



# More Able and Talented Policy

## 1. Philosophy and Rationale

At Furze Platt we seek to:

- Develop the academic strengths and sporting, musical, dramatic and / or artistic talents of students at Furze Platt;
- Maximise the academic progress of those defined as 'More Able'.
- Ensure that those defined as 'Talented' are able to maximise these sporting, musical, dramatic and/or artistic talents whilst also maximising their academic progress;
- Ensure the emotional well-being of those defined as More Able and / or Talented;
- Prepare those defined as More Able and / or Talented students to thrive at the very best universities and other higher education institutions, and to succeed at the very highest levels in their chosen careers and vocations.

## 2. Identification of more able and talented students

The descriptions 'more able' and 'talented' in this policy are applied to those where strengths are already particularly pronounced:

- A More Able student has a recognisable ability to grasp difficult concepts quickly, and to engage in high-level reasoning. They have an unusually high level of verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and/or non-verbal reasoning, including the ability to make connections, see patterns, think logically and creatively, and solve problems.
- More Able students are identified on entry to the School using information held by primary schools about that student's learning and achievements in Key Stage 2. We use this information to make sure we provide students with the right level of challenge. More Able students will be identified on entry by:
  - Having SATs scores of 120 in English (reading) and Mathematics;
  - Having CATS test scores in the top 10% nationally;
  - Showing exceptional attainment in a range of subjects by the first progress report of Year 7.
- In addition to using quantitative data, more able students will be identified over time using:
  - Subject area nominations
  - Exceptionally high and consistent academic achievement
  - Assessment and examination results
  - Parent consultation - we will consider parental nomination and welcome any background, knowledge or evidence of a student's work done at home if appropriate. This information will be cross referenced to performance data.
- Students who are PP, FSM or SEND will have criteria adjusted accordingly.
- A talented student has an unusually high level of ability in sport, music, drama or art;
- Talented students are identified by teachers from the PE, Music, Drama or Art departments, or as a result of achievement in these areas outside of school.

### **3. Responsibilities Class teachers and Form Tutors**

- Seek to draw out and nurture the strengths of all students;
- Play a role in the identification process of the MA&T students in their forms and classes and inform the MA&T Coordinator;
- Ensure that appropriate stretch and challenge is present in all activities – in class, and where possible ‘teach from the top’.
- Track, monitor and intervene and inform the MA&T Coordinator of provisions and interventions.
- Liaise with Heads of Department, Heads of Progress, and the MA&T Coordinator as appropriate;
- Liaise with parents as appropriate.

### **More able and Talented Coordinator**

- Assist with the identification of MA&T students and work with class teachers and form teachers to ensure they are aware of who they are, and what provision is in place for them;
- Co-ordinate the programme of in-school and outside-school enrichment activities for more able students;
- Overseeing the mentoring of more able Year 11 students by more able Year 12 students;
- Overseeing the mentoring of talented students by form tutors and other well-placed mentors;
- Contribute to any programme of professional development aimed at improving the progress of upper-ability students.
- Working with the Sixth Form team, to ensure that MA&T students are motivated, challenged and supported to apply to the most competitive universities, including Oxbridge and Russell Group universities;
- Keep abreast of the latest evidence and research regarding MA&T students;
- Review and evaluate the school’s provision and support for MA&T students, taking into account the views and experiences of students and, where appropriate, their parents;
- Report to the Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion);
- Provides an annual review of provision for MA&T students to T&L/governing body.

### **Senior Leadership Team**

- Assistant Headteachers (Inclusion and Sixth Form) monitor the progress of MA&T students and regularly report this back to Heads of Department and the MA&T Coordinator;
- Assistant Headteacher (Inclusion) oversees the work of the MA&T Coordinator and reports to the Governing Body.

### **Governing Body**

- The governing body has a nominated governor with oversight of MA&T.
- The MA&T Governor will monitor the implementation of this policy through:
  - visiting the school;
  - attending relevant Governing Body meetings and taking a central role in discussions about MA&T;

- discussing/monitoring provision and outcomes for MA&T students;
- Reporting to the Governing Body.

#### 4. Provision

All students have access to provision to maximise potential in their learning, extracurricular and super curricular interests. More Able students are targeted, in the first instance, for the following opportunities:

- Stretch and challenge activities within lessons
- Critical thinking via the current affairs tutor programme
- Subject masterclasses
- UK Maths Challenge (UKMT)
- Oxford University visit and workshops
- Enterprise festival
- Lessons from Auschwitz
- Sutton Trust Summer Schools
- Royal Holloway residential courses
- Eton Summer Schools
- Greenpower Engineering Club
- Computer science workshops
- Science lectures
- Oxbridge and Russell Group University preparation
- Grade 8-9 revision conferences

#### Potential Plus

We are members of Potential Plus, a charity that supports children with 'high learning potential'. As part of our school membership, staff and parents have access to:

- Blogs on key topics, e.g., living with teenagers with high learning potential.
- Members' online community with specialist groups, forums, and e-resources (including free downloadable advice sheets on subjects like dealing with perfectionism or parenting a child with high learning potential; and activity packs for children).
- Monthly Focus on Potential e-magazine signposting opportunities, events and information for families.
- A range of low-cost or free online events for young people e.g., maths challenges, science, writing or drawing workshops.
- A variety of free online Fireside Chats looking at issues identified by parents.
- Access to the Big Family Weekend, with a wealth of speakers, activities, advice sessions and workshops for parents and young people.
- A range of online or in-school parent workshops which are consistently rated as excellent.