



GIFTED AND TALENTED
POLICY AND PRACTICE

Person responsible: Deputy Head (Academic)
Reviewed: January 2016

Policy and Practice with regard to the Gifted & Talented

The school's policy is to encourage excellence in all areas. At all times, every effort is made to support a pupil's particular talent, allowing it to flourish and develop further.

However, Gifted & Talented pupils in any field need careful nurturing and often special provision is needed to ensure they maintain a healthy life-work balance. The school's support system, involving the Housemaster/Housemistress and Tutor should ensure this, but, within particular areas of excellence, other staffing expertise is often employed.

At present, the school recognises the following areas in terms of scholarships and other awards.

Academic

There are at present 76 (9.6%) who are designated King's Academic Scholars and another 29 Exhibitioners. Academic awards are chosen by means of:

- 13+ scholarship exam (now in April/May and completely revised for 2016)
- The Sixth Form entrance exam for external candidates in November prior to entry
- The achievement of 9A*s at I/GCSE (Honorary Scholars) for Year 11s or 4 A grades at 90%+ at AS Level for Year 12s (with AS Levels now largely defunct this will no longer be awarded)

Occasionally, a Scholarship is awarded on the basis of performance in the Shells or Removes (and in the future in the 6b year). The progress of the King's Academic Scholars and Exhibitioners is specifically tracked and monitored by the Senior Tutor.

The curriculum is flexible enough to stretch and challenge both these and other high achieving pupils. The following standard measures take place within the timetable:

1. Setting in the Shells, Removes and Fifths in some subjects
2. The Gratin programme (in which talented classists take both Latin and Greek as a 'double subject')
3. Early entry IGCSEs in some modern foreign languages
4. Enhanced maths programmes (top sets take the FSMQ in Year 11)
5. Potential to take more than standard numbers of subjects at (I)GCSE and A Level by means of 'out of timetable' study

Outside the timetabled curriculum:

1. The Shell Symposium
2. Maths: Intermediate and Senior Mathematical Challenge, British Maths Olympiad, etc.
3. Science: Science Olympiads (European and International); Young Scientist essay competition; encouragement to enter Nuffield Science Bursary scheme, etc.
4. Participation in off-timetable academic clubs, societies and talks providing opportunities to deliver papers and give presentations
5. The Oxbridge provision and seminars for university entrance
6. Comprehensive programmes of talks and clubs, either departmentally or centrally arranged

Music

The School has many highly talented musicians within the school, the very best of whom are Music Scholars (of which there are over 60 in the School at any one time). They play a leading role in all the major ensembles and direct and rehearse House music events. Their progress is monitored by both the Director and Assistant Director of Music.

Specifically:

1. Full participation in instrumental and choral ensembles expected
2. Guided and supervised practice sessions for Remove and Shells before morning assembly
3. Regular performing in concerts, lunchtimes recitals, etc.
4. All take Music at GCSE, many off-timetable (with some fast-tracked to do GCSE a year early)
5. Some take AS and A2 a year early

Pupils in the school who perform at a level equivalent to, or above, Music Scholars may be selected to become an Honorary Music Scholar, usually as they enter the Sixth Form.

Art

Formal recognition is given to Gifted & Talented artists within the King's School in two types of awards:

- Scholars & Exhibitioners – i.e. King's Art Scholarships awarded on entry to the school.
- Cleary Art Scholars – Cleary Art Scholarships awarded post GCSE to those who have shown great passion and potential for the subject during their time in the school. Cleary Travel Awards are available and Leavers Awards are also available in the Sixth Form.

Monday Art Scholars' Studio Practice – 4.35 – 6.00 every week is designed to enrich and extend their practice beyond curriculum work. The Scholars are divided into two groups - Junior i.e. Shell and Remove, and Senior i.e. 5th and 6th Form. The junior sessions involve a variety of individual 2D and 3D work. The senior sessions involve Life drawing and support for their individual, independent creativity.

Practising Artists are brought in to lead weekend workshops in a variety of media and processes.

Sport

Those who are awarded Sport Scholarships together with any pupils we identify to be of a particularly gifted standard are invited to take part in extra sessions over the course of the week. There are two sessions which take place after school and supplement the Games programme, on a Tuesday and Thursday running from 4.30 – 6.00. These sessions are used to develop their knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- Physical aspects
- Nutrition advice
- Medical support
- Time management
- Technical support
- Mental Toughness

In addition to this there are one-on-one sessions in their specific activity for those pupils who request it or we feel would benefit from extra support.

There is also close liaison with the county/divisional/national coaches to ensure the specific needs of each pupils are catered for.

Drama (first scholarship award in 2016)

Drama Scholarships are awarded at 13+ for individuals with a particularly sophisticated, natural talent for performance. Drama scholars and other highly talented performers that we nurture throughout the School are expected to be frequently involved with plays, both on the stage and behind the scenes. Particularly talented performers are not only awarded with principal roles, but are also encouraged to take on the important responsibilities and expectations that being a 'lead' within a cast involves. They will also be heavily influential in the organisation and direction of House Drama events.

Individual sessions are offered to talented students who wish to further their performance experience through extra programmes such as the National Youth Theatre projects. Audition tuition and guidance are provided for Drama School hopefuls applying for either full or foundation courses at such institutions, post A Level.

The department also provides opportunities for those students with a particular aptitude and talent for theatrical design, production management or technical aspects. They will be actively involved in these areas for the main School play and for their relevant year group during King's Week.

Design & Technology (first scholarship award in 2016)

The Design & Technology Scholarship (13+) is gained by submitting a portfolio of previous work and by undertaking a written and practical assessment. Applicants that are able to demonstrate an exceptionally high degree of aptitude are offered a scholarship or exhibition. These pupils will be required to attend the department's Gifted & Talented programme.

This programme will primarily consist of an additional workshop session run on Monday afternoons, 4:30 to 6:00. The workshop will be intended to enable and encourage pupils to extend their design work and technical knowledge/skills, beyond what is possible in timetabled lessons. The workshop will involve a variety of activities, including specific skills training, practical projects and competitions.

This programme, however, is not intended to be exclusively for scholars, but will also be open to any Gifted & Talented students identified as having a specific interest and aptitude in the subject.

There are also Design & Technology Arkwright Scholarships awarded to outstanding existing pupils.

January 2016