



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's 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're an inclusive community, that means we need to make sure everyone's needs are met - this includes students who are more able.

Level Up 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."



What is Level Up?

Level Up is a peer group for students who want to push their knowledge and learning forward. It comprises students on the AGT register and any other student who wishes to be a part of the group.



What do students do at Level Up?

Level Up sessions run every week. These are sessions designed to give the students a breadth of knowledge beyond the curriculum, but also using and developing their curriculum-related skills. While these sessions invite students on the AGT register as a priority, all students are welcome to attend. These are run by John Mason's own teaching staff, teaching on areas which they themselves are passionate about, to vouchsafe them the same passion for learning and developing knowledge and skills. So far this year, students have built websites, made gherkins glow, learnt a new alphabet and knitted with their arms as knitting needles!

We organise regular Educational visits and talks. In the past we have strong links with Trinity College at Oxford University, they help us to organise outreach events at the University. We have recently started to run inter-school events; these link the three local schools. We have previously organised a puzzle challenge day at Larkmead School which students greatly enjoyed.

What is Project Level Up?

Project Level Up is a research-based project over a term. Students will choose their topic and be given ideas of how to research, and then at scheduled Level Up sessions they will be put into mixed-age peer groups and able to share what they have found from research, and what good research methods are available. The culmination of this undertaking is that students will be able to present their findings in a variety of ways at the **Level Up Fair**.

By doing so students can:

- Further their independent research skills by researching an academic field of interest.
- Enjoy supporting each other's learning process.
- Greatly advance their general knowledge and be opened to new areas of academic interest at the hands of their peers rather than teachers.
- Students can develop confidence and skills in displaying and delivering research; this will have involved them finding and analysing source materials and making
- Good use of necessary resources.
- Begin using and developing skills they will need at an undergraduate level.

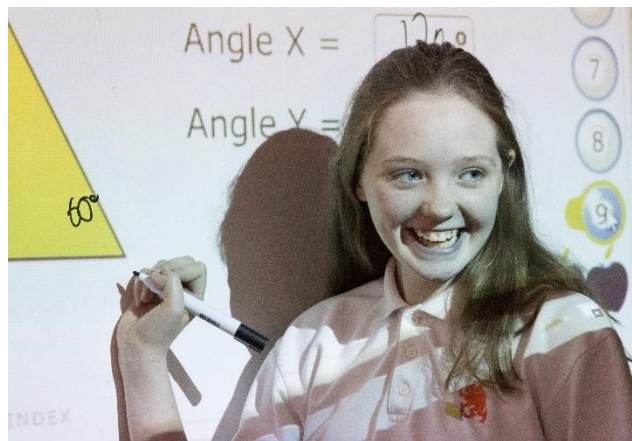


So... don't just geek out!



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 3 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.



What do we do for 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 Level Up program and have access to a greater spectrum of opportunity as a result.