



Monday 6 March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) is an independent, quality skills-based assessment program which rewards and recognises achievement. ICAS gives you broad insights into your child's performance across English, Mathematics, Science, Digital Technologies, Spelling and Writing. ICAS (sometimes referred to as the UNSW assessments) has been developed by Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) since 1981.

When your child takes part in ICAS assessments, we can track their learning as they progress from year to year. It also helps us identify potentially gifted students and those who may need more focused and purposeful teaching to achieve their best.

Each student receives:

- an engaging and challenging full-colour test booklet
- an individual diagnostic report highlighting strengths and weaknesses and year to year progression
- login details to access their online results which can be analysed and downloaded
- a High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, Merit or Participation Certificate acknowledging their level of achievement
- the chance to receive an individually-engraved UNSW medal for the highest scoring student in each year level for each subject.

Help your young 'spelling bee' succeed

The early years set the stage for lifelong learning. Year 2 students are now able to sit an ICAS Introductory Spelling paper. This paper will help your little 'spelling bee' succeed by measuring their spelling ability and, importantly, identifying very early in their schooling where your child may need some extra help. **This paper is the only Spelling paper available in advance of Year 3 NAPLAN testing.**

The decision to introduce a Year 2 Spelling paper is based on 30 years' experience in school assessments, which have allowed EAA to identify some common difficulties that children face in Year 3. This paper will help every child get the best start.

You can learn more about common spelling problems faced by Year 3 students and the new ICAS Year 2 Spelling Paper at: www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/spelling-introductory-paper

To learn more about ICAS go to www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/about Remember, EAA has some very helpful tools to help your child prepare. You can access practice assessments at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/icas/preparation

To enrol your child in ICAS, please complete the registration form overleaf and return it, with your entry fees, to the school no later than Thursday, 23 March 2017 (Thursday, week 8 term 1, 2017).

PLEASE NOTE NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Kind regards,

Janine O'Keefe

ICAS coordinator



2017 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Permission Form

Please return this form to your child's class teacher.

I give permission for my child, _____ of _____
Child's name *Class*

to participate in the following 2017 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

Please select the subjects you would like your child to enter:

Subject/Paper	School Year	Official Sitting Date	Entry Fee	Fee Enclosed
Digital Technologies*		23 May 2017	\$8.00 (available year 3 – year 10)	
Science		30 May 2017	\$8.00 (available year 2 – year 12)	
Writing		12-16 June 2017	\$17.00 (available year 3 – year 12)	
Spelling		14 June 2017	\$11.00 (available year 2 – year 7)	
English		1 August 2017	\$8.00 (available year 2 – year 12)	
Mathematics		15 August 2017	\$8.00 (available year 2 – year 12)	
			TOTAL	

Students must sit on the official sitting date for each subject to be eligible for UNSW medals. However, your school may choose to sit at another time to fit in with other school activities and routines.

* Previously known as Computer Skills.

Please find _____ enclosed total entry fee.

Amount

Name of Parent/Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/ Guardian