



## Supporting Gifted and Talented Students at Don Valley Academy

### **What 'gifted and talented' means:**

'Gifted and talented' describes children and young people with an ability to develop to a level significantly ahead of their year group (or with the potential to develop those abilities):

- 'gifted' learners are those who have abilities in one or more academic subjects, like Maths and English
- 'talented' learners are those who have practical skills in areas like sport, music, design or creative and performing arts

Skills like leadership, decision-making and organisation are also taken into account when identifying and providing for gifted and talented children.

High ability is usually categorised in to 6 areas:

- High intellectual ability
- Mechanical ingenuity
- Physical talent
- Visual and performing abilities
- Creativity
- Outstanding leadership and social awareness

At Don Valley, we monitor all gifted and talented students to ensure they are making progress with their studies and developing their skills. We speak to all gifted and talented students about their progress at least once a term, although their individual class teachers will be monitoring progress at each assessment. Our key aim is to foster a love of learning and the pursuit of excellence.

Students remain on the Gifted and Talented register throughout their school life at Don Valley Academy. Schools have a responsibility to meet the educational needs of all their pupils. For the gifted and talented, this includes providing greater challenges in lessons and opportunities for pupils to demonstrate and develop their abilities. Don Valley Academy students may take part in extra-curricular activities, for example, gifted English students took part in a speaking and listening event to improve their oracy skills. In addition, some students are running a Creative Writing Club for Year 7 youngsters, in order to develop their leadership skills and develop their confidence at presenting. The school also has strong links with universities and some

students attend higher education establishments in order to raise aspirations and ambitions. There are also many enrichment activities in all subject areas, for example, theatre and studio trips and sporting competitions.

### **How can I encourage my child to succeed?**

- Read- reading encourages the development of literacy skills and boosts concentration. It allows students to encounter new terminology, which can then be transferred into their studies. Your child may benefit from joining the school library and take part in their many reading challenges and visits from authors.
- Discuss your child's learning with them. What is going well? Why? Do they need any extra support in any subjects? Do they know their expected grade and good grade in every subject?
- Take them on visits to museums or the theatre. Any additional experiences can benefit learning.
- Ask your child if they are a member of any extra-curricular clubs. There is so much going on at Don Valley Academy, for example, music, choir, creative writing, drama, film club, computer club, to name but a few.
- Take an interest in current affairs- students who watch the news and read newspapers develop an interest in their local community and have an interest in the world around them.
- Try some puzzles- puzzles such as crosswords, brain teasers, anagrams and sudoku encourage children to be creative, use problem-solving skills and develop concentration.
- Encourage creativity- "What if...?" questions, making things (e.g. A castle for a History project, a new type of dog kennel for Science etc. )
- Log on to [www.nagcbrtain.org.uk](http://www.nagcbrtain.org.uk) (The National Association for Gifted Children) for more help and advice.
- Some other websites which may be beneficial:  
[www.nrichmaths.org/public](http://www.nrichmaths.org/public)  
[www.youthartsonline.org](http://www.youthartsonline.org)  
[www.tomorrowsachievers.co.uk](http://www.tomorrowsachievers.co.uk)  
[www.thinkquest.org/en](http://www.thinkquest.org/en)

Finally, please do make contact with the school to discuss this further. You may wish to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance or the Gifted and Talented leaders, Nicola Watson and Richard Belk.