



Kimbolton School

MOST ABLE AND TALENTED STUDENT POLICY: SENIOR SCHOOL

This policy is the responsibility of Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning)

Last review date: May 23

Review due: May 24

Overview

Kimbolton School is a high achieving school and all students have passed an entrance examination. Our students are expected to perform above the national average in public examinations. The percentage of A*-B passes at A Level from 2019 and 2022 averaged 70 % (National Average: 62 % in 2022). At GCSE the 9-7/A*-A average over the same period was 57 % (National Average: 30 % in 2022).

Although there are some students who have been awarded scholarships and awards on entering the school this is not the sole way in which we identify the Most Able and Talented pupils, and most extension opportunities are not exclusive to these students. Kimbolton School prides itself on striving to offer each individual student opportunities to develop their full academic and talented potential. To this end we believe in encouraging all students to engage in independent learning and extend their academic interests beyond the curriculum. This could be through a range of activities including academic clubs, lectures and competitions, the possibilities afforded by Kimbolton's e-learning platforms including Showbie, extension projects, educational visits and other special events. Alongside this we also equip pupils with the skills and expertise to make the most of these opportunities. This is through engaging and inspiring teaching, activities in tutor time and assemblies and the Sixth Form Citizenship program.

Academic departments frequently review their curriculum to ensure that they are offering a range of activities both inside and outside of the classroom to broaden the horizons of pupils at Kimbolton School. We want our pupils to make the most of the holistic education that we provide placing emphasis on the growth and progress of the individual and not solely focus on examination results as a marker of success. At the centre of all our enrichment activities is a love of learning and recognising that can be attained by encouraging and empowering students to and engage in their own areas of interest and discovery.

Definition of Most Able pupils

‘those whose progress and attainment significantly exceed age-related expectations.’ - Ofsted

We recognise that students may possess exceptional talents or skills in one or more of a range of ways, including exceptional academic ability, specific aptitude in a subject, especially creative or productive thinking, leadership qualities, ability in creative or performing arts and sporting ability.

Identification of Most Able and Talented pupils

Methods of identification:

- External Assessment data including: MidYis, Yellis, ALIS, Mensa, External Examination Results
- Internal Assessment data including: Reporting Information, Internal Examination Results, Prize winner, Rewards and Commendations
- Individual Academic Department nominations and recommendations particularly for creativity talented individuals
- Information received from parents recognising talents outside of the school

Students nominated via the above methods will appear on a central spreadsheet. From this record, we produce our official School List of Most Able and Talented Pupils. Teachers and departments will then have access to this list for information and to ensure that all pupils are suitably challenged and have their learning enriched.

Provision

1. *Within subject departments.*

- a. In the classroom by enriching the curriculum (e.g. taking content and skills to the very highest level perhaps beyond what is normally covered) and by setting appropriately levelled work (e.g. an investigative or enquiry approach encourages the child to find and solve problems, utilising higher order thinking skills.)
- b. Each academic department will be able to offer a range of suggestions and opportunities for the most able students to extend their learning beyond the content of academic lessons. Our e-learning platforms such as Showbie are particularly useful vehicles through which we can promote and recommend relevant extra materials such as websites, videos, *TED lectures* and podcasts for students to delve deeper into areas of interest.
- c. Many subjects have clubs and societies run with the intention of broadening the horizons of pupils within a specific subject or faculty (e.g. STEM club/Medics/Liberal Arts Society etc.)
- d. At Sixth Form Level, each department will offer specific guidance, mentoring and support for those students intending to apply to Oxbridge and top Russell Group universities.
- e. A key feature of our L6th Form is the 7th Period in each subject. This provides every student in the year group with a weekly opportunity to explore issues outside of the

normal A-Level curriculum and develop their independent learning skills and broader knowledge.

2. *Extra-curricular academic clubs and societies.* We organise a wide range of academic extension clubs and societies. In addition, we have a growing programme of academic lectures with a curriculum-wide variety of specialist visiting speakers.
3. *Aragon Lecture.* The annual Aragon Lecture in September which invites a visiting speaker to make explicit the cross-curricular links that apply in many fields of academia.
4. *Competitions.* Many Departments take part in externally organised competitions, such as the Science Olympiads, Maths Challenges, the DTE Rotary competition, BASE Economics, Art competitions and Poetry by Heart to name but a few. We also have strong national reputations in the Debating, General Knowledge and Young Enterprise arenas. There is the in-house Summer Essay Writing Competition on a varying topic, and we also encourage pupils to take part in the wide variety of different essay competitions run by universities including Oxford and Cambridge.
5. *Performances and Showcases.* There are multiple performances from our musicians and actors in plays, musicals and recitals throughout the year. These are always to the highest standard showcasing the talent here at Kimbolton School. We also have DTE and Art showcases celebrating the pieces created as part of GCSE and A-Level NEA.
6. *Educational visits.* Kimbolton School places great value on educational and cultural visits for all its pupils, recognising that they provide a unique opportunity to enhance the curriculum and to extend and support class-based work. Our visits during school time range from day/weekend trips to sites of local interest, such as the 1st Form History, Geography and RS trip to Peterborough Cathedral and Serpentine Green, or our 6th Form Artists visiting London galleries, to trips further afield such as our annual 2nd form cultural trip to Paris and the 3rd Form English/History Battlefields trip. In addition, several departments organise longer excursions during the school holidays to destinations including Barcelona, Berlin, Munich and New York.
7. *Special Events.* There is the alternating annual Arts or Science week, our own in-house Model United Nations competition, World Book Day celebrations.
8. *Scholars Programme.* A regular programme of academic extension for Scholars in the 1st-3rd Form this year focusing on Serendipity.
9. *Manchester Group.* An academic, student-led discussion group for students from the 4th Form through to the U6. The emphasis is on students leading discussions on a range of academic issues, with the occasional external guest speaker. As well as providing students with a forum to share their own research and areas of interest. The group provides leadership and mentoring opportunities for our Sixth Form and inspiration for students in the 4th/5th Form.

10. *The Perspectives Group*. A programme of critical thinking and academic extension for 6th Form students who aspire to apply to Oxbridge.
11. *EPQ*. AQA's Level 3 Extended Project Qualification for Sixth Form students which promotes and develops enquiry research, reflection and presentation skills. It also is an opportunity to develop independent learning and work outside the A Level syllabus.
12. *HPQ*. There is also the option of a L2 Project for 3rd/4th Form students interested in academic research, which departments can encourage students they have identified as 'most able' to participate in. Scholars are also invited to undertake a L2 Project.
13. *Peer mentoring*. In addition to the pastoral peer mentoring that occurs throughout the school, there are other examples of this occurring in a variety of areas which provides leadership opportunities and chances for our students to take leadership roles. Examples include the DofE mentors, student involvement in coaching/refereeing sports fixtures and support for students taking the HPQ from those studying for the EPQ.

Monitoring

Kimbolton School has a wide range of data available to help review student progress. Pupils on the Most Able and Talented List who are seen to be consistently underperforming will be supported with a rigorous process of targeted intervention. They will be supported initially by their Tutor/HoD/Hms, with further assistance from the AH (T&L) and the DHAc as required.

Areas of Responsibility

Assistant Head (Teaching and Learning)

- Signposting and reviewing this policy under the direction of the DHAc. This policy will be reviewed biennially.
- Upkeep of the central Most Able and Talented List.

HoDs

- Ensuring that the Most Able and Talented pupils have suitable provision in their subjects both inside and outside of the classroom. This will be monitored through departmental development plans and discussions with the AH (T&L) and DHAc.

All Teaching Staff

- Be aware of the Most Able and talented list and of pupils in their classes and tutor groups.
- Pass on any recommendations for additions to the AH (T&L)

Appendix A

This table is a useful one in identifying potential Oxbridge applicants.

Potential Oxbridge Aspirant
Asks the questions
Discusses in detail, elaborates
Beyond the group
Shows strong feeling, opinions
Draws inferences
Initiates projects
Enjoys independent learning
Creates a new design
Manipulates information
Can see links between ideas
Thrives on complexity