



SOAR is Marcellin College's gifted and talented program for students in Years 7–9

SOAR enables high achieving and dedicated students to be challenged academically and provides a pathway that meets their specific needs.

SOAR is designed to accelerate and enrich students who share St Marcellin Champagnat's 'roll up your sleeves' attitude, passion and commitment to striving for the highest. Students who enter the program have exceptional abilities across several disciplines and are highly motivated to reach their full potential.

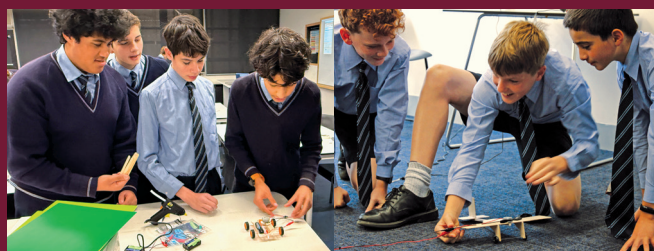
Delivered within a tailored learning environment, SOAR aims to provide students additional opportunities to engage with higher-order problem solving and inquiry-based projects that challenge their thinking and broaden their knowledge.

SOAR students are encouraged to go on to enter VCE early, or undertake university subjects during their final years at the College. This includes starting one or more VCE Unit 1&2 studies in Year 10 to support an early offer of a university placement.

SOAR is accessed by invitation based on academic testing and an application process.

For more information about SOAR

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SOAR STUDENTS LEARN THROUGH:

- Higher-order thinking
- Investigation inquiry projects
- Greater depth and breadth of content coverage
- Competitions and experiences
- Understanding how to learn



Learn more about SOAR



What is SOAR?

SOAR is a gifted and talented program, which accelerates learning of selected students who have exceptional abilities across multiple areas and are highly committed to furthering their academic outcomes.

How are SOAR students selected?

Students are invited to apply for entry into the SOAR program. Invitations are given based on primarily standardised testing results, then supplemented by school-based academic outcomes and College enrolment requirements.

How many students are accepted into SOAR?

SOAR is aimed at the top ~8% of the cohort with roughly a class size of 25 students, dependent on enrolment numbers for that particular cohort.

Does SOAR run for a student's entire academic year?

The SOAR program runs from Years 7 to 9 followed by options for early VCE entry or uptake of tertiary subjects in Year 12.

Can a student who misses out on a place in Year 7 SOAR be reselected at a higher year?

Students who show exceptional academic performance and attitude in Year 7 or Year 8, and enrolments who transfer from a different school may be invited to participate in SOAR in the following year, depending on availability.

Do SOAR students work through content at a faster pace than the rest of their year level?

SOAR aligns with the Victorian Curriculum with greater emphasis placed on enriching student learning through higher-order thinking skills. Mathematics is accelerated where SOAR students can be working six to twelve months ahead, though curriculum is designed to reflect a pace that suits student learning needs and maximises opportunities for higher order thinking and inquiry-based learning.

Are SOAR students separated from the rest of their year level?

Students in SOAR undertake all core subjects together but join other students in their year level for all other classes, dependent on the electives they have chosen. Students will still be with other students in pastoral, co-curricular and external competition activities. There are also many other opportunities for SOAR students to work and socialise with other students such as sporting days, reflection days, excursions and incursions.

Do SOAR students have more homework?

Homework expectations are similar but may involve more in depth learning tasks for those students in the SOAR program.

Are SOAR students expected to maintain certain grades?

Students in the SOAR program are expected to maintain high standards of work and an exemplary standard of learning behaviours and commitment to their studies. A student who does not meet the academic and commitment expectations may be removed from the program.

Can a student leave the SOAR program?

Students can ask to leave SOAR; in this situation a meeting between parents / carers and teachers would be required to plan an appropriate alternate learning program for students.

Will SOAR students be able to complete Year 12 earlier?

The SOAR program is from Years 7 to 9. Early VCE pathways are available to all students who meet the academic and motivational criteria to start VCE at an earlier stage. SOAR graduates are likely to go on to undertake VCE at an accelerated rate, for example, studying one or more Unit 1&2 subjects in Year 10. Through partnerships with many university providers, students can also undertake tertiary units at Year 12. This is granted on a case-by-case basis in consultation with students, parents / carers and teachers. SOAR students often go on to complete more VCE subjects than their peers, but do not leave school earlier.

Will it cost extra to be involved in SOAR?

There is no difference in cost.

Who teaches SOAR?

A small group of selected high achieving teachers teach within SOAR. They have received additional training and work closely together to collaborate, plan, develop and implement valuable and challenging educational experiences for students.



**MARCELLIN
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