



OUR APPROACH TO 'ABLE, GIFTED AND TALENTED' STUDENTS AT CHAILEY SCHOOL

Chailey School is committed to giving every student in its care the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential. This, of course, includes not only students such as those with special educational needs but also those who are amongst the 'academically more able' or who display some level of 'giftedness' or exceptional talent.

Definitions and identification



At Chailey we recognise and celebrate a diversity of abilities and talents, from the exceptional mathematician to the talented violinist to the outstanding cricketer. The DfE (2014) now tends not to use the term 'gifted' and instead prefers the terms 'academically more able' or 'most able'. A 'more able' student might be one who "has the capacity for or demonstrates high levels of performance in an academic area". Nevertheless, the terms 'gifted' and 'talented' are still very relevant: a 'gifted' student would be one who is capable of performance in an 'academic' at an exceptional level and sometimes in unconventional ways. A similar criterion could apply to a 'talented' student with a specific ability in a 'non-academic' area such as in sporting fields, visual / performing abilities, mechanical ingenuity, leadership or creativity.

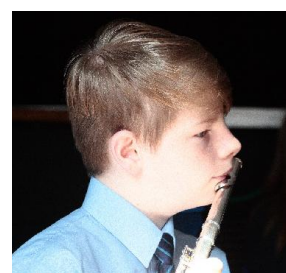
Whilst recognising these definitions and methods of identification, we at Chailey look beyond the useful guidelines of assessment results to help identify the abilities, gifts and talents in our students. Gifted students, for instance, don't always perform well in formal assessments, and results from these can sometimes mask their abilities.

Provision for the gifted and talented

Being academically able, gifted and/or talented should be a joy rather than a chore. We don't, for instance, believe in simply setting more work for a very able student. Rather, he or she may be set different, more challenging work. This will, however, depend on the individual student – everyone is different. In some circumstances, for instance, it may well be appropriate to get such a student to teach or assist other students.

In providing the right climate for the academically able, gifted or talented student to flourish, we think it is particularly important to:

- have an ethos in which it is 'cool to be clever'
- provide work at an appropriate challenging level for all our students
- set challenging targets for all our students
- encourage all students to be reflective, independent learners
- develop and maintain a culture of higher-order questioning, thinking, evaluation and creativity in classrooms
- recognise and celebrate achievement
- provide a range of extra-curricular activities
- provide opportunities for students to work with like-minded peers



We believe that most of the opportunities to provide for, as well as extend, challenge and develop the most able, gifted and/or talented student, will inevitably occur within normal school lessons – it is a focus in the planning of lessons. In addition to this, extension, enrichment and extra-curricular provision are a feature of the life of the school.

The school as a whole, as well as individual faculties, actively seek opportunities to offer their able, gifted and talented students enrichment experiences wherever possible. Recent examples of such activities include:

- BBC News Report Day
- Involvement at Southern Schools' Book Award at Roedean
- English Speaking Union competition held at Brighton College
- UK Junior & Intermediate Mathematical Challenges
- STEM Sussex Robotics Challenge
- STEM club (throughout year)
- 'Inspiring Science' Event
- 'Big Bang Science Fair'
- Schools' Shakespeare Festival
- Pallant House Gallery Project for artists
- ArtsMark award and accreditation (throughout year)
- Music in the Community project
- Chailey Young Designer
- Mandarin Chinese course for linguists (throughout year)
- Residential and day trips abroad for Modern Foreign Languages
- Role for students as 'Language Leaders' for linguists (throughout year)
- Work with MFL graduates and Sussex Downs College
- Research and leadership in 'The Great War 1914-18' project
- Trip to Parliament and meeting with local MP in school
- 'Shape the Future' competition with Houses of Parliament
- Trip to Cambridge University
- 'Future Scholar Awards' – Southampton University
- Links and coaching courses with Brighton & Hove Albion (throughout year)
- Role for students as 'Sports Leaders' (throughout year)
- Cricket and leadership with Sussex CCC (throughout year)
- Ouse Valley Athletics championships
- Sussex Schools Cross-Country
- Leadership development opportunities through Ashden Environmental Project, Duke of Edinburgh programme, and Head Boy/Head Girl and prefect system (throughout year)



Acknowledgement and celebration

It is most important to support, celebrate and enjoy the achievements of our most able, gifted and talented students as a matter of course, although we also respect where individual students find that uncomfortable. Celebrating success is an integral part of the school's culture. We do this through such elements as the Chailey School News.

Contact

Whilst every teacher has individual responsibility for the most able, gifted and talented students, the Assistant Headteacher (Learning Development), Mr Dudgeon, is the main contact in the school. He can be contacted via email at tdudgeon@chaileyschool.org.

