

Woodbridge School
PROVISION for GIFTED and TALENTED PUPILS (Senior School)

1 Policy Statement

Woodbridge School aims to stimulate the academically able in the classroom and nurture talent in all areas, through an enhanced curriculum and the rich provision of extra-curricular opportunities.

2 Procedure

We define academically gifted as those in the top 10% of the national profile and talented as those who have regional or national status in academic or extracurricular activities such as chess, music or drama. Woodbridge School admits a broad ability range but over a third of the Year 7 intake will be in the top 10% of the national MidYIS profile and hence gifted and talented pupils are not taught separately but are stretched and stimulated in normal classes and through a wealth of extracurricular activities.

The Director of Teaching and Learning is directly responsible for the identification of academically gifted pupils, and for ensuring that their progress is monitored.

The Headmaster, Senior Management Team, and the Housemasters give academic success a strong focus at School and House assemblies, reinforcing a culture which celebrates high academic success.

The School deliberately offers a demanding curriculum for all pupils, including two modern languages and Latin, as well as the option of separate sciences to GCSE.

Pupils are expected to take ten GCSEs and some eleven or twelve. All Year 10 pupils must choose mathematics, English, the three sciences at least one modern language and at least one humanity.

IGCSE Mathematics and English are taken because these specifications offer more challenge and provide a better basis for A-level study.

Most lesson plans include cognisance of the need to stretch able pupils.

Mandarin, Japanese and Classical Greek are offered from Year 8 onwards as extra subjects, off-timetable.

The School is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for Chess. In order to sharpen thinking skills, chess is incorporated in to the Year 7 curriculum.

English offers a range of opportunities including creative writing competitions: poetry, essay writing and public speaking.

Mathematically able pupils are entered for the various stages of the national and international mathematics Olympiads. Keen mathematicians also take part annually in the National Cipher Challenge and Mathematics in Motion. Other examples of enrichment opportunities in academic subjects such as the annual physics trip to CERN, regular attendance at Cambridge University chemistry lectures and participation in the annual Biology Olympiad.

Setting by ability in mathematics starts in Year 8. English and the sciences may be set according to ability at GCSE level.

Occasionally gifted pupils take courses “out of age” but only when this is clearly appropriate.

All pupils in Years 12 and 13 follow a Critical Thinking programme which takes place weekly. There is an annual Leadership Skills morning for Year 12, helping to develop the decision-making skills vital to their role in the Upper Sixth.

The School actively encourages applications from candidates with particular gifts and talents through its generous scholarship scheme, focusing on the following areas of excellence:

- Art
 - the talented artists’ group
 - the Sculpture garden brings the work of renowned sculptors to the heart of the School.
- Music
 - extensive range of musical opportunity available (over 60 concerts annually)
 - master classes are offered with international performers and the opportunity to perform a concerto with a professional orchestra to scholars in Year 13.
- Chess
 - an International Master or Grand Master is on the permanent staff of the school and ensures coaching to the highest level
 - participation in the chess national league (4NCL) and the Suffolk Adult League
- Sport
 - wide range of sporting opportunities and coaching, including specialist coaches for master classes

- sports development programme to help all performers improve their level
- sporting experience programme allows pupils easily to see a range of live sport at the highest level
- Drama
 - wide range of drama productions in the Seckford Theatre: showcases, formal productions, musical theatre
 - Arts Award and BTEC dance

Beyond the timetable, there is a rich range of extra-curricular opportunities to nurture initiative, problem solving, planning and leadership. All pupils are expected to participate in at least one of the following and most manage several, even in the Sixth Form:

- The Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Sports Leaders Award (Junior, Senior and Community levels)
- The Combined Cadet Force (Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force sections)
- The Young Enterprise Scheme
- LAMDA: two permanent teachers offer tuition up to ATCL level
- The Model United Nations (regional and international meetings)
- International Initiatives: cultural exchanges to China, India, Oman, South Africa, Australia, as well as language exchanges to France, Spain, Germany.

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