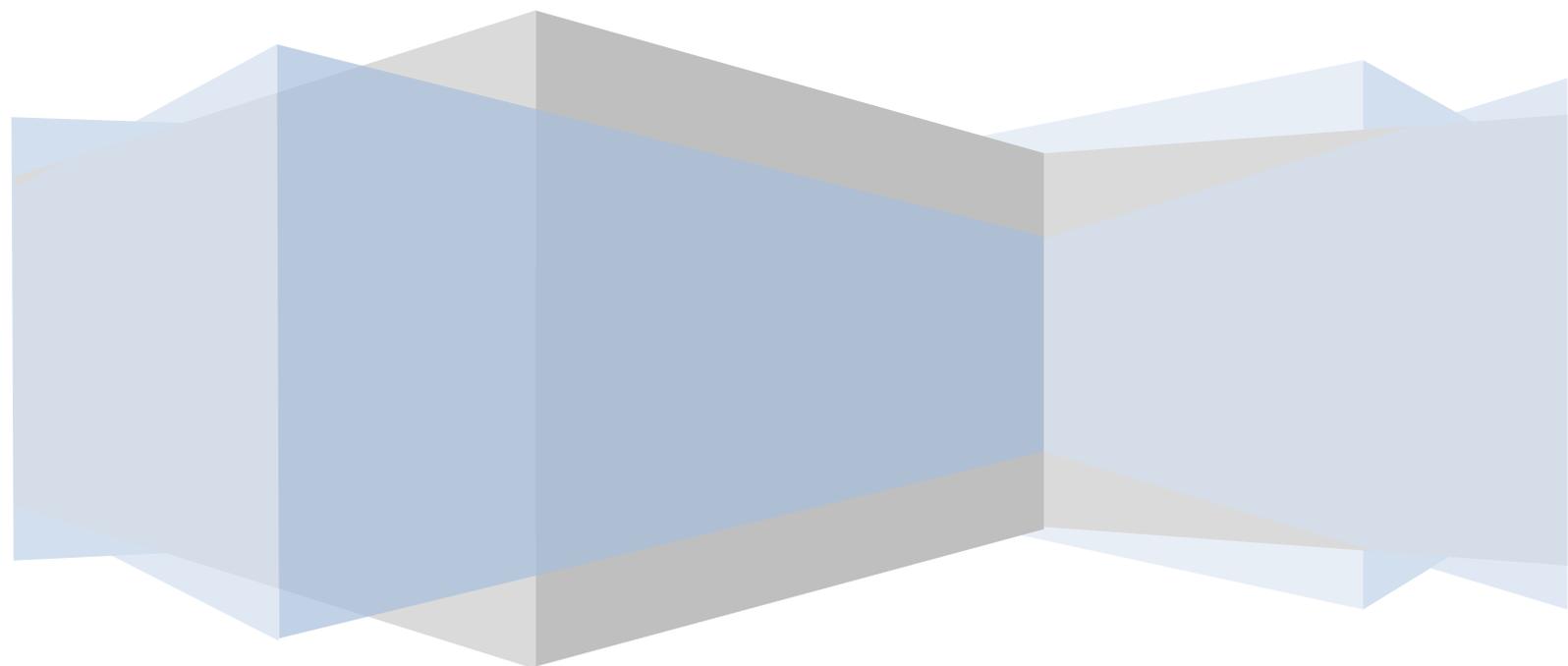# ADVANCED LEARNING PROJECTS (ALPS)

2017 PROGRAM

ADVANCED LEARNING PROJECTS

OVERVIEW:

The Advanced Learning Projects (ALPs) is a special program of study intended for students who are achieving well in their current studies and who want something a little bit more – more interesting, more challenging, more feedback, more open-ended.

These programs are academically challenging and require students to work independently on their chosen project over a long period of time. As there are a limited number of available mentors entry into these projects are based on student applications.

WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

There are several aspects to a student's involvement in Advanced Learning Programs. Each student will be working with Miss Smith and will have an additional supervisor to assist them with their project more regularly. This supervisor will assist the student to set and meet regular project goals and give feedback to assist their skill and knowledge development. Student will be expected to meet with their supervisor one lunch time per fortnight cycle to touch base on their progress and get assistance with completing their work.

The details of the requirements for an ALPs project are negotiable, however, in general students will complete a significant written report (of some form, or a written test) and a five minute public presentation. The presentation occurs at the High School Advanced Learning open night in Term 4, dates to be confirmed during the year. Student participation in the Alps will also be assessed.

Involvement in ALPs will be separately recorded on student reports as an additional unit of study. This is to recognise and indicate to future employers or educators the heightened level of work the student has participated in and their degree of success.

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS COULD I DO?

The ALPs are designed to be very flexible depending on a student's interests and resources (time) they have available. Students are encouraged to design their own projects, or can choose from a number of suggested topics. All ALPs are required to be: challenging, cover content beyond what would normally be completed at school and completed over a prolonged period of time.

Students can complete projects in any subject area, even (and especially) areas that are not typically taught at high school. For example: Biblical theology, psychology, fractals, statistics, Spanish, computer programming, architecture, rocketry, oceanography etc.

Students can also complete many different types of projects. For example: scientific experiments and investigations, geographic impact studies, design portfolios, online courses, building models, writing a novel, solving current real world problems, performing art, etc.

The following pages include project types that we think would be interesting for you, feel free to choose one of those, or come up with your own ideas.

SUGGESTED TIMEFRAME FOR ALPS

→ Term 1   Fill out application form and submit to Miss Smith
            Discuss with Miss Smith goals of project.
            Initial meeting with supervisor to discuss aims and structure of project.

→ Term 2   Meet with supervisor every 2-3 weeks and inform of progress

→ Term 3   Meet with supervisor every 2-3 weeks and inform of progress

            Negotiate with the supervisor a marking criteria for written component

→ Term 4   Week 4: Submit written component to supervisor
            Week 5: Present your oral component at the Advanced Learning Open night

I WANT TO DO A PROJECT, HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Excellent choice! Firstly you will need to complete an application form and get it signed by your parents then submit it and discuss your project with Miss Smith. After that you will be matched with a supervisor and can begin working!

PROJECT TYPES:

ONLINE COURSES:

One of the best ways to complete an ALPs project is via an online course. There are thousands of different courses online that you can complete for free and receive training certificates for. Here's just a quick sample from http://Udacity.com

- **Tales from the genome** – an introductory course on genetics and biology
- **Landmarks in Physics** – an introductory course in Physics, showing how we answered the major questions of the past 2000 years
- **Intro to Psychology** – a study of human thought and behaviour
- **Design of everyday things** – It exposes the science behind design to help you understand the power of good design and the many challenges designers face.

https://alison.com also provides a number of different courses that students can complete at diploma level. Alison offers a:

- **Diploma in Psychology** – an introductory course on classic and contemporary psychology.
- **Diploma in Human Anatomy and Physiology** – Introduction to anatomy and physiology of system in the body.
- **Diploma in Legal Studies** – A study of key legal subjects.
- **Diploma in Business and Legal Studies** – Covers key topics like corporate management, human resources, operations management.

There are many more providers for free online courses - so you're sure to find a course to suit you! Other online providers include:

- https://www.open2study.com/courses
- https://www.coursera.org/
- https://www.edx.org/
- https://www.futurelearn.com/
- https://www.open2study.com/
- University of Massachusetts, Boston http://ocw.umb.edu/
- http://online-learning.harvard.edu/
- MIT Open courses
- Curtin University http://courses.curtin.edu.au/course_overview/moocs.cfm

EXTERNAL COURSES:

There are many organisations that run courses outside of school that we could assist you to complete. In the past some students have completed courses like Moore Theological College – Introduction to the Bible with assistance at school. These courses are typically affordable but not free.

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND PRESENTATION PROJECTS:

Many students want to choose an open-ended research project. These projects will follow the structure of research projects at university. Students will need to:

- Pose their own question
- Justify why this question is important
- Summarise what is currently known about that question
- Plan a method to find an answer
- Carry out their method and report on their results.

These projects could be scientific, historical, philosophical, psychological or sociological in nature. For example, students could participate in the Philosophy Program and complete a project by exploring an issue raised from the program.

CREST allows students to plan their own independent, open-ended science investigation, which will be entered into the CSIRO CREST awards.

CREATIVE PROJECTS:

These projects involve the creation of something new – ranging from the fine arts (music, visual arts, photography etc) and literature to programming, engineering and architecture. Students will need to design and construct their chosen project and report on the process followed.

SKILL-BASED PROJECTS:

These projects are for students that would like to learn new skills and can be either self-directed or part of an extra-curricular course. Skill based projects could include any skill beyond what is typically taught in the classroom, for example learning:

- A new language (modern, ancient, spoken, written, human or computing)
- A new instrument
- An extra piece of mathematics (like fractals or matrices), etc.

Students would spend a regular amount of time working on their chosen skill until they believe they have developed mastery, after which they would need to demonstrate that mastery and perhaps move on to the next level skill.

https://www.khanacademy.org/ is one way where students could have directed learning of new skills where they can choose the skills they want to learn.

Please submit to Miss C Smith (@ K5 or HSIE staffroom)

Student name: _____   Grade: _____

1. What are your reasons for wanting to do this project?

2. What is your previous experience with independent research?

3. How many hours a week do you expect to devote to this project?

4. Briefly describe the project you would like to work on this year.

Parents/Carers to complete:

I have read the attached information sheet and support my son/daughter's application to enrol into an advanced learning project. I understand that this project will be assessed and an additional subject included in my child's report to indicate their level of success

Parent's name: _____   Parent's signature: _____

Student to complete:

I have read the attached information sheet and am keen to enrol in this additional unit of study. I understand that I will need to submit a written component and present to an audience for assessment. The format, date and style of both assessments will be negotiated with my supervisor after enrolment. I am planning on putting aside some time each fortnight to work on this project and to meet with my supervisor.

Student's signature: _____   Date: _____