

13th December 2015

Open letter to prospective Arrowsmith parents

Thank you for your interest in the Arrowsmith programme at Seven Oaks School.

Our first teacher completed three weeks of intensive training in January, and has now spent a very successful first year with our initial cohort of 11 students.

Parents report exciting progress in their children's development after just three terms of this remarkable programme. Consequently we have committed to train two more teachers in preparation for a second cohort, to begin in Term 1 2016.

We are currently enrolling at least ten more students who will join us at the beginning of 2016, or part-way through the year. Additionally, we are taking enrolment enquiries from parents who are interested in their child enrolling in the Arrowsmith programme should vacancies occur in subsequent years.

Because your child will spend approximately one third of each school day fully integrated into our regular school programme and because we would like them to stay on when their Arrowsmith programme is complete, it is important for us to offer the Arrowsmith programme, in the first instance, to families who are committed to embracing our holistic philosophy. Full enrolment acceptance as a Seven Oaks pupil is, therefore, usually an important co-requisite of acceptance into the Seven Oaks Arrowsmith programme.

To fill additional places, we may consider enrolment of adult students and/or students enrolled in another school on a case-by-case basis. For example, to complete the enrolment of the first cohort of 10 students, we accepted two adult students into our programme, and we have another young adult joining us for 2016.

Arrowsmith Programme at Seven Oaks School

Generally speaking, students taking the Arrowsmith programme at Seven Oaks are full members of one of our regular class groupings. A typical day sees the student briefly joining their regular class at the start of each day, before moving to the Arrowsmith classroom to undertake four 40 minute periods of specialist instruction during the morning. Typically, the Arrowsmith student then spends the afternoon fully integrated into our usual range of afternoon programmes along with their regular classmates.

One (or maybe two) day(s) per week, the Arrowsmith students could undertake an additional 40 minute Arrowsmith period during the afternoon. The intention here being to give some flexibility for them to join in important whole-school and special regular class activities (including off-site excursions) that need to be timetabled during the morning.

Fees

The Arrowsmith Programme is run as a charitable activity alongside our standard school operation. This means it will be funded by way of grants and donations. We seek funding from a variety of sources including trusts and foundations, our parent base and from their friends and families. As a Seven Oaks parent you will be invited each year to make a donation to this fund. Donations are eligible for a tax rebate.

The projected cost of running the programme in 2016 (at current exchange rates and Arrowsmith fees) is approximately \$16,500* (+GST) per primary school student. Of this, approximately \$8,000* (+GST) will be paid for via the normal school tuition fee, leaving \$8,500 to be found via donations

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and grants. We have calculated that a donation of this amount could qualify for a tax rebate of up to \$2,805 based on a tax rebate of 33%. Parents/adult students will need to satisfy themselves as to the amount of rebate that is payable for any donations they make.

2016 Fees*	tuition fee (incl GST)	Arrowsmith contribution	Gross cost	Possible net cost
Year 1- 8	9,196	8,500	17,696	14,891
Year 9-10	10,196	8,500	18,696	15,891
Adult		17,500	17,500	11,725

Establishment Costs

Each of the 2105 cohort families contributed \$3000 to meet our initial training and setup costs. The start-up cost, for 2016's 'new Arrowsmith entrants', including teacher training and facility set-up is around \$34,000. We have already requested donations of \$3000 from each new family to cover set-up costs, and the school will meet the shortfall.

Terms and Conditions

Families are required to sign the standard Seven Oaks Terms and Conditions as well as the Arrowsmith Programme Terms and Conditions. Please note, there is:

- A \$500 deposit paid to confirm acceptance
- A two-year commitment per student, which would be waived if the school finds an acceptable replacement.

Typical steps required to confirm acceptance into Arrowsmith Programme

1. Complete "Application for Enrolment" as a Seven Oaks student.
2. Initial discussion/interview with the Principal.
3. Complete "Application for acceptance into Seven Oaks Arrowsmith programme" (providing a full profile of the student and learning needs, suitability relative to Arrowsmith student guidelines, references from current school, recent school report(s), copy of any relevant independent educational psychologist's assessments.
4. Parent and student visit(s) the school, and student may have trial day(s).
5. Enrolment interview with Principal and relevant Seven Oaks educators.
6. Seven Oaks School considers application, and advises outcome.
7. If your application is successful, payment of the deposit upon offer of placement is required to confirm acceptance and a donation pledge is necessary to support establishment of the class.

Please do not hesitate to [email me](#) if you have any questions, or if you wish to make a time to meet.

Sincerely



Owen Arnst
Principal