



Arts & Media School
ISLINGTON

Most Able Policy

REVIEWED Sept 2015

Arts & Media School, Islington

Most Able Policy 2015-16

'Most able' is a term we use to describe pupils who have the potential to develop significantly beyond what is expected of their age.

'Most Able' refers to pupils who are very able in traditional academic subjects such as English or Maths. It also refers to pupils who are exceptionally skilled in non-academic areas such as PE, Art, Music, Dance, Drama, and Design Technology.

At Arts and Media School, we believe that all of our students are entitled to a curriculum of opportunity and should have access to a range of learning opportunities appropriate to their needs. Our provision for gifted and talented pupils is key to our provision for meeting the needs and raising the aspirations and achievement of all our young people.

AIMS

We aim to ensure the following provision for the M.A. pupils in our care:

- Access to a range of learning opportunities appropriate to their needs, both in and outside of the classroom.
- Opportunities to develop specific skills, talents or intellectual abilities.
- Opportunities to work at higher cognitive levels.
- Care for the all-round development of the child as well as their intellectual development.

IN CLASS APPROACH

Within the classroom, subject teachers use the following strategies to ensure pupils' progress:

- Most academic subjects set pupils according to ability and continue to develop plans to include a range of challenging and stimulating learning opportunities appropriate to the needs of all pupils in each set.

- Differentiated extension tasks include activities that will encourage the development of higher order thinking skills, reflection and creativity.
- Teacher feedback and formative assessment is used to challenge and extend. Pupils will be able to develop a clear understanding of what they need to do to improve on past and current achievement.
- Opportunities for small groups of M.A. pupils to work on a range of different aspects of a topic.
- Opportunities for individual M.A. pupils to pursue their own interests in the subject.
- Opportunities for pupils to enter examinations when they are intellectually ready regardless of age.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We offer a range of enrichment opportunities to provide a stimulating context for the work that we do in the classroom:

- The Drama, Media, Dance, Music and PE departments offer a wealth of opportunities for pupils to perform at a local and national level. Talented students perform in dance productions at Sadler's Wells, put on productions of their own compositions at the Almeida and Bloomsbury theatres, take part in big band productions at the Royal Albert Hall, work on animation projects at the BFI and compete in local and national football, cricket and athletic events. Talented Art students are given opportunities to work with professional artists and exhibit their work at esteemed galleries in and around London.
- Gifted pupils are encouraged to pursue their own interests in the academic subjects through a range of extra-curricular pursuits. We provide a book club for KS3 students, a creative writing course with First Story for our KS4 pupils, aspiring journalists write for our student magazine, gifted mathematicians compete in the annual UK Maths Challenge, Science pupils can attend science fairs at London universities and study Astronomy at Islington Sixth Form Centre, gifted MFL pupils teach Spanish with our 'Tiny Teachers' programme and the Humanities faculty run a number of annual excursions to provide a context for the work that they do in the classroom.

- Our enrichment programme attracts M.A. pupils with chess club, a drama group run by the Islington Youth Theatre and cookery club, amongst other activities.
- Extension classes or 1:1 targeted intervention for very able GCSE pupils.
- Mentoring and advice on college and university applications.
- We work in conjunction with Islington CEA coordinators on borough wide projects with other Islington schools.

IDENTIFICATION METHODS

Departments will identify the M.A. students in their subject using the following strategies:

1. Considering primary/previous school comments
2. Considering KS2/KS3 test results
3. Pupils' CATs results will be considered
4. Judgements on the pupils' ability based on observations of the pupils' work and engagement with the subject
5. Considering parent/guardians' comments

Departments will review the M.A. pupils in their subject (all year groups) in June/July each year, taking into account work patterns and achievements throughout the year, and examination results. Pupils can be added or removed from the register at any time, in addition to the summer review. Prior to removing pupils from the register, careful consideration will be given to the reasons why their early potential has not been realised.

MONITORING

The monitoring of M.A. pupil progress is coordinated by the M.A. coordinator, reporting to the Assistant Head responsible for staff development.

The school's provision is reviewed annually using the following information:

- An audit of the provision in each department and subject area.
- A review of departmental schemes of work and programmes of study
- Assessment and exam results
- Pupils', parents' and teachers' views on our current provision – elicited through questionnaires and interviews