The da Vinci Decathlon is an interschool academic gala day conducted in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon. Once again, Mount Annan Christian College will host this exciting regional event in partnership with Knox Grammar School’s popular da Vinci program.

The Theme for the 2016 da Vinci Decathlon is… SYNERGY

Each team of eight students will compete in ten disciplines:

- **Mathematics and Chess** – problem solving, number patterns and logic puzzles
- **English** – spelling, word origins, definitions, textual analysis and writing tasks
- **Science** – engage with higher level scientific concepts and test your ability to apply them
- **Code Breaking** – decipher complex, mysterious codes
- **Engineering Challenge** – a design task that tests problem solving skills, creativity and ingenuity
- **Philosophy** – using logic, observations and evidence
- **Creative Producers** – create and perform a 60sec drama or 30sec commercial to promote a product
- **Art and Poetry** – develop an original poem and a connected art work on a given theme
- **Cartography** – interpret spatial information, decipher and create imaginative maps
- **General Knowledge** – current affairs, entertainment, the Renaissance, sport and trivia – you name it!

All tasks in the da Vinci Decathlon emphasise higher order thinking skills – assisting students to develop their abilities in analysis, synthesis and creativity. Sample questions provide an excellent resource for practice, but teams should understand that the theme of the competition changes each year. Schools should select individual team members to complement each other’s strengths in all ten disciplines. Only one response per team is accepted in each discipline.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was one of the world’s great thinkers and scholars. His career spanned visual arts, architecture, cartography, poetry, academics, anatomy, mechanical and military engineering, mathematics and astronomy. Leonardo demonstrated a superior ability to perceive the interconnected nature of knowledge and he maintained a lifelong passion to discover the unknown. His intellectual legacy sets a permanent challenge for leaders and thinkers in the twenty-first century.
DA VINCI DECATHLON
Academic Gala Day
Western Sydney & Macarthur Regions
Years 7 - 8 Monday, 2nd May 2016
Years 5 - 6 Tuesday, 3rd May 2016

Event Information

Event Coordinator
Mrs Rita Gruening-Fankhauser is the Event Coordinator. She can be contacted on (02) 4634 7474 (College Reception). Please note that this is a regional da Vinci Decathlon hosted by Mount Annan Christian College. For information about the 2016 NSW (State) da Vinci Decathlon hosted by Knox Grammar school, click here, or visit their site at www.davincidecathlon.com

Entries and Cost per team
Schools should register their interest by completing the provided General Reply Form. Entries to be received by the College on or before the 18th March 2016. General Reply Forms should be Faxed or Emailed to: Jessica Payne. Registration costs $100 per team (8 students)
Email address: jessicap@macc.nsw.edu.au
Fax: 02 4634 7473

Registration and Arrival
Registration: 7:45-8:15am. Directions from the car park will be sign posted.
Competition commences at 8:30am sharp
Please make every effort to arrive before 8:00am. We are on a tight schedule and the competition must commence by 8:30 if we are to finish on time. Unfortunately, if any team is running late they cannot be given an opportunity to catch up the tasks missed.

Supervision, welfare and discipline
Each school’s teachers are responsible, in the first instance, for the supervision, welfare and discipline of their own students. It is assumed that students will wear full school uniform throughout the day. If needed, Mount Annan Christian College will provide assistance to ensure that all contestants and staff are appropriately cared for.

Emergencies / First Aid
Participants will receive a short briefing about emergencies on the day of competition. If anyone requires First Aid then College Reception (4634 7474) should be called for a trained staff member to provide assistance. In an emergency, Mount Annan Christian College has policies and procedures for accident/injury and circumstances that require an evacuation/lockdown.

Contact Details
Visiting School representatives are to bring the contact details of each student to enable communication with their parents if it is needed.
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**Food and Drink**

_Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own packed lunch and recess._ Unfortunately, refrigeration and re-heating facilities are not available. Canteen facilities are available for some students to order lunch if needed. Students are not to consume food or drink (except water) in the Multipurpose Hall.

A light lunch and recess will be provided for teachers. If any teachers have special dietary requirements, we ask that you to notify us of these before the event.

**Directions and Parking**

*From Sydney on Hume Motorway:*

- Exit at Narellan Road for Route 9 towards Camden
- Follow signs for Narellan Road / Camden / Narellan / Penrith / Route 9
- Merge onto Narellan Road – continue 1.3km
- At the traffic lights, turn right onto the College road. (A left would take you into the Botanic Gardens.)
- Follow the private road 800m to the MACC car park.

*From Camden Valley Way / Northern Road*

- Turn east onto Narellan Road towards the Hume Highway / Campbelltown
- Stay with Narellan Rd as you pass through traffic lights at Tramway Dr / Mount Annan Dr.
- At the next set of traffic lights (100m) turn left onto the College road. (A right would take you into the Botanic Gardens.)
- Follow the private road 800m to the MACC car park.

*Parking:* proceed past the bitumen car park and use the large gravel parking area to the right of the driveway. There is ample parking available for larger vehicles and buses.

*Multipurpose Hall:* The Multipurpose Hall is beside the gravel parking area. Directions will be sign posted.

**What should each team bring?**

- **RECESS and LUNCH** for each team member
- A chess set & magnifying glass per team
- Pens, pencils, ruler, protractor, scissors for each team member
- Other stationery as desired – sticky tape, glue sticks, crayons, coloured pencils, textas, geometry template, masking tape, etc.
- Other necessary items are provided by the organisers.
- **CALCULATORS ARE NOT ALLOWED!**
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Prizes

- Participation Certificates are awarded to all competitors.
- Team Certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd are awarded for each of the ten disciplines.
- A perpetual trophy is awarded to the best overall team in each Grade. This can be displayed at the winning team’s school until the end of the year.

Do teams need to be accompanied by a teacher?
Every school must provide at least one accompanying teacher for the whole day. Teachers are not to visit their team’s table or communicate with their team in any way during session times. Instead, teachers will assist with judging the student responses.

Can parents attend?
During the competition there is relatively little to see – except teams working enthusiastically at their tables! Parents are not permitted into the event area. The da Vinci Decathlon is not a spectator sport, but parents are most welcome to attend the presentation of prizes from 2:05-2:30pm.

How does it all work?
The day will be divided into three sessions. During each session, a number of tasks will run concurrently. Teams will receive the tasks for each session at the beginning of the session and they will then have to work out the best way to distribute the tasks among themselves.

For example, in the first session there are four tasks and a natural strategy is to have two people concentrate on each task. We suggest, however, that several times each session the entire team should discuss issues associated with the various tasks. We also suggest that students relocate around their table whenever they are working with different team members. Each team can only submit one response to each task.

Competitors are asked to do their best to limit toilet visits to session breaks. Under most circumstances, competitors are expected to remain at their table during session times.

Sample Questions from previous competitions can be downloaded here or found on the da Vinci website listed above.
Da Vinci Decathlon Program

7:45am  Registration
8:15am  Welcome and Announcements

8:30am  SESSION 1
  Science – students are provided scientific concepts and tested on their ability to apply them.
  Creative Producers – a group of team members have 10 minutes to develop and prepare to
  present a 60 second dramatic piece or a 30 second commercial.
  English – spelling, word origins, analysis and response tasks.
  Philosophy – dealing with logic, observations and evidence.
10:00am Recess

10:20am SESSION 2
  Creative Producers (continued)
  Art & Poetry – a poem and complementary artwork about a given theme (due at 11:30)
  Engineering Challenge – a building task to test creativity and ingenuity (11:20-12:00)
  Cartography – Reading, interpreting and designing imaginative maps (due at 12:05).
  Mathematics & Chess - problem solving, number patterns & logic puzzles (due at 12:20).
12:20pm Lunch
1:00pm  SESSION 3
  General Knowledge – current affairs, entertainment, sport and trivia (due at 1:40)
  Code Breaking – students decipher various codes in the spirit of World War II (1:20-1:50)
1:50pm  Scores Tallied
2:10pm  Presentation of Prizes
2:30pm  Event concludes