What is a da Vinci Decathlon?

The da Vinci Decathlon began at Knox Grammar School in Sydney in 2001. It is an academic inter-school gala day run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon with events of an academic nature. The 2016 theme is “Exploration”.

On Tuesday and Wednesday 31st May and 1st June 2016, Canberra Grammar School is hosting this event for schools in the ACT and the surrounding region. In 2015, approximately 50 schools and 100 teams from Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 participated. The teams finishing in first place will receive a perpetual trophy. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded to all members of the teams that finish first, second and third. All competitors will be awarded Certificates of Participation. The winning Year 7 School will also be invited to participate in the National da Vinci Decathlon in Sydney on Saturday 25 June to Tuesday 28 June 2016.

Students will compete in ten disciplines that connect to the concept of “Exploration” and are inspired by Leonardo da Vinci:

- Mathematics & Chess – emphasis on problem solving, number patterns and logic puzzles
- English – spelling, word origins, definitions, textual analysis and writing tasks
- Science – students engage with higher level scientific concepts to test their ability to apply them
- Code Breaking – students will decipher complex and mysterious codes
- Engineering Challenge – a design task that tests problem solving skills, creativity and ingenuity
- Philosophy – dealing with logic, observations and evidence
- Creative Producers – emphasis on creating under pressure a 60 second dramatic performance
- Art & Poetry – the team will develop a poem interconnected with a work of art
- Cartography - students will decipher maps and apply the principles of map-making to represent spatial information in an imaginative way
- General Knowledge – current affairs, entertainment, the Renaissance, sport and trivia

The day is a terrific enrichment opportunity for top students across a variety of areas. Unlike an Olympic decathlon, however, this is very much a team challenge and not an individual pursuit. Schools should aim to select students who are able to complement each other in the various disciplines. For example, whilst there are sections on Mathematics, English (including Spelling) and Science and Art & Poetry, Creative Producers will draw upon those with strengths in Visual Art, Drama, Music and performance. The day is divided into three sessions and at each session challenges for a number of categories are presented to the whole group.

What will this involve?

- $280 sending a team from Year 5 and 6; or Year 7 and 8 (or just one year group).
- A staff member per team will need to attend from each School and will be asked to join one of the teams marking each event.
- Cost will be per team (consisting of eight members). The cost will cover morning tea and a light lunch for students and staff, award medals and certificates, furniture hire and administration costs.

Please register your interest as soon as possible. Entries close Friday 8 April 2016. Once entries close if we have vacancies schools that have wait listed teams will be contacted.
## Important Information

| Dates          | Years 7 and 8 Tuesday 31 May 2016  
|               | Years 5 and 6 Wednesday 1 June 2016 |
| Venue         | PDHPE Centre, Canberra Grammar School |
| Time          | 8.15am to 3.00pm |
| Entry Fee     | $280 per team *(includes GST)* |
| Teams         | Each team consists of 8 members  
|               | Morning tea and lunch will be provided for all participants and teaching staff |
|               | *Schools may send*  
|               | one team of eight students in any or all of the relevant year groups: Years 5, 6, 7 and 8  
|               | a “combined team” - this team will participate in the higher year level eg a combined Year 5/6 team would compete in the Year 6 competition  
|               | Note intention to compete needs to be submitted no later than 8 April 2016  
|               | *Schools may wait list a team. If we have vacancies once entries have closed, the school will be contacted in the week beginning 26 April 2016. Extra teams are listed on a “first come – first served” basis. Please note we cannot guarantee a place for a wait listed team.* |
| Registration  | This year registration will be done electronically via our website www.cgs.act.edu.au/davinci.  
|               | Please see registration details on the last page |
| Information   | Visit the CGS website where you will find further information (Link to http://www.davincidecathlon.com/davinci/resources)  
|               | Practice tasks  
|               | Links to sites that teachers can use to train their teams  
|               | Support resources for Philosophy; Arts and Poetry and Creative Producers |
| Prizes        | Trophies/medals will be awarded to the top three teams in each year group. Certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places are awarded for each of the disciplines. All participants will receive a Participation Certificate. |
| Enquiries     | Please contact:  
|               | **Senior School (Yrs 7 and 8)**  
|               | Jeanette Scarr  
|               | P. 02 6260 9745  
|               | E. jeanette.scarr@cgs.act.edu.au  
|               | **Junior School (Yrs 5 and 6)**  
|               | Cathy Sutton  
|               | P. 6260 97675  
|               | E. cathy.sutton@cgs.act.edu.au |
| Deadlines     | Friday 8 April 2016 – registrations close  
|               | Week beginning 26 April – offers made to Schools who have wait listed a team  
|               | Wednesday 17 May 2016 – payment for teams needs to be completed |

## Registration Information

Due to the popularity of the competition it is suggested that Schools register their teams as soon as possible. Entries will close 8 April 2016.

**To Register**

- Registrations are done electronically via the CGS website. You will be asked to complete information relevant to registration and all sections must be completed.
Registration will be complete once payment has been made.

**Payment Process**

- Payment for registration is required by 17 May 2016.
- Cost is $280 per team.
- A direct deposit to the Canberra Grammar bank account – details on registration form.
- Copy of the completed invoice/remittance advice should be generated with details of the name of your school and numbers of teams competing and sent to CGS Business Office (shiralee.standen@cgs.act.edu.au) so your payment can be reconciled with registration.