



Blatchington Mill School and Sixth Form College

INVOLVEMENT, ACHIEVEMENT & CARE

Gifted and Talented Students

The aims of the school recognise the need to maximise the potential of all students. The school provides for children of all abilities and we have a large number of very able students who make the most of the learning opportunities available both in the classroom and also through the many extra curricular activities on offer.

Definitions: What do we mean by Gifted and Talented (G & T).

DfES guidance advocates that schools should identify 5-10% of each year group as 'Gifted and Talented'. These students will be nominated for membership to the 'National Academy for Gifted and talented Youth'. It is accepted that students with an exceptional ability in one or more subjects may be defined as 'Gifted'. These students represent about 2% of the population. Talented students are those who demonstrate an exceptional ability in visual or performing arts or sport.

Identification

A variety of methods are used. Information from primary schools is used to help identify students who may benefit from being further monitored at secondary level. A primary school recommendation does not automatically mean an individual will be monitored. As children settle into the school, subject teachers will be asked to monitor their progress and identify pupils who are Gifted and Talented using subject specific criteria.

For students in other years, identification is based on a range of information such as tests and teacher assessments. The register of students is circulated to all staff and colleagues are encouraged to add to the register at any stage through discussion with the G & T Co-ordinator.

Academic provision

There is an expectation that each curriculum area provides for G & T students within their classrooms. This can be done by providing extension material or by

employing flexible learning techniques which enhance the opportunities for independent learning. Each curriculum area has a G & T link teacher who is

responsible for monitoring and supporting students who have been identified within their subject area.

We also try and widen the learning environment of G & T students by encouraging them to take part in extra-curricular activities, master classes, competitions and to work with visitors such as artists, musicians, writers etc.

In some subject areas students are set in ability groups which enable the more able students to work at a faster pace and take on more challenging work.

Mentoring

Identified students will be monitored initially by their form tutors and the focus of some of the discussion will centre on their subject specific talents. During the year their progress will be monitored by the subject link teacher and possibly G & T co-ordinator especially if it is felt the student would benefit from some additional encouragement and support to ensure they are able to achieve their full potential.

The G & T Co-ordinator's rôle

1. To ensure students are identified and this information is shared with the teaching staff
2. To ensure a suitable monitoring system is in place.
3. To follow up as appropriate, issues identified during monitoring sessions.
4. To support the work of the Head of Year in assisting and encouraging G & T students who may be experiencing difficulties.
5. To liaise with parents regarding G & T issues where appropriate.
6. To encourage the development of activities which specifically target G & T students.

Partnership

We believe that effective communication between home and school is vital in ensuring that students are supported and encouraged in all aspects of school life. We aim to keep parents informed of student progress and are equally happy to hear from parents about their child's achievement outside school.

If you have any queries regarding the issues mentioned above contact the school's Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator or the appropriate Head of Year.

CONTACT IN SCHOOL

Ms M Ellis

Head of Year 10