

## **Information about the entrance tests**

The following information will help to prepare your child prior to sitting the entrance examination for ALPHA.

The entrance examination is made up of both ability tests and achievement tests. There are five tests in total and the examination takes approximately three hours to complete.

The entrance examination is designed to test and challenge students so it is quite demanding.

### **Ability tests**

The ability tests are designed to measure a student's ability to think, reason and solve problems without necessarily relying on prior knowledge. Ability generally predicts how quickly a child will be able to learn and the level of complexity they can comfortably deal with. The two ability tests are verbal reasoning and numerical reasoning.

#### **Verbal reasoning**

This is a multiple-choice test that measures the ability to think and reason using words and language. Items in the test tap into vocabulary, word relationships, classification and deduction.

#### **Numerical reasoning**

This is a multiple-choice test that measures the ability to think and reason using numbers. Items in the test tap into series, matrices, arithmetical reasoning and deduction.

### **Achievement tests**

The achievement tests are designed to measure actual achievement or performance in some key academic areas. Achievement scores are influenced by a student's ability as well as the application and practice of

knowledge that has been learned. The three achievement tests are reading comprehension, mathematics and creative writing.

### **Reading comprehension**

This is a multiple-choice test that measures the capacity to read and interpret meaning from written passages. Some questions also require students to correct, complete and punctuate sentences.

### **Mathematics**

This is a multiple-choice test that measures year-level appropriate mathematical knowledge. Questions include measurements, algebra, space and data.

### **Creative writing**

This test is a writing task of original work in response to a visual stimulus. It assesses the student's ability to convey ideas clearly in written form. Punctuation, content, creativity, construction, paragraphs, grammar, spelling and relevance to the task are all assessed in this test.