



Dear Parents

The Rio Tinto Big Science Competition will be held across Australia in September.

The Competition tests critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and knowledge of science. Questions are on contemporary science issues (like car safety and dental health), and are based the new Australian Science Curriculum. The Competition runs for 60 minutes.

The Competition is open to students of all abilities, at three levels:

- Junior (Years 7-8)
- Intermediate (Years 9-10)
- Senior (Years 11-12)

Teachers will receive reports showing how their students performed in this external national test. The reports identify areas of strength and weakness for each student, and the Competition is valuable practice for other national tests students will face at school.

Questions are of the highest quality. They are developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). ACER was established in 1930 and they are the Australian experts in designing and developing tests for use in schools.

All students receive a certificate based on how they performed in the competition. Certificates are awarded as follows:

- High Distinction (top 2%)
- Distinction (top 15%)
- Credit (top 50%)
- Participation (all other participating students)

Cost of entry is \$5.50 plus GST. More information about the Competition is on the ASI website: [www.asi.edu.au](http://www.asi.edu.au)

The Rio Tinto Big Science Competition is organised by Australian Science Innovations, a non-profit organisation which also runs the Science Olympiads. ASI wants to encourage students to study science and consider careers in science, engineering, technology and medicine.

Yours sincerely

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I give permission for my son/daughter to enter the Big Science Competition on Wednesday 1st September.

Name of student.....Class.....

Signature .....