



## James Ruse Agricultural High School Process for Enrolment Years 8-11

### School Context

James Ruse Agricultural is the top selective school in NSW. We provide highly gifted students with the best educational opportunities in order to achieve academically, to develop socially and to demonstrate the skills that are required to succeed in later life. We utilize the farm and agricultural education to encourage life long learning. We develop the whole child so that our students can become active and informed citizens locally, nationally and globally.

### Vacancies

Prospective applicants should be aware that:

- For Year 8 there are historically very few, if any, vacancies, therefore places are not generally offered.
- For Year 9, up to 30 places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria.
- For Year 10, up to 30 places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria.
- For Year 11, up to 30 places and vacancies, if any, may be offered, subject to applicants satisfying the selection criteria.
- James Ruse Agricultural High School does not accept enrolments into Year 12.

### The Application Process for Year 8-10

- Application is through an application form.
- The closing date for 2020 applications is **Friday 26 July 2019 at 3:15 pm**.
- *Applications received by mail or in person will not be accepted after this date or time.*

### Residency Requirements

- Applicants must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or holders of a visa granting permanent resident status in Australia. Proof of citizenship/residency must be provided.
- Parents must be living in NSW by the beginning of the school year. Proof of NSW residency must also be provided.

### Selection Process for Year 8-10

#### Selection Committee

Applications will be considered by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is chaired by the Principal. Deputy Principals act as the Principal's nominee. A community member is invited to assist in the selection process. The initial assessment of applications is made by a large sub-committee of the Selection Committee, comprising teacher assessors, selected and trained by the Principal.

All student applications are read by at least 2 teacher assessors and rated on the selection criteria (A-D). Each application is assessed at least twice and the assessors' scores are tallied and recorded. Once a rank order list is created, the Committee (Principal, Deputy Principal and Parent Representative) decides on the number of interviews that will be held after reviewing the recommendations of the sub-committee.



## **Selection Criteria**

### **Written Application**

Report marks and comments are used from the past 2 years – English, Maths and Science are given priority.

External data becomes very important - Competition results are also very important – High Distinctions are considered average at JRAHS; Naplan results are considered – JRAHS students receive top bands in all categories.

Teacher comments are very important (from Report)

Evidence of a balanced and resilient student that can thrive in a pressurised situation is gained through recognition of their extra curricular participation eg sport, leadership roles, service, volunteer work etc

Proximity and ease of access to the school

### **Interview**

The Principal and Head Teacher Wellbeing will interview students and their families in order to determine their desire to change schools and suitability to thrive in the James Ruse Agricultural High School environment.

**PLEASE be aware that evidence of the claims made in the written application (competition results, leadership roles etc) will be required for submission when an applicant is invited for interview.**

### **The Application Process for Year 11**

The process for application is the same for Year 11 as for Year 8-10 but it additionally includes the taking of an exam. We use an external company from Victoria – Edutest. Edutest design an exam that suits our specific needs and they supervise and conduct the exam. Edutest provides us with student results and also a copy we can send the parents. We select a range of our own students to sit the exam in order to act as a control.

### **Selection Process for Year 11**

#### **Selection Committee**

Applications will be considered by the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee is chaired by the Principal. Deputy Principals act as the Principal's nominee. A community member is invited to assist in the selection process. The initial assessment of applications is made by a large sub-committee of the Selection Committee, comprising teacher assessors, selected and trained by the Principal.

All student applications are read by at least 2 teacher assessors and rated on the selection criteria (A-D). Each application is assessed at least twice and the assessors' scores are tallied and recorded. A rank order list is created.



The Committee (Principal, Deputy Principal and Parent Representative) decides on the number of interviews that will be held after reviewing the recommendations of the sub-committee and the exam results.

### **Selection Criteria**

#### **Written Application**

Report marks and comments are used from the past 2 years – English, Maths and Science are given priority.

External data becomes very important - Competition results are also very important – High Distinctions are considered average at JRAHS; Naplan results are considered – JRAHS students receive top bands in all categories.

Teacher comments are very important (from Report)

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Proximity and ease of access to the school

#### **Exam**

Students are ranked according to overall results. Additionally we consider the creative and analytical writing sections.

#### **Interview**

The Principal and Head Teacher Wellbeing will interview students and their families in order to determine their desire to change schools and suitability to thrive in the James Ruse Agricultural High School environment.

**PLEASE be aware that evidence of the claims made in the written application (competition results, leadership roles etc) will be required for submission when an applicant is invited for interview.**

#### **Outcomes**

Students may be:

- offered a place or
- put on a reserve list or
- advised they did not qualify for a place or
- advised that there are no vacancies in that year.

#### **Offer of placement**

If students receive an offer they should complete, sign and return your response to the offer as soon as possible.



- Offers will lapse if responses are not received by the due date advised with the offer.
- Later offers made by telephone may require a response within 48 hours.
- If you are unable to access emails or mail during September and October, leave alternative contacts or those of a trusted person to respond on your behalf.
- When the school receives your response, either accepting or declining the offer, they will send a confirmation letter.
- Advise the school if you change your mind about accepting an offer. The next student on the list can then be made an offer.

Offers will be withdrawn if the student fails to enrol at the school at the beginning of the school year without satisfactory explanation. Enrolment may not be deferred beyond the Day 1, Term 2 of the year of intended enrolment. Any deferment or extended absence must be negotiated with the principal.

**Offers or enrolments will be cancelled if placement is made on the basis of false or misleading information.**

### **Reserve lists**

Applicants will be advised if they are placed on a reserve list for any of their chosen schools in the school year they applied for. We will contact applicants if a place becomes available.

### **Reviews**

If you believe you have good reason to contest a decision of the selection committee you can write to us with detailed reasons why you think the selection committee's decision should be reviewed. Applicants can request a review of the selection committee's decision under the following conditions.

- You can request a review if you have evidence that the stated criteria for selection were not considered or that the stated process was not followed.
- The request must be in writing – emailed, faxed or posted to the school.
- The request must be received by the selective high school within 14 days of the outcome advice being sent.
- A review request can be made of one school only.

### **Not grounds for a review**

Decisions cannot usually be reviewed if they are based on the following grounds:

- Disruption to schooling for reasons other than a medical condition – a request for a review will not be granted on the basis of family travel, moving house, participation in entertainment, sport, excursions or similar activities.
- Anxiety, depression, long-term illness or condition which affected the student's ability to demonstrate academic merit or performance in the assessments.
- Incomplete documentation – it is the applicant's responsibility to provide all required documentary evidence at the time of application.
- Another student's entry to a selective high school – entry to selective school is determined using a number of measures which may differ from classroom assessment.



- Delay in granting of a permanent residency visa.

Parents will be notified the outcome of their request within 14 days of submission.