



Merrin School
Whetū Kohara – Shining Stars

2020 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)

Dear Parents/Caregivers

Welcome to the 2020 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). For the last 30 years, ICAS has taken place each year in schools throughout Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia, Brunei, the Pacific region and South Africa. Your child is invited to participate in 2020.

The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools, or **ICAS** for short, is an independent, skills-based assessment program. The tests are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that accurate assessment of students' skills and relevance to classroom topics

ICAS is a test that is used by schools and teachers to better understand what each student can and can't do at a given point in time and to help track student progress from year to year. The ICAS tests are an independent skill-based assessment test of six competitions for primary and secondary school students. The tests assess basic skills and learning abilities.

ICAS Assessments are online assessments designed to recognise and reward academic excellence. The assessments are based on the curricula for the relevant year. Students are asked to demonstrate a deep, integrated and thorough level of learning. To ensure an engaging and beneficial experience for all students, new ICAS Assessments are developed annually for each subject in every year from **Years 4-8**.

The entry fee per student is (there has been a slight increase this year) as follows

- ICAS Science - Friday 21 August 2020 (NZD \$16.00)
- ICAS English - Monday 24 August 2020 (NZD \$16.00)
- ICAS Digital Technologies - Wednesday 26 August (NZD \$16.00)
- ICAS Mathematics – Thursday 3 September 2020 (NZD \$16.00)
- ICAS Spelling Bee – Friday 4 September 2020 (NZD \$16.00)
- ICAS Writing - No longer available in 2020
- All of the above (NZD \$80.00)**

You can enter your child in any of these exams by completing and returning the form below to the office by Friday 26 June

All students receive a certificate and an **individual student report** indicating which questions they answered correctly and their score compared with the rest of the students tested. The tests are excellent preparation for national tests and the student report is useful for highlighting your child's strengths and weaknesses. The UNSW certificate and individual student report are also suitable for your child to include in a portfolio.

High-quality UNSW certificates are awarded for each year level as follows:

- High Distinction to the top 1% of entrants
- Distinction to the next 10% of entrants
- Credit to the next 25% of entrants
- Participation to all other participating students.

All students who achieve the highest score in each year level receive a **UNSW medal**. These medals are presented at either a Medal Presentation Ceremony or at a school assembly. Students must sit on the official sitting dates to be eligible for a medal.

To assist your child to prepare for the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS), past ICAS test papers can be purchased from EAA online at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au. **They are also available from Mr Russell in Room 16.** These test papers provide a good indication of the types of questions used and their difficulty and give children experience in the ICAS format. Sample practice questions can also be downloaded from the EAA website.

For more information please visit the EAA website at www.eaa.unsw.edu.au or contact Customer Service on 0800 778 010 or by email at info@eaa.unsw.edu.au

Jon Russell
ICAS Co-ordinator
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ENTRY FORM
2020 INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)
Complete and return the form below to the box in the office by Friday 26 June

I give permission for my child Year:.....

Room:.....

to participate in the following 2020 International Competitions and Assessments for Schools
(ICAS): (please tick)

- ☐ Science – 21 August (NZD \$16.00)
- ☐ English – 24 August 2020 (NZD \$16.00)
- ☐ Digital Technologies – 26 August 2020 (NZD \$16.00)
- ☐ Mathematics – 3 September 2020 (NZD \$16.00)
- ☐ Spelling Bee – 4 September 2020 (NZD \$16.00)
- ☐ *Writing – not available in 2020*
- ☐ All of the above (NZD \$80.00)

Payment details (choose one option):

- Please find enclosed \$ _____ entry fee.
- \$ _____ has been paid on _____ (Date) by internet banking to account number 030830 0309365 00 with the following details: Particulars: child's name Reference: ICAS

Name of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Phone number(s)

Complete and return the form to the box in the office by Friday 26 June