Supporting Able, Gifted and Talented Pupils

Introduction

Definitions of able, gifted and talented (AGT) pupils frequently recognise potential of high achievement in comparison to peers. An able pupil is likely to demonstrate strong intellectual and academic abilities. A gifted pupil will demonstrate these abilities across a number of subjects. A talented pupil excels in specific subject areas, e.g. music, art, design, sport, drama.

As a selective school, we expect a higher percentage than average of able, gifted and talented pupils within the school. As such, our aim is to provide a learning environment in which all pupils are able to develop their natural curiosity and challenge themselves intellectually. We believe that these traits can be developed through effective teaching and learning, the provision of a stimulating curriculum, and the provision of super-curricular activities.

This document focuses specifically on academic opportunities, but there are also opportunities and support available for talented pupils in non-academic areas. For example, our music department offers a range of school ensembles, as well as opportunities to play alongside adult musicians. Similarly, our sports department offers one-to-one mentoring of elite athletes, as well as maintaining extensive links with external sports clubs and associations.

The AGT programme at Leicester Grammar School

The provision of super-curricular activities for pupils within the school can be grouped into six strands.

Higher Order Thinking Club – this club is aimed at pupils in Year 9 (with the possibility of selected Year 8 pupils being nominated by their Head of Year) and is run by the AGT coordinator. It helps pupils to develop higher order thinking and research skills, by facilitating the development of their academic interests within small groups. Pupils will ultimately produce their own blog/multimedia communication and, where relevant, enter age appropriate national competitions.

Fresh Minds – this club is for pupils in Year 10, with a continuation into Year 11. It is run by an external provider and is designed to develop a growth mindset by allowing pupils to complete an advanced curriculum built on university-based concepts and ideas. Pupils work in groups to research and deliver a STEM research project, often in collaboration with leading academics and industry experts.

Curriculum extension – formal curriculum extension opportunities include an extra GCSE in Italian for the most able linguists, further maths GCSE for able mathematicians, and the possibility of an early AS Level in music for the most promising musicians.

Sixth Form extension – there is a range of opportunities aimed at pupils in Years 12 and 13. These include the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) and Year 12 Aspire short courses. Mid-way through Year 12 the AGT coordinator opens the Oxbridge programme, a regular lunchtime session aimed at all students considering an Oxbridge application. The programme allows the AGT coordinator to direct potential applicants towards internal clubs and activities (see below), external competitions, to lend support through the application process and to monitor their progress generally.

Department clubs and activities – we offer a huge range of department-led clubs, activities, challenges and competitions. Some focus on skills development (for example, debating club, young science journal and the student newspaper), whilst others are focused on university preparation (for example, MedSoc, Philosophy Society and Physics Extension). Many involve pupils in external competitions (for example, the Bebras challenge, Maths Olympiads and Chemistry challenge). For a full list of current department activities, see appendix 1.

External opportunities – the AGT coordinator publishes a twice-termly Enrich newsletter, in which she promotes internal and external competitions and challenges for pupils. This newsletter is published to pupils, their parents, and staff. Pupils are encouraged to independently take part in competitions and activities advertised, with support available from subject teachers.

Identifying AGT pupils

As a selective school, we have a higher percentage than average of able, gifted and talented pupils within the school. We know that some schools have a register of AGT pupils, maintained by the AGT coordinator. This can be used as a checklist, to ensure that teachers offer extension to these pupils in lessons, and to ensure that pupils access the extension opportunities available to them.

We are not convinced that such an approach is necessary or desirable at LGS:

- Such a list would be contentious: labelling a percentage of the school population as able, gifted and talented will, by definition, exclude the remainder.
- High quality Teaching and Learning will anyway differentiate for AGT pupils.
- With our positive learning culture and so many opportunities on offer, auditing pupil engagement in these is likely to be time-consuming and derive little benefit.

The exception to this position is for scholarship pupils. These pupils are expected to be involved in super-curricular activities during their time at LGS. As such, they will meet with the AGT coordinator at least once a year so that she can check on their academic progress and participation in super-curricular activities. The AGT coordinator will also share a list of these pupils with teaching staff.

Appendix 1: Department super-curricular opportunities by age range

Prep	**Art:** Christmas card competition (internal) **Classics:** Classics Club **Computer Science**: Bebras UK Challenge, leading onto the Oxford University Computing Challenge **DT:** Technology Challenge (internal), Electronics Club **Science:** Prep STEM club
Lower School	**Art** Christmas card competition (internal), Lower School Art Club **Classics:** UKLO and EMACT Essay competition, Classics Club **Computer Science**: Bebras UK Challenge, leading onto the Oxford University Computing Challenge, Perse Coding Team Challenge, CyberDiscovery, CyberFirst Girls, CyberCenturion Challenge **DT**: Rotary Technology Tournament, Greenpower Challenge **English:** Year 7 Readers, Carnegie readers, Journalism Club, The Arts and Humanities Journal **Geography:** Eco Group **History:** Senior Debating, History Society **Maths**: Junior Maths Challenge, with follow on rounds in other competitions **MFL** Spelling Bee and Translation Bee (internal), The Polyglot Podcast **Music:** Music Theory Club **Psychology:** Year 7 +8 Junior Psychology
Middle School	**Art:** Royal Academy Competition **Biology:** Biology Challenge **Classics:** UKLO led by Classics, EMACT Essay competition in Classics **Computer Science**: Bebras UK Challenge, leading onto the Oxford University Computing Challenge, Project Euler Club, British Informatics Olympiad, Year 10 +11 programming club, Yr 8 Girls Cyber First Challenge **English:** Journalism Club, Arts and Humanities Journal **Geography:** World Wise Quiz, Eco Group **History:** Senior Debating, History Society, The Historical Association Great Debate **Linguistics:** Year 10-13 Linguistics Advanced

	MFL: The Polyglot Podcast **Music:** Music Theory Club **DT:** Rotary Technology Tournament, Arkwright Scholarship **Maths**: Intermediate Maths Challenge, with follow on rounds in the Junior Kangaroo or Junior Olympiad, Grey/Pink Kangaroo or Hamilton/MacLaurin Olympiad, Mathematics Olympiad for Girls **MFL**: Athena Bell Translation Prize **Psychology:** Psychology Club **RS**: Philosophy Society **Science**: Science Challenge
Sixth Form	**Art:** Life Drawing **Biology:** Medsoc (also for Vets and Dentists) Bio Soc Intermediate Biology Olympiad, British Biology Olympiad **Chemistry:** Chemistry Challenge Club, Chemistry Olympiad Challenge **DT**: Rotary Technology Tournament **Economics:** The Business and Economics Society; Young Enterprise **English:** Journalism Club, Arts and Humanities Journal, The Leicestrian **History**: The Historical Association Great Debate, Amnesty Group, History Society, Senior Debating **Linguistics:** Year 10-13 Linguistics Advanced **Maths:** Senior Maths Challenge, with potential follow on in the Senior Olympiad and British Mathematical Olympiad, Mathematics Olympiad for Girls **MFL:** The Stephen Spender Translation Prize **Music**: Music Theory Club **RS:** Philosophy Society **Physics:** Physics Extension **Science:** Young Scientist Journal, Stem Club for Prep