

Gifted & Talented

In every school and college there are students with a range of abilities. Gifted and talented is the term applied to those young people who are achieving, or who have the potential to achieve, at a level significantly beyond the rest of their peer group. This refers to the upper end of the ability range in most classes/cohorts. It's important to remember that gifted and talented students are individuals, with their own unique strengths and weaknesses. A student may be very able in some areas, but may appear on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register in recognition of behavioural, social, physical/sensory or specific learning difficulties.

Chase Terrace Technology College has been awarded a Three Star Gold Award for its provision for gifted and talented students from the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC). We hope the following will help you to understand some of the provision provided for the students on this programme.

Who makes it on the Programme?

In each year group, CTTC identifies between 5-10% as being capable to be on an official gifted and talented register. To be on the official register, students should have demonstrated a high ability in English, Maths and Science equally. This identification will come from SAT results, CAT scores and recommendations from primary schools initially. At the end of Year 7, working at levels will also be reviewed to see whether any other students are eligible to be included.

All students at CTTC have the opportunity to make it on to a wider register for individual subjects. This is based on the progress and potential demonstrated in lessons and is centered around nominations made by teachers. It is possible for you to be on the official register and still be nominated by individual subjects. Being on the G&T programme is most definitely a positive thing, but it's only the start. While teachers do everything they can to support and challenge pupils in lessons, there needs to be a willingness from every student to continue trying hard and put in the extra effort to secure the best possible results further down the line. To support students and parents, Mr J Tennant (Coordinator for the Gifted and Talented programme) will be in regular contact with students and parents on the G&T register and look to be an extra support to guide and monitor each student's progress throughout their time at CTTC.

In class provision for Gifted and Talented students

In order to meet the needs of more able students, CTTC is committed to providing lessons that give include opportunities to stretch and challenge pupils further. This is done through:

- Tasks that are as open ended as possible to give students the opportunity to explore creative ideas and approaches to their work that allow them to reach higher level
- A range of extension activities and regular homework will be in place to allow students to develop their knowledge and abilities further – sometimes over and beyond that on the normal curriculum
- Regular individualised feedback of marks so that students can look to enhance and improve their work where possible

Early entry GCSE courses are becoming a possible option in many subjects. This may be an option to consider from Year 9 and will be considered based on students progress and potential in each individual subject. This could then lead on to an early entry AS level in some subjects.

Out of Class Provision for Gifted and Talented Students

There are a number of opportunities available to pupils outside of lessons—and these should be highlighted to students by their tutors and teachers or via Mr Tennant. These include;

- Subject based clubs that can stretch students further and build further upon their existing knowledge. There are lots, so students should firstly consider clubs in subjects that they are most interested in. This is also a great way of mixing with students from other year groups who may share common interests!
- Opportunities to go on enrichment trips and courses specific to subjects in which pupils have been nominated in.
- Yearly university open day trips that will give you a flavour of what it is like to study in higher education.

What can G&T students do at home?

Pursuing and developing knowledge and ability outside of school is really important. So how can your child do this? Here's some suggestions;

- Look out for external competitions. These could be local or even national competitions that will challenge you further and give you the opportunity to be recognised and awarded.
- Get hold of course books early and try out some of the tasks to improve your knowledge further and - this may help you to decide about which option subjects you want to pursue. See your subject teachers for more information.
- Take a look at specific subject websites that have all kinds of interactive activities. See Mr Tennant for a fact sheet for subjects you are interested in. These fact sheets contain lots of website links that you might find interesting. Alternatively, check out some of the links below.
- Why not look in to higher order thinking and learning techniques to equip better when tackling your work - e.g. Blooms Taxonomy or Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats.

What are some the characteristics of a child who is gifted and talented?

It is important to remember that the characteristics of a G&T child can vary greatly from one child to the next. However, the following characteristics are relatively common for most students who are gifted and talented to exhibit; Learns rapidly, Extensive vocabulary, Excellent memory, Reasons well, Strong curiosity, Mature for age, Good sense of humour, Keen observation, Compassion for others, Vivid imagination, Long attention span, Ability with numbers, Concern with justice and fairness, Sensitivity, Wide range of interests. Other slightly less common characteristics include; Ability with puzzles, High energy level Perfectionism, Perseverance in interests, Questions authority, Avid reader, Prefers older companions.

My child is exceptionally gifted or talented in an area outside of lessons. What should I do?

Is your child a bare foot ski champion or succeeded in a national writing competition? Even if your child is gifted and talented in an area that does not fall naturally into a subject area – we want to know about it!

It is really important that the school knows of exceptional achievements of all students. As parents, you will know better than any teachers of the full range of knowledge and ability that your child has (as students can often be reluctant to tell teachers about their capabilities). There is scope within the G&T register for these achievements to be logged and with parents permission, to be recognised within the school. This also gives teachers the opportunity to discuss these abilities with students and possibly tailor future work to encompass these abilities in their school work. Please let Mr Tennant know of these via the contact list below.

Useful contacts and resources

Mr J Tennant, Gifted and Talented Coordinator

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Email j.tennant@cttc.staffs.sch.uk

www.nagcbritain.org.uk

www.mensa.org.uk/puzzles/

www.hoagiesgifted.org/links.htm