



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

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

Reviewed May 2016

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. 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 Head of Learning Support works closely with Heads of Department 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.
- Future Problem Solving is taught as a subject to all Year 7s.
- 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:

- Twilight Gifted Sessions on a variety of topics run in conjunction with The Red Maids' School and Redland High School.
- Further selection for specific higher level academic competitions
- Small group pull-out sessions in Future Problem Solving / Global Issues in addition to the Year 7 timetabled classes, and opportunity to compete internationally
- 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 is designed to meet the learning needs of students of very high academic ability by providing a continuous programme of academic enrichment from Years 7-11. The Scholarship Programme represents a third tier in the school's Gifted and Talented provision and aims to stretch and challenge our most academically able pupils so that they maintain their enthusiasm for learning and engagement with their studies.

- QEH Scholarship Programme students are exceptional Gifted and Talented learners who meet the criteria of high intellectual aptitude and show consistent strengths in several academic subjects. Overall, they represent the top 10-15% of students from each Year group across a range of subject areas
- Provision for Year 7-9 Scholarship Programme students includes subject-specific enrichment, a supplementary reading programme, educational excursions to Wales, the Mendips, London and Paris, and opportunities for independent research
- Year 10 Scholarship Programme students participate in the *AQA Level 2 Project Qualification Programme*, which further develops their research and writing skills and also earns credit towards their GCSE qualifications. Year 11 students engage in a series of enrichment tutorials on a range of current issues in politics, education, arts and sciences.

MENTOR GROUP

This programme is designed to support the needs of exceptional Gifted and Talented learners who meet the criteria of high intellectual aptitude as well as showing consistent evident strengths in several academic areas. The Mentor Programme is additional to the regular Gifted and Talented provision and will run concurrently with the current range of provisions for Gifted and Talented students at QEH.

Selection: A combination of:

- Score of 130 or above overall MidYIS combined with a score of 140 or above in a sub-test area (top 1% nationally).
- Recommendation from a number of departments

Students in the Mentor Programme will meet individually with the school's Academic Mentor. The Academic Mentor's primary role will be to monitor each student's learning and to act as a liaison between students, subject teachers, Heads of Department, the Head of Learning Enhancement and parents. The role of Academic Mentor is designed to provide continual support for learning, primarily to ensure that Mentor Programme students remain fully engaged and challenged in their selected subjects.

Day retreats and overnight retreats will be offered, providing an opportunity to bring these pupils together for motivational and intellectual stimulation.

Pupils, in consultation with the Academic Mentor, identify up to three subject areas in which to specialise. For each of these subjects, the subject teacher and the Head of Department will suggest specific learning activities to help stretch the student's

achievement in that area. The Academic Mentor will monitor their progress to help ensure that they remain engaged and challenged through the school year.

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