



SNOWY  
MOUNTAINS  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

CHALLENGE **BELONG** EXPLORE

# School Speech Day Secondary Academic Prizes and Calculations

Academic

## Document Information

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## Summary

This policy is an overview of the process for determining and reporting student achievement for each course at Speech Day.

The School takes academic achievements seriously and requires clear guidelines for the determination of dux and first in subjects that takes into account the achievements across the entire year. This policy serves as the guidelines for these calculations and details how these results are determined.

## Table of Contents

1	Academic Awards Summary.....	4
2	First in Subject (7-10) .....	5
3	First in Subject (Year 11) .....	6
4	First in Subject (Year 12) .....	7
5	Dux of Years 7-10 .....	8
6	Dux of Years 11-12 .....	2
7	Most Improved .....	3
8	Academic Honours .....	4
9	Academic Endeavour.....	5
10	Communication of Results .....	7

# 1 Academic Awards Summary

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<i>Name</i>	<i>Years</i>	<i>Awarded to</i>	<i>When</i>	<i>Summary of specific criteria</i>	<i>Prize</i>
Dux of School	12	Top academic student in Year 12	Speech Day	Highest academic achievement	Certificate, Book Prize, Trophy and Shield
Dux of Year Level	7-11	Top academic student in each year level	Speech Day	Highest academic achievement	Certificate, Trophy and Book Prize
Subject Prize	7-12	Highest achieving student in each subject	Speech Day	First in subject	Certificate
Improvement	7-12	Students in each year level with highest level of improvement	Speech Day	Highest level of Improvement overall	Certificate and Medal
Academic Honours	7-12	Students who maintain a GPA at 80 or above	Termly Merit Assemblies	Cumulative score of GPA above 80	Certificate
Academic Endeavour	7-12	Students who maintain effort grades above 4.5	Termly Merit Assemblies	Cumulative GPA above 4.5 for the year	Certificate

## 2 First in Subject (7-10)

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### Eligible Years

Years 7, 8, 9, 10

### Description

At the annual Speech Day students who are placed first in each subject are recognised for their year-long achievement in the subject.

### Criteria

1. A student eligible for First in Subject must be the highest achieving student in that subject/key learning area for that year level.
2. Normally the student should attain an 'A' in the subject/key learning area.
3. When a student does not meet criterion 2 (above), but are the highest achieving student for the subject, the teacher may provide sufficient information to justify the awarding of the prize.
4. Student academic performance is compared to syllabi mainstream standards/benchmarks.

### Calculation

The overall assessment mark for each semester is averaged and the student who attains the highest average is awarded the prize. If students have achieved marks less than or equal to 0.2% from each other, they are jointly awarded the prize.

Students who have completed all assessment tasks for three full terms are eligible for the prize, but their mark for the full semester must exceed the marks from the same semester for all other students. These students are not eligible to receive First in Subject outright and it must be shared.

Students who attend a class for one term only are not eligible for the award.

### Prize

"Certificate for First in Subject"

### When Awarded

Speech Day

## 3 First in Subject (Year 11)

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### Eligible Years

Years 11

### Description

At the annual Speech Day students who are placed first in each subject are recognised for their year-long achievement in the subject.

### Criteria

1. A student eligible for First in Subject must be the highest achieving student in that subject/key learning area for that year level.
2. Normally the student should attain an 'A' in the subject/key learning area.
3. When a student does not meet criterion 2 (above), but are the highest achieving student for the subject, the teacher may provide sufficient information to justify the awarding of the prize.
4. Student academic performance is compared to syllabi mainstream standards/benchmarks.

### Calculation

The overall assessment mark is calculated for the End of Course Report for Year 11 students. The student with the highest mark is awarded the prize. If students have achieved marks less than or equal to 0.25% from each other, they are jointly awarded the prize.

Students who have not attended the school for three terms in Year 11 are not eligible for the prize. Additionally, students must have completed more than 50% of the available assessment tasks to be eligible for the prize.

### Prize

"Certificate for First in Subject"

### When Awarded

Speech Day

## 4 First in Subject (Year 12)

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### Eligible Years

Years 12

### Description

At the annual Speech Day students who are placed first in each subject are recognised for their year-long achievement in the subject.

### Criteria

1. A student eligible for First in Subject must be the highest achieving student in that subject/key learning area for that year level.
2. Normally the student should attain an 'A' in the subject/key learning area.
3. When a student does not meet criterion 2 (above), but are the highest achieving student for the subject, the teacher may provide sufficient information to justify the awarding of the prize.
4. Student academic performance is compared to syllabi mainstream standards/benchmarks.

### Calculation

The overall assessment mark is calculated for the entire Year 12 course. Teachers moderate the marks and assign rankings based on the moderation. The student with the highest rank sent to NESA is awarded the prize, but if students are less than 0.25% of each other for their final mark, the prize is shared.

Students must have completed all available assessment tasks in the relevant course to be eligible for the prize.

### Prize

"Certificate for First in Subject"

### When Awarded

Speech Day

## 5 Dux of Years 7-10

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### Eligible Years

Years 7, 8, 9, 10

### Description

These awards recognise the top academic students in each of Year 7 to 10.

### Criteria

1. A student eligible for the Year 7 Dux, Year 8 Dux, Year 9 Dux or Year 10 Dux must be the highest academic student in that year level.
2. Student results from courses studied at Snowy Mountains Grammar School will be used to calculate Dux. Religious Education is excluded from the calculations.
3. Student academic performance is compared to syllabi mainstream standards/benchmarks.

### Calculation

A student's performance in each subject is calculated by multiplying his or her result by the following weightings and then adding all subject results together and ranking students:

9 periods/cycle subjects	1.35	4 periods/cycle subjects	0.6
8 period/cycle subjects	1.2	3 periods/cycle subjects	0.45
6 periods/cycle subjects	0.9	2 periods/cycle subjects	0.3

Subjects that are only studied for one semester are weighted on an annual basis. Year 9 and 10 Electives are included in the calculation. The highest mark in any of their electives is used. In the event that a student studies electives that contain no marks e.g. Aviation, the elective mark is derived from the average overall mark of their core subjects.

To determine rankings, a student must attain a mark greater than or equal to 0.25% from the next student. The threshold in overall points is calculated as greater than or equal to 0.25% of the total mark of all eligible subjects. If students attain marks less than 0.25% from each other, they are awarded Dux, second or third in year jointly.

### Prize

"Certificate: Dux of Year X", a Trophy and a book prize. Second and third in the year are awarded "Certificate for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in Year X" and a Trophy.

### When Awarded

Speech Day



## 6 Dux of Years 11-12

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### Eligible Years

Years 11 and 12

### Description

These awards recognise the top academic students in Year 11 or Year 12.

### Criteria

1. A student eligible for Year 11 Dux or Year 12 must be the highest academic student in Year 11 or Year 12.
2. All subjects registered with NESA and studied at the school are used in calculating results.
3. A student's End of Course mark is used in the calculations.

### Calculation

Student results for each subject is scaled using the averaged data from the *Report on the Scaling of the NSW Higher School Certificate* produced by the Universities Admission Centre each year.

The best 10 units (including the best two units of English and the best 8 units of the remaining units, which can include up to two units of Category B courses) are used to calculate a student's scaled aggregate. Sites such as the UAC ATAR Compass (<https://www.uac.edu.au/atar-compass/>) can be used to calculate the aggregate. The Dux is awarded to the student with the highest estimated aggregate.

If students are within 0.25 ATAR points from each other, other ATAR sites such as Matrix (<http://www.matrix.edu.au/atar-calculator/>) can be used to refine the estimate. If the estimates remain within 0.25 ATAR points when an average is applied, the prize is jointly awarded (for any of the Top 3 achieving students).

### Prizes

"Certificate: Dux of Year 11 or 12", a Trophy and a book prize. The School Dux shield is also awarded for Year 12 Dux. Second and third in the year are awarded "Certificate for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in Year 11 or 12" and a Trophy.

### When Awarded

Speech Day

## 7 Most Improved

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### Eligible Years

Year 7-12

### Description

These awards recognise students who consistently strive for improvement over a number of subjects and who demonstrate the highest improvement overall.

### Criteria

1. A student eligible must have studied the course in the preceding semester and achieved at least a 'C' achievement in each of their courses by the end of the year.
2. A student must have completed sufficient assessment in each semester to allow an End of Semester mark.

### Calculation

- A student's End of Semester 1 Assessment Mark will be subtracted from their End of Semester 2 Assessment Mark.
- A student's End of Semester 1 Effort GPA will be subtracted from their End of Semester 2 Effort GPA.
- The two values above are standardised and the sum is determined
- Students who have a negative Effort GPA or assessment mark difference are not included in the determination
- A student must have at least 3 subjects where they have had an improvement

The student with the largest difference in these marks is the awardee.

If students have the same level of improvement, the student with the highest improvement in assessment marks is awarded the prize preferentially.

### Prize

"Certificate of Endeavour and Academic Improvement" and an Academic Medal.

### When Awarded

Speech Day

## 8 Academic Honours

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### Eligible Years

Year 7-12

### Description

These awards recognise students who consistently achieve at the highest level academically in all subjects.

### Criteria

A student eligible must have studied each course in the preceding term and achieved at least a 'C' achievement in each of their courses.

### Calculation

The marks for each student from all of their subjects is averaged. If the averaged mark is 80 or higher, the student receives Academic Honours. This award is cumulative. Marks for successive terms are added to the previous term. In order for a student to maintain Academic Honours, their marks each term must equal 80 or above.

If a student retains a mark of 80 or above by the end of Term 4, they are awarded Academic Honours at Speech Day.

There are 3 tiers for Academic Honours as follows:

- Students who achieve 80 or above will receive **Academic Honours**
- Students who achieve 85 or above will receive **Academic Honours with Distinction**
- Students who achieve 90 or above will receive **First Class Academic Honours**

### Prize

"Certificate of Academic Honours"

### When Awarded

Termly and Speech Day

## 9 Academic Endeavour

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### Eligible Years

Year 7-12

### Description

These awards recognise students who consistently strive for improvement in all subjects.

### Criteria

A student eligible must have studied each course in the preceding term and achieved at least a 'C' / 'Sound' achievement in each of their courses.

### Calculation

The effort grades for each student from all of their subjects are converted to numbers and averaged to produce a GPA as follows:

O	Outstanding	5
C	Commendable	4
S	Satisfactory	3
I	Inconsistent	2
U	Unsatisfactory	1

If the resultant GPA is 4.5 out of 5 or higher, the student receives Academic Endeavour.

This award is cumulative. Marks for successive terms are added to the previous term. In order for a student to maintain Academic Endeavour, their aggregate for each term must equal 4.5 or above.

If a student retains an aggregate of 4.5 or above by the end of Term 4, they are awarded Academic Endeavour at Speech Day.

### Prize

"Certificate of Academic Endeavour"

### When Awarded

Termly and Speech Day

## 10 Students on Modified Programs

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All academic awards are based on cohorts undertaking the same complexity of content. Students who are on modified programs study content that is less complex, therefore these students cannot be awarded Academic Honours or First in Subject. However, these students can be awarded Academic Endeavour and Most Improved.

## 11 Communication of Results

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All results are communicated to the school community on Speech Day. Parents and Carers who have queries regarding the results need to contact the Director of Curriculum and Operations, who will investigate.

The Director of Curriculum and Operations will determine if an error has taken place. If there is evidence of an error, a correction will be made. If there was no error, the Director of Curriculum and Operations will inform the Parent/Carer. If the Parent/Carer is still not satisfied with the result, the Grievance Policy is followed starting at a Level 3 grievance.

At no point is the Parent/Carer allowed to view the internal calculations of other students. This information remains confidential to the other students.