



King Edward VI School Lichfield

Learning as a family:

**Information for parents of
more able students**

What does 'more able' mean?

- More able or exceptionally able students are identified as being gifted or talented in a number of areas/subjects. Like many schools, King Edward VI School has a gifted and talented register. All staff have access to the register, which lists students who are deemed as 'gifted' or 'talented'. The register shows information as to the specific areas/subjects the student has shown aptitude in. Students who are deemed 'more able' are highlighted on the register and classed as our core gifted and talented students. Staff should be aware of these students in all of their lessons, as well as gifted and talented students for their own individual subject area. King Edward VI School operates a two-tier register because we believe our students to be individuals and we want to treat them as such. The two tier system allows students with a particular skill in one area, for example, Drama, to be recognised on the register as well as those who are an 'all-round' high performer.

How do you identify gifted, talented and more able students?

The register is reviewed throughout the year and based initially on staff nominations and predictive data. Staff are encouraged to nominate students who consistently perform at a level ahead of their peers; however, some departments have their own individual criteria for nomination. The following factors are also considered when students are added to the register:

- evidence from primary schools
- Fisher Family Trust estimates & CATs tests
- Point score at GCSE (year 11)
- Effort and attainment levels, test scores and teacher assessments
- Form Tutor or Achievement Leader nominations
- Parental nomination and/or discussion with students
- Membership and performance in extra-curricular activities

Why is it important to recognise gifted, talented and more able students?

- It is important that teachers recognise the strengths and weaknesses of all their students. These strengths and weaknesses need to be addressed accordingly in the classroom so each individual pupil is given the opportunity to fulfil their potential. Gifted, talented and more able students have specific needs. It is a myth that 'clever children achieve anyway'. A student being recognised on the register does not mean they will be educated separately from their friends or the rest of the class. Likewise, students not on the register will still be pushed to achieve at our school

How does King Edward VI School support gifted, talented and more able students?

- Information provided to teachers via the register should inform the planning and teaching of everyday lessons. Teachers will differentiate for these students using a variety of methods i.e. grouping students by ability, providing extension activities to challenge more able learners and using higher order questioning techniques in lessons.
- Tutors and the Lead Teacher for Gifted, Talented and More Able Students can offer further support.
- As well as the wide range of extra-curricular clubs KES runs, students may be offered places on further learning opportunities, e.g. trips or workshops, including visits to University's.
- Gifted & Talented club runs weekly in the LRC and H1 after school on a Wednesday. It is aimed specifically at more able students in Years 7-11. This has merged with Film Club and provides pupils with the chance to watch and review films from different genres and then put the skills seen on screen into action. Students then complete workshops which complement key themes in the films. More information here: <https://www.intofilm.org/>
- Students are introduced to the Children's University programme in year 7 which they can continue to take part in throughout KS3 www.childrensuniversity.co.uk
- Students in KS4 have the opportunity to take part in the "Scholars Programme" run in conjunction with Oxbridge. Pupils complete 7 tutorials with a PHD tutor then complete a 2000 word dissertation which is marked using university level grading systems. Successful students then attend a graduation ceremony at a linked redbrick university such as Warwick or Oxford. [The Scholars Programme - The Brilliant Club](#)
- Communicating with parents via specific updates in the school newsletter

How can you support your child in school?

- Check their show my homework tasks and discuss strategies to manage workload Liaise with subject teachers.
- Liaise with Lead Teacher for Gifted and Talented
- Become involved: support shows, trips and family activities.
- Support them in developing critical research skills from a variety of sources

How can we, as a family, support a more able child outside school?

In this section, we will offer some general advice regarding activities you could do together as a family to support your child. You may do some of these things already, which is fantastic. There may also be some new suggestions worth trying out too. These ideas are not solely for the more able, as all children would benefit from them.

- Offer challenging reading material including non-fiction as well as fiction.
- Visit museums, libraries and galleries and discuss what you see. Check out any activities/workshops they run.
- Check out local colleges and clubs to explore new subjects, weekends/holidays.
- Experience new hobbies and interests.
- See some live theatre or watch a wider range of films.
- Encourage researching around interests at libraries/on the internet.
- Encourage activities and games which involve thinking, explaining, planning, etc.
- Encourage debating ideas and opinions with each other.
- Encourage writing, e.g. stories, letters, diaries.
- Talk through your day and your child's day, and encourage active family discussions.. Oxplore.net is a digital portal for 11-18 year olds run by Oxford University. The site aims to help students think deeply about issues that go beyond the school curriculum. Users can take on the site's "Big Questions", watch videos, test their knowledge, join live events and pose their own questions <https://oxplore.org/>
- Encourage them to adopt a growth mindset For more able learners the notion that effort and persistence are just as important as talent when it comes to achieving pretty much anything in life. Remind them that FAIL can often mean First Attempt in Learning! "Change your words...change your mindset" Simply put - In a growth mindset, people believe that their most basic abilities, character, and attributes, can be developed through sustained effort and practice. -[Growth Mindset | Psychology Today](#)
- Practice a variety of revision techniques with your child, revising is a skill that needs to be explicitly taught and practiced. Consider using this website as a starting point for different techniques: [7 Revision Techniques For GCSE & A-Level \(That Actually Work\) \(thinkstudent.co.uk\)](#)

Subject Specific Opportunities

Science:

Take part in an online science festival and enjoy a range of videos, activities, games and more straight to your computer screen to entertain and engage you and your family.

This festival will bring you content for any budding biologist, chemist, geologist, physicist, or anyone who loves science and wants to find out more. It is full of activities and videos for any future scientist who wants to expand their knowledge and build on the science they already know.

<https://www.rsb.org.uk/get-involved/biology-for-all/science-at-home>



Biology - [Royal Society of Biology](#) - An educational resources hub from the Royal Society of Biology.

Chemistry - [Royal Society of Chemistry](#) - Chemistry resources, from podcasts to online games.

Science - [Oxford Sparks](#) - An online portal for engaging with the exciting scientific developments happening at Oxford.



Accelerated Reader

ENGLISH:

Year 7 – complete a task from the “year 7 reading and writing booklet” on the English section of our school website (linked here: <http://www.keslichfield.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Year-7-Improving-Reading-and-Writing-skills.pdf>)

Year 8 – complete enough accelerated reader quizzes to become a word millionaire!

All key stages – join in with the LRC’s weekly book club activities on show my homework! Complete a task of the week that is set via the announcements and submit a photograph of it via SMHWK.

All key stages – would you like a personal reading list for your subjects? Log onto <https://u003964.microlibrarian.net> username is your school email address and password is your date of birth as an 8 digit number.

[The Poetry Foundation](#) - An interactive website bringing poetry to life

Subject Specific Opportunities

MATHS

1. The UK Mathematics Trust are making **lots of papers from past Maths competitions available for free online**. Papers from past Junior (y7 & 8), Intermediate (y9,10 & 11) and Senior (y12 & 13) competitions are available from 1999 to 2014 so there are lots to get stuck into! You will need to register but it only takes a minute. <https://www.ukmt.org.uk/shop> Scroll down to the products with £0.00 as the price tag.
2. <https://plus.maths.org/content/> "Plus" is an online magazine which aims to **introduce readers to the beauty and the practical applications of mathematics**. A lot of people don't have a very clear idea what "real" maths consists of, and often they don't realise how many things they take for granted only work because of a generous helping of it. Apparently, some people even have the idea that it's boring! Weird. Here you can find videos, podcasts and news on a wide range of topics, including some recent analysis and discussion about the Maths behind COVID-19.
3. **The University of Southampton have been running a Cipher Challenge** over the past few months. Deadlines for entering have passed but you are still able to have a go. **If codebreaking is your thing give these a whirl!** <https://www.cipherchallenge.org/>



Modern Foreign Languages

1. **Modern Foreign Languages Magazine** - access the digital version using the code which is on the front of each previous edition of the magazine. It's a different code for each language and level. If you can't find a previous edition to use, please email Mrs Briden for the code: jbriden@keslichfield.org.uk
2. **Duolingo** - A resource for studying languages, available both online and as an app. It offers 30 languages and the format means you can study whenever suits you

Subject Specific Opportunities

GEOGRAPHY

FILM REVIEWS:

Can you watch a film related to geography such as the ones listed below and create either a video or written review on:

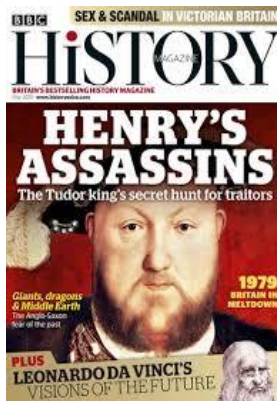
- 1) Plot summary
- 2) What geographical concepts or ideas you have learned
- 3) Whether you think it is realistic or not in terms of the geography
- 4) Overall rating /5

					<p>Lots more recommend documentaries and films are linked here:</p> <p>https://www.INTERNETgeography.net/wider-watching-in-geography/</p>
<p>Before the Flood (2016) (PG) - free on YOUTUBE</p>	<p>The Impossible - 2004 tsunami film</p>	<p>Dante's Peak – volcanic eruption film</p>	<p>Slumdog Millionaire –life in Mumbai slums</p>	<p>Under the Dome: China's Air Pollution</p>	

Geography - [Royal Geographical Society](#) - Subject resources, including podcasts, online lectures and articles.

HISTORY

<https://www.het.org.uk/education/teaching-resources/exploring-the-holocaust-home-learning-pack-menu> - complete a series of **online lessons on the holocaust** to supplement your classwork, then tackle the creative end of unit project.



British Museum has some fantastic online resources- gallery tours, looking into different exhibitions. Complete a review of an exhibition explaining what was there, why it was there and what it tells us about the world at that time.
<https://www.britishmuseum.org>

History - [In our time](#) - BBC Radio programme exploring a wide range of historical topics with academics and experts from around the world.

Subject Specific Opportunities



ALL HUMANITIES SUBJECTS

With so much uncertainty and different stories in the media, it is important to take time to digest all these changes and look at different sides of stories to form your overall opinion. Read some online or print newspapers and focus on something that is meaningful or speaks to you personally.

You could write a poem, a letter to a world leader or MP expressing your views on a news topic or simply put your own thoughts down on paper. For most of you in Lichfield your MP is Michael Fabricant. You can use this form to write to him, or tweet him

https://www.writetothem.com/write?pc=ws149ee&who=46999&fyr_extref=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theyworkforyou.com%2Fmp%2F10193%2Fmichael_fabricant%2Flichfield

ICT



Solving the seemingly impossible is part and parcel of GCHQ's work to keep the country safe - **create and solving puzzles** for fun. Screenshot your solved puzzles and send evidence to Miss Merry via SMHWK. <https://gchq.gov.uk/section/news/puzzles...>

Discover your hidden talent for cyber security with over 200 free challenges <https://joincyberdiscovery.com/>

<https://idea.org.uk/> We have nearly 650 students already signed up – join and complete badges as you go!



Subject Specific Opportunities



Art - [The Louvre](#) - A virtual tour of the Louvre Art Gallery in Paris.

Art - [The National Gallery](#) An online version of the National Gallery's collections, where you can explore works of art.

Music - [Classical Music](#) - The official website of the BBC Music Magazine, featuring podcasts, reviews and artist interviews.

Engineering - [Tomorrow's Engineers](#) - Activities designed to introduce you to engineering principles and examples of real-life engineering challenges.

Engineering - [I Want to Study Engineering](#) - If you're interested in Engineering, check out these games.

Classics - [Assassin's Creed Odyssey](#) - A series of videos exploring the Classical world through the videogame Assassin's Creed Odyssey.

Economics - [Freakonomics](#) - An introduction to economics and policy making

RE - [Ideas about Religion \(ted.com\)](#) - TED has an amazing website with a wide range of fascinating talks on it delivered by excellent, often inspiring speakers.

RE - [BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Philosophy](#) - A handy list of all the BBC Radio 4 In Our Time episodes. Interesting and intriguing and not only for aspiring philosophy students!



Many departments are constantly busy updating their twitter feeds with even more interesting events, competitions and articles for students to engage with. Follow them here:

[@KESLichfield](#)
[@KingEddiesLRC](#)
[@KEVIGeography](#)
[@KESLichfield_SCIENCE](#)
[@KESLichfield_Art](#)

[@KESLichfield_MFL](#)
[@KESVi ICT](#)
[@KESLichfield_Y7](#)
[@KESSchoolVisits](#)
[@KESPSHE](#)
[@KESLichMaths](#)



Please get in touch and share any of the challenges or events you have taken part in – email Miss Merry at gmerry@keslichfield.org.uk I can't wait to hear from you all!

KS5

Opportunities

“REVIEW” MAGAZINES ONLINE & LRC

Browse all subject “review” magazines that you would normally find in the library, now online for free. Complete extra reading around your subject and the most up to date academic research.

Click the link below



<https://my.dynamic-learning.co.uk/?csid=9781471862410&uid=1716838b-186e-45a6-9834-666bd9ee2265&cid=16577&to=627856&gd=2020-04-29T14:17:30&ke=70325753761E1E1E1BF3FF12FDB6E67B&sa=zXNL5pNY3SpjKZP2UHeomXSqByrUNh&mp=6>



University of
Oxford –
Free Podcasts

<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/>

Approaching Shakespeare	The Secrets of Mathematics	Futuremakers	Future of Business
Rothermere American Institute	Modern Fairies	Big Questions - with Oxford Sparks	TORCH The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities
Wildlife Trade Symposium: Evolving	Post-War: Commemoration, Reconstruction,	The Disability Lectures	Stargazing

Opportunities

UCAS and The Student Room have their own **YouTube channels** with lots of hints and tips about finding and applying to Russell Group and Oxbridge universities. Oxford also runs numerous online events throughout the year.

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/events-calendar>



Oxbridge Applications: 5 Tips To Boost Your Chances
thestudentroom • 61K views • 3 years ago

Applying to Oxford or Cambridge? Don't miss Oxford graduate Jamie's top tips for boosting your chances of getting in. After more ...

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Your journey starts here.

Sign up in seconds

Create a profile by answering a few quick questions about your university ambitions.

Connect
Meet the mentors

Match to a mentor

Choose from a shortlist of undergraduate mentors studying at the UK's leading universities.

Start defying gravity

Connect with your mentor anytime, anywhere via free, one-to-one video sessions.

“Access Oxbridge”
website and app

- ✓ Free
- ✓ You choose a mentor
- ✓ One to one personal statement and interview tips
- ✓ Ask questions to current Oxbridge students

<https://www.zerogravity.co.uk/>

FREE ONLINE COURSES

- ✓ <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
- ✓ <https://unccelearn.org/>
- ✓ www.edx.org
- ✓ <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>
- ✓ <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course/where-to-find-free-online-learning>

