



# Provision for Able, Gifted and Talented Students



**John Mason School**  
Excellence Through Creativity

**What happens when you plug in a gherkin?**

*What does 'infinity' mean?*

**What is it like to live abroad?**

*Why do people have different accents?*

**How do you build a website?**

## **Push their knowledge and learning forward**

At John Mason School we believe in being the best that we can be. Because we are an inclusive community, that means we need to make sure everyone's needs are met – this includes students who are more able.

**Symposium** is a program designed for our able and gifted young people, designed to stimulate their love of learning both within and beyond the curriculum.



## **What do we mean by “Gifted and Talented”?**

François Gagné (2003) says: Gifted students are those whose potential is distinctly above average in one or more of the following domains of human ability: intellectual, creative, social and physical. Talented students are those whose skills are distinctly above average in one or more areas.

## **How do we identify Gifted and Talented students at John Mason School?**

We look at the results from the student's Cognitive Ability Test (CATS) that they take early in year 7. This externally assessed test evaluates students' ability in three main areas of learning: literacy, numeracy and non-verbal intelligence. Once the results are in, we look closely at the top 10% of the cohort. We also take into serious consideration the teachers' recommendations of students that they think should be added to the AGT register, allowing for students to demonstrate ability in a wider range of fields.

## **What do we do for the Gifted and Talented students?**

As teachers, we aim to adapt our teaching on a daily basis so that the students are stretched and challenged in every lesson. We shape our subject curriculum to create an engaging mix of subjects.

Students on the AGT register are invited to join the Symposium program and have access to a greater spectrum of opportunity as a result.

# Symposium 2018-19

**Sim'pəʊziəm**     **Definition:** *A conference, or meeting, to discuss a particular subject*

'Symposium' is John Mason School's provision for our gifted, talented and most able students.

Students apply to be a part of 'Symposium'; the process consists of a letter of application, endorsement by class teachers and shortlisting based on prior attainment and current data. Positive discrimination takes place for disadvantaged students who meet eligibility criteria. Students can choose to apply to one, or more, Symposia depending on their personal interest areas:

- English Literature and Philosophy
- Mathematics
- Computing
- Sciences
- Media
- Social Sciences and Humanities

The successful applicants enjoy six 'taught' sessions in their chosen Symposia, usually led by academics, people from industry, writers, philosophers and teachers. Subsequently, students then choose one (or more) of these taught sessions as a stimulus for their own dissertation / project. Finally, students will present their projects at a conference at St Edmund Hall, Oxford University in late May.



Feedback from previous students, parents / carers and colleagues is overwhelmingly positive. There is various press coverage on our website / Oxford Mail for reference.

Each 'Symposia' is overseen by a *Challenge Champion* from within the relevant faculty. The *Challenge Champion* for each 'Symposia' becomes responsible for organising and supervising the six taught sessions for their area whilst the Symposium Coordinator ensures that all sessions are quality assured, challenging and fun.

The six taught sessions for each Symposia will take place between October and April. We will endeavor to make sure that sessions do not clash, so that students can feasibly attend more than one Symposia, if they wish.



**A detailed schedule of when each Symposia's sessions will take place will be published shortly, with details of how students can apply.**

You can click on the following links to our previous newsletters which give details of 'Symposium' from the last couple of years [insert links here Lucie].

If you have any questions about 'Symposium 2018-19' please email Mr C Davies at [cdav8547@johnmason.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:cdav8547@johnmason.oxon.sch.uk) OR if your son / daughter's Symposia has already started, please contact the relevant *Challenge Champion* who coordinates for that faculty.



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