



GIFTED AND TALENTED POLICY **(Senior School)**

(This document is available on the school website or on request)

Reviewed October 2017

QE is strongly committed to enabling all pupils to progress to the best of their individual potential. Pupils qualify to be at the school by means of a stringent entrance examination and it is recognised that all QE pupils are above average ability, most well above and some far above. The school curriculum encourages excellence in all subjects and for those who demonstrate or have the potential to demonstrate an outstanding level of ability in a particular subject or field of activity we provide appropriate learning opportunities, which enable them to achieve as highly as they are able.

AIMS

- To encourage and maintain a culture where success is valued and celebrated
- To ensure that all pupils receive a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which enables them to maximise their abilities and develop a love of learning
- To ensure that individuals who are considered especially able in a particular subject or field of activity receive the help and support they need to reach the highest standards of which they are capable, contribute to their group as well as possible and develop a sense of “awe and wonder” in relation to their subject.
- To provide a range of differentiated learning opportunities that provide intellectual challenge and opportunity to move at a rate commensurate with their ability.

IDENTIFICATION

At QE we identify gifted and talented pupils using nationally accepted guidelines including Entrance Exam scores, MidYIS achievement scores (from an assessment done in September of Year 7) INSIGHT tests in Year 9 as well as department recommendation. Those that will be included in each of the three tiers of our provision are decided jointly by the Gifted and Talented coordinator and the Deputy Head (Academic). The criteria are transparent and available to all parents via the school website, Heads of Department monitor achievement in their subjects and recommend pupils for inclusion in school programmes as well as offering extension opportunities within their subject areas. The Gifted and Talented Coordinator works closely with Heads of Department and the Deputy Head (Academic) to encourage them to offer challenging learning opportunities.

PROVISION

QEH offers a varied and rich three-tier provision for its gifted and talented pupils.

Tier One

QEH, by nature of its selective enrolment, has a large number of pupils who are gifted and talented. A variety of opportunities is in place for these pupils in Tier One. These are available to ALL pupils, while at the same time offering an opportunity for the gifted and talented to be further identified:

- Enriching tasks are provided in all subject areas through differentiation of the curriculum, providing activities to challenge those who are capable of working at a higher level.
- Lunchtime clubs are offered to allow pupils to follow a particular interest area.
- Trips, local and overseas, provide opportunities to broaden and enrich subject knowledge.
- Academic competitions are promoted in many subject areas, giving opportunities to compete within the School and also at local and national levels.

Tier Two

Pupils are identified for Tier Two through a combination of:

- Entrance Exam scores
- MidYIS achievement potential test administered in Year 7
- Teacher recommendations.

Provision at this level includes:

- G&T Twilight Enrichment Sessions on a variety of topics run by teaching staff from all departments in the school
- Participation in an Enrichment Reading Programme to stretch and challenge students' reading abilities
- Further selection for specific higher level academic competitions
- Notification of outside events that may challenge and enrich in a particular area e.g. GIFT workshop, lectures and summer camps.

These pupils fit the national criteria for Gifted and Talented.

Tier Three

The QEH Scholarship Programme represents a third tier in the school's Gifted and Talented enrichment provision and aims to stretch and challenge our most academically able boys. These boys represent the top 12-15% of their year group based on their academic achievement across a broad range of subjects and have also been identified as exceptionally able learners by their subject teachers. The aims of the Scholarship Programme are to ensure that these boys maintain their passion for learning and also to encourage them to take greater ownership of their studies so that they develop their critical thinking, research and communication skills well beyond the requirements for GCSE. We hope they will become self-motivated, independent learners who will be well-rounded high achievers at A-Level, university and ultimately in their chosen professions.

Initial entry to the QEH Scholarship Programme in October of Year 7 is offered to boys who score exceptionally highly on all parts of the QEH entrance examination, who perform very well on all components of the Year 7 MidYis standardised test in October and who receive recommendations from their subject teachers in both English and Maths toward the end of the first half-term. Membership in the Scholarship Programme, however, remains fluid through Years 7-10. At the end of each academic year, the Deputy Head (Academic) and the Scholarship Programme Director review the students' end of year exam results and consult with their subject teachers. Based on their academic performance and teacher recommendations, each year some boys will remain in the Tier 3 Scholarship Programme, some boys will move from Tier 3 to the Tier 2 G&T Programme and some boys will move from Tier 2 to Tier 3.

In selecting boys for each Tier of the school's enrichment provision, our goal is to ensure that each student's learning needs are best served by the various enrichment components offered within the school. It is also important to note that the school offers a wide variety of enrichment opportunities beyond the provisions of the Scholarship Programme and G&T Programme; many of these are subject-specific projects and competitions for students who show a particular strength in that subject, whereas the Scholarship Programme and G&T Programme are geared toward students who excel in a broad range of academic disciplines.

Specific provision for QEH Scholarship Programme students includes:

- Participation in a Retreat Day in Wales during the autumn term
- Excursions to Bristol museums, galleries, lectures and cinemas during the spring and summer terms
- An *international enrichment trip* (boys travelled to Paris in 2016-2016 and Barcelona in 2017-2018);
- The opportunity to design their own *subject enrichment project* once per term in an academic subject of their choice;
- Membership in an *enrichment reading scheme* to broaden their horizons;
- The chance to participate in a wide range of *Twilight Enrichment Sessions* offered each half-term;
- The option to pursue the *Future Problem Solving* global issues programme and to compete in the UK National FPS competition in London.