



PROSPECTUS

James Ruse Agricultural High School





ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Established in 1959, James Ruse Agricultural High School is an academically selective coeducational public secondary school located in the leafy suburb of Carlingford, north west of Sydney CBD. The school staff strives to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of students, instil the core values of acceptance, service, participation, integrity, respect and endeavour (ASPIRE), and promote the importance of Agriculture in the school and the wider community.

The school has consistently been the top-ranking NSW high school since 1995. All James Ruse graduates undertake tertiary education, either domestically or internationally, and the school motto, *Gesta non verba* - deeds not words - continues to be embodied by them when they leave.

James Ruse Agricultural High School is one of 4 agricultural high schools in NSW established initially as a boys' high school offering the opportunity for metropolitan students to study practical and theoretical agriculture as part of their secondary school studies.

The school became co-educational in 1977 and is the only agricultural high school that operates as a day school. When our students leave, the subject of Agriculture remains the highlight of their high school experience.

The school's Administration building, Bishop Block and land, known as Barrengarry, were originally part of the Felton Estate and date back to 1885. The Felton family was a pioneering family of the district and in the 1950s the Department of Education and Training bought the site to form the fully functional agricultural high school it is today.

Situated on 10 hectares of land, half is dedicated to the working farm with farming enterprises including livestock such as Angus cattle, sheep, and hens.

The school was named in honour of James Ruse (1759–1837), an early settler, being the first to successfully grow a commercial crop of wheat in the new colony in Parramatta (1790c). Governor Arthur Phillip granted him title to the land he was farming, making James Ruse the first emancipist (freed convict) to receive title to land in New South Wales. His success in agriculture during the early years of the colony set the pattern for Australia's reputation as a farming nation.





PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With over 30 years of teaching experience, 20 of them specialising in gifted education in non-selective and selective schools both in the UK and Australia, it is my firm belief that the selective school environment is best suited to meet the academic and social needs of gifted students. Furthermore, I am proud of our coeducational setting which I believe best prepares students for life beyond school where working together is a fact of life.

We are a proud agricultural high school where agriculture is mandatory for all from Years 7-10. Here, all students undertake the Preliminary HSC course in Year 10, after which students can choose to undertake the HSC as an accelerated subject in Year 11. Students regularly tell me that undertaking 'Ag' is their favourite aspect of the school. We are lucky to have such a beautiful and well-maintained farm attached to the school and students are welcome to enjoy it beyond their timetabled lessons.

As we are in a highly specialised educational setting, we are in the unique position to be able to tailor all our programs towards highly gifted students. That means we are able to provide programs that have been proven by research to be best practice in gifted education. To that end, we offer a wide range of accelerated opportunities, a wide range of academic and non-academic competitions and a well-being program that focuses on the specific wellbeing needs of gifted learners.

At James Ruse Agricultural High School your child will be surrounded by other highly gifted students and they will therefore benefit from spending time with peers who understand them and who will motivate them to reach their personal best in all aspects of school life.

At the same time they will be taught and nurtured by teachers who have the expertise and experience in working with highly gifted students. At Ruse we are able to tailor our staff professional learning to understanding and developing highly gifted learners. We have a whole school focus on the Department of Education's High Potential and Gifted Education Policy and over 80% of our teachers have undertaken the UNSW Mini Certificate of Gifted Education.

Our school is known for its academic success, but we are much more than that. Our school vision is to develop the whole child and to ensure our students become active citizens who make positive contributions to the world. We do this by offering a wide range of co-curricular, creative and performing and sporting opportunities which also provide a number of leadership opportunities for students. Student voice is highly valued in everything we do at Ruse.

I understand that if you have a highly gifted child then the decision about which high school to send them to can be a stressful one. If you are undecided then I suggest that you book onto one of our school tours where a current student will show you around and answer your questions. I speak with each tour group that comes through and I look forward to meeting with you if you attend.

Ms Rachel Powell
Principal

ACADEMIC CURRICULUM

Years 7-8 (Stage 4)

All subjects are mandatory.

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Agriculture
- Integrated Sport
- Mandatory Technology
- Music
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Visual Arts

Year 7

- History
- Japanese
- Latin
- Critical and Creative Thinking (CRIT)

Year 8

- Geography
- Japanese or Latin
- Drama
- Philosophy
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM)

Years 9-10 (Stage 5)

The following subjects are mandatory:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Mandatory Geography
- Mandatory History
- Agriculture
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Sport
- Careers (Year 10)

Students also choose additional subject electives to fulfil 200 hours of study over the 2 years.

100 hour subjects offered*:

- Commerce (Year 9/10)
- Elective History (Year 9/10)
- International Studies (Year 10)
- Japanese (Year 9)
- Music (Year 9)
- Outdoor Education (Year 9)
- Physical Activity and Sports Studies (Year 9)
- Philosophy (Year 9/10)
- Psychology (Year 9/10)
- Visual Design (Year 9/10)

200 hour subjects offered*:

- Design & Technology (DT)
- Drama
- Latin
- Photography & Digital Media
- Visual Arts

Accelerated HSC subjects

- Agriculture (starts in Year 9)
- Japanese Continuers (starts in Year 10)
- Music 2 (starts in Year 10)
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) (starts in Year 10)
- Software Design and Development (SDD) (starts in Year 9)





Years 11-12 (Stage 6)

The following subject is mandatory:

- Advanced English

Electives offered*:

- English Extension 1
- English Extension 2 (Year 12)
- Advanced Mathematics
- Mathematics Extension 1
- Mathematics Extension 2 (Year 12)
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Science Extension (Year 12)
- Ancient History
- Modern History
- Extension History (Year 12)
- Economics
- Legal Studies
- Latin Continuers
- Latin Extension (Year 12)
- Drama
- Music 2 (Year 11 & 12)
- Music Extension (Year 12)
- Visual Arts

Accelerated HSC Subjects

- Agriculture
- Japanese Continuers
- Music 2
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

Participation in Wednesday Sport

- Year 11 - compulsory
- Year 12 - optional

Accelerated Subjects

Undertaken during Years 9-10*

- Software Design and Development (SDD)

Undertaken during Years 10-11*

- Agriculture
- Japanese Continuers
- Music 2
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

*Various factors bear upon what subjects can be offered in any given year: student demand, coordination of timetabling, staff availability, etc.



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Leadership Opportunities

- SRC
- Prefect
- House Captains
- Peer Support
- Peer Mentor
- Maths Mentor
- Student Tour Ambassadorship
- Executive of a Club/Activity

Creative and Performing Arts

- Advanced Strings
- Chamber Orchestra
- Choir
- Stage Band
- JRAHS Cadet Pipe Band
- Junior Percussion Ensemble
- School Musical
- Senior Percussion Ensemble
- Senior Vocal Ensemble
- String Ensemble
- Symphonic Band
- Wind Orchestra
- Year 7 Concert Band



Clubs & Activities

- Ag Show Team
- Archives Club
- Astronomy Club
- Australian Army Cadets
- Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad (OzClo) Training Program
- Biology Olympiad Training Program
- Book Lovers Cafe
- Buddhism Association
- Business Society (BSOC)
- Chemistry Olympiad Training Program
- Cooking Club
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- Debating & Public Speaking
- Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Scheme
- Each for Equal Club
- Earth & Environmental Science Olympiad Training Program
- Food Connoisseurs
- Game Changers
- GeoGuessers Club
- Go Green
- Horticulture Club
- Informatics
- Interact
- ISCF (Inter-School Christian Fellowship)
- Knit-Wits
- Large Animal Handling
- Library Assistant
- Mathematics Enrichment
- Mathematics Olympiad Training Program
- Mock Trial
- Mock Trial Competition team
- OxFam
- Philosophy Club
- Photography Team
- Physics Olympiad Training Program
- Presentation Club
- Programming Club
- Poultry Squad
- Rainbow Ruse
- Ruse Amnesty International
- Ruse Art Club
- Ruse Basketball Club
- Ruse Dance Club
- RuseMUN (Model United Nations)
- RuseMuse
- Ruse Musical Appreciation Club
- Ruse Photography
- Ruse Politik Club
- Ruse Publications
- Ruse Tennis Club
- Ruse Volleyball Club
- School Chess
- Science & Engineering Challenge
- Science Appreciation Club
- Science Enrichment
- Science STEM (Year 7)
- Stage Crew
- Sound and Lighting Team
- Tournament of Minds
- UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund)
- Video Crew



COMPETITIONS*

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

- Art Express
- Encore
- OnStage
- Australian School Band and Orchestra Festival
- Moving Forward Together Association's Harmony Day Song Writing Competition

ENGLISH

- Ginko Writing Project
- Hachette Australia Prize for Young Writers
- ICAS English
- Poetry In Action Competition
- Whitlam Institute What Matters? Writing Competition

HSIE

- AEBSC Business Studies Competition
- AEBSC Economics Competition
- ASX Stock Market Game
- Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad (OzCLO)
- Australian Geography Competition
- National History Challenge

MATHEMATICS

- Australian Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad (AIMO)
- Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committee (AMOC) School of Excellence, Selection School
- Australian Mathematical Olympiad Committee (AMOC) Senior Contest
- Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC)
- Australian Pacific Mathematics Olympiad (APMO)
- Australian Problem Solving Mathematical Olympiad (APSMO)
- Cyberspace Mathematical Competition (CMC)
- European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO)
- International Mathematical Modelling Challenge (IMMC)
- International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)
- Maths Enrichment: Euler, Gauss, Noether, Polya Programmes
- Tournament of the Towns

OTHER

- Australian Innovators' Challenge (AIC): Girls in Business
- Chess Competitions
- Da Vinci Decathlon
- Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - Bronze/Silver/Gold
- Ethics Olympiad
- Game Changers, Department of Education NSW
- Tournament of the Mind

SCIENCE

- Australian Biology Olympiad
- Australian Brain Bee Challenge
- Australian Cancer & Health Sciences Competition
- Australian Chemistry Olympiad
- Australian Earth and Environmental Science Olympiad
- Australian National Titration Competition
- Australian Physics Olympiad
- Big Science Competition
- ICAS Science
- Junior Science Olympiad
- Science & Engineering Challenge
- STANSW Young Scientist Awards

SPORT

- Combined High School Competition
- Farmers Cup
- Gala Day Cup
- Quad School Competition

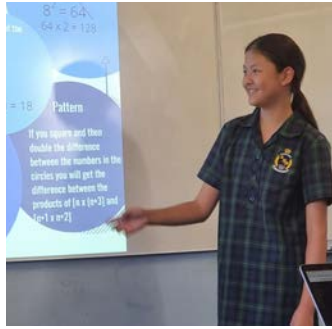
TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

- Australian Informatics Olympiad Committee (AIOC) School of Excellence, Selection School
- Australian Informatics Olympiad (AIO)
- Computational & Algorithmic Thinking (CAT)
- CyberTaipan Competition
- ICAS Digital Technologies
- UNSW High Schools Programming Competition (ProgComp)
- UNSW Reach Digital Technologies
- Vex Robotics
- The Royal Easter Show
- Hawkesbury Show
- Penrith Show

DEBATING/PUBLIC SPEAKING

- James Ruse Debating Programme
- Legacy Junior Public Speaking Award, The Arts Unit
- Lions Club Australia Youth of the Year
- NSW Plain English Speaking Award, The Arts Unit
- Premier's Debating Challenge, The Arts Unit
- Rostrum Voice of Youth Public Speaking Competition
- Rotary Model United Nations Assembly
- The Kirby Cup Western Sydney Mooting Competition
- The Law Society of New South Wales' Mock Trial competition
- UN Youth Evatt Competition
- UN Youth Negotiations Competition

*Competitions entered will vary year by year.





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