



THE  
KING'S SCHOOL  
CANTERBURY

# **Gifted and Talented Policy**

Responsible Person: Deputy Head (Academic)  
Latest Review Completed: September 2024

## **What 'gifted and talented' means**

'Gifted and talented' describes children with the ability or potential to develop significantly ahead of their peers:

- 'gifted' learners are those with abilities in one or more academic subjects, such as maths or English
- 'talented' learners are those who have practical skills in areas such as sport, music, design or creative and performing arts

Skills and attributes such as leadership, decision-making and organisation can also be taken into account when identifying G&T pupils.

## **At King's**

The school's policy is to encourage excellence in all areas. Every effort is made to support a pupil's particular talent, allowing it to flourish and develop further. We do not formally identify any pupils who are G&T, other than via scholarships, but we are aware of ability, talent and dedication in many of our pupils and work hard to support their progress.

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.

The following areas (which are the seven areas that we award scholarships in) are a guide to how we identify and support G&T pupils in the main areas of curricular and co-curricular school life.

## **Academic**

There are at any time 50-80 pupils in the school (approaching 10%) who are designated King's (Academic) Scholars or Honorary Scholars and another 15 or so (Academic) Exhibitioners. Academic awards are chosen by means of:

- 13+ scholarship exam in Year 8 before entry to the Shell year
- The Sixth Form entrance exam for external candidates in November prior to entry
- The high achievement of eg seven grade 9s, two grade 8s plus another achievement at I/GCSE earns an Honorary Scholarship in the Sixth Form (evaluated each year to remain a high bar for approximately the highest-scoring 20 students)

The progress of the King's Academic Scholars and Exhibitioners is specifically tracked and monitored by the Heads of Years and the Deputy Head (Academic), who has responsibility for the scholars (the Senior Deputy Head as Hypodidasculus has responsibility for the ceremonial duties of the scholars). Each award holder has at least one meeting with the DH(A) each year to discuss their academic performance, intellectual interests and ambitions.

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 Fifts in some subjects

2. The Gratin programme (in which talented classists take both Latin and Greek as a 'double subject' in Y11)
3. Early entry IGCSEs and A levels in some modern foreign languages for advanced linguists
4. Enhanced maths programmes (most of the top three sets take the AQA Further Maths level 2 qualification in Year 11).
5. Astronomy GCSE is available to those in top Physics sets

Outside the timetabled curriculum:

1. The Shell Scholars Plus group of 15-20 (talks, debates, seminar, trips programme) and Global Perspectives projects (compulsory presentation and optional essay prize)
2. The Removes Scholars Plus group of 15-20 (talks, debates, seminar, trips programme)
3. The 6b Scholars Plus group of 20-25 (a programme of talks, debates, seminars, trips)
4. Maths competitions: Intermediate and Senior Mathematical Challenge, Kangaroos, British Maths Olympiads, etc.
5. Science: Science Olympiads (European and International); Cambridge Chemistry Challenge for the Lower Sixth; Young Scientists' Journal essay competition; encouragement to enter Nuffield Science Bursary scheme, etc.
6. The Globalist competitions (eg in translating a poem in a foreign language).
7. Participation in off-timetable academic clubs, societies and talks providing opportunities to deliver papers and give presentations
8. The Oxbridge programme and department programmes for university entrance in those subjects
9. Comprehensive programmes of talks and clubs, both departmentally or centrally arranged, often open to the Lower and Middle School as well as the Sixth Form.
10. Other opportunities such as the King's Week Talks, where nine pupils, mostly in the Sixth Form, volunteer to research and deliver a 15-minute public academic lecture or TED-style talk on a topic of their choice during King's Week.

## **Music**

The School has a long tradition of musical excellence and is fortunate to educate many highly talented musicians, the very best of whom are usually admitted as Music Scholars & Exhibitioners (of which there are over 60 in the School at any one time), who often have a financial award to enable them to attend the school. They play a leading role in the major ensembles and direct and are expected to lead House music events. Their progress is monitored by the Director and Assistant Director of Music.

Specifically:

1. Full participation in instrumental and choral ensembles expected
2. Guided and supervised practice sessions for Removes and Shells before morning assembly
3. Regular performing in concerts, lunchtimes recitals, etc
4. All take Music at GCSE.
5. Preparation for diploma exams where appropriate

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.

Gifted & Talented musicians are encouraged by the department, their instrumental teachers and in ensembles to take up opportunities and to stretch themselves. Participation in the elite ensembles is open to all year groups and is never limited to those holding music awards.

## **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 – 4.45–6.15pm 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. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> 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 professional artists are brought in to lead weekend workshops in a variety of media and processes.

## **Sport**

Those who are awarded Sport Scholarships together with those pupils we identify to be of a particularly gifted standard are invited to take part in extra sessions over the course of the week: the Sports Excellence programme.

There are two sessions which take place after school and supplement the Games programme, on weekday games afternoons from 4.30 to 6.00pm. 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 that we feel would benefit from extra support.

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

## **Drama**

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, as well as attend the 'Drama Excellence' programmes. 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**

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 6:00pm. The workshop will be intended to enable and encourage pupils to extend their design work, technical knowledge and 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 is not just for the small number of scholars but is also open to Gifted & Talented (or very enthusiastic) students identified as having a specific interest and aptitude in the subject.

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

### **Dance**

Dance has taken on higher prominence with the opening of the Malthouse Theatre and dance studios. Scholarships and exhibitions are on offer to the very best talented and committed pupils at 13+. Dance lessons with a professional dance teacher are offered and guidance is given by the Head of Dance.

Performance opportunities for all dancers of a wide range of talents and experience occur regularly through the year at KiDaCo shows, giving the opportunity for the most talented dancers to perform solo and/or as part of a group, and to become leaders of their peers.