



## More Able and Talented Policy (Senior School only)

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## **1. Policy**

Woodbridge School aims to stimulate the academically able in the classroom and nurture talent in all areas, through an enhanced curriculum and the rich provision of extra-curricular opportunities. Aspiring for excellence is one of the values of Woodbridge School, and we seek this of all pupils, not just those identified as More Able.

## **2. Procedure**

We define 'More Able' as those in the top 10% of the national profile and 'Talented' as those who have regional or national status in extracurricular activities such as sport, chess, music or drama.

Woodbridge School admits a broad ability range, but typically between a quarter and a third of Woodbridge pupils are More Able. As such, academically higher achieving pupils are not taught separately but are stretched and stimulated in normal classes and through a wealth of super-curricular and extra-curricular activities. There is an expectation that units of work are designed to extend the most able.

More Able pupils are identified using baseline test results, and progress is tracked by tutors, Heads of Sections and Heads of House following grading cycles and between cycles.

The Head, Senior Management Team, and the House Leaders give academic success a strong focus at School and House assemblies, reinforcing a culture which celebrates high academic success, and this is also celebrated with academic prizes at Speech Day.

## **3. Curriculum**

The School deliberately offers a demanding curriculum for all pupils, including three modern languages and Latin in Year 7 and 8. In Year 9, many pupils will continue with two or three of these four languages, as well as undertaking a Spanish Intensive programme.

Pupils are expected to take ten GCSEs. All Year 10 pupils must choose mathematics, English, the three sciences (either as three separate sciences or via combined dual science course) and expected to take at least one modern language and at least one humanity subject. Some pupils also study Japanese or ancient Greek off timetable.

Able mathematicians are given the opportunity to take Additional Mathematics alongside IGCSE. Statistics is normally offered outside of curriculum time. Mathematics has setting by ability up to GCSE. English and the sciences may be set according to ability at GCSE level. Occasionally More Able pupils take courses "out of age" but only when this is clearly appropriate.

Pupils in Years 12 and 13 have the option of taking the Extended Project Qualification. There is an annual Leadership Skills day for Year 12, helping to develop the decision-making skills vital to their role in the Upper Sixth.

#### **4. Super-curricular activities**

The School is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for Chess. English offers a range of opportunities including creative writing competitions: poetry, essay writing and public speaking. Years 7-9 Latin pupils take part in national creative-writing, artistic and video competitions. Older pupils compete in academic essay competitions and Latin reading competitions.

Mathematically able pupils are entered for the various stages of the national and international mathematics Olympiads, and many take part in additional mathematics competitions. Other examples of enrichment opportunities in academic subjects such as the physics trip to CERN, regular attendance at Cambridge University chemistry lectures and participation in the annual Biology Olympiad.

#### **5. Academic Scholarship, Oxbridge, and Fitzgerald**

Academic Scholarships are offered to a small number of academically able pupils in at entry in Years 7 and 12, and sometimes in other years as appropriate. Year 7 and 8 academic scholars come off timetable for one period a week for an academically nourishing lesson of extension and enrichment in topics that do not appear in depth elsewhere on the curriculum. This is run by the Head of Academic Scholars.

The School offers appropriate support to Sixth Form pupils applying to academically rigorous universities. This includes interview practice, preparation for entrance tests, support with personal statements, and help with submitting written work. This is overseen by the Oxbridge coordinator.

The Fitzgerald Society, a form of 'Junior Oxbridge Society', offers Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils a range of activities beyond the curriculum. All are aimed to stimulate intellectual exploration, curiosity and discussion. Most events are deliberately designed to promote connections across subject areas (for example, trips to Bletchley Park or Orford Ness link computing, cryptography and history). Events have included trips to the British Museum to look at Images of Power and Authority, and to the Wellcome Collection (history of medicine).

The Moot demands logical analysis and public speaking, with pupils presented with documents from which they must construct prosecution and defence speeches, as well as prepare witness statements. Pupils also take part in book discussions and have the opportunity to take part in the Alan Turing Cryptography competition. The Oxbridge coordinator also encourages pupils to apply for courses run by Oxford and Cambridge as appropriate.

#### **6. Other Scholarships**

The School actively encourages applications from candidates with particular talents through its scholarship scheme, focusing on the following areas of excellence: Art, Music, Chess,

Sport, and Drama. Expectations are high, and pupils are guided through a scholarship programme in these areas.

## **7. Extra-curricular**

Beyond the timetable, there is a rich range of extra-curricular opportunities to nurture initiative, problem solving, planning and leadership. All pupils are expected to participate in at least one of the following and most manage several, even in the Sixth Form:

- The Duke of Edinburgh Award;
- Sports Leaders Award (Junior, Senior and Community levels);
- The Combined Cadet Force (Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force sections);
- The Young Enterprise Scheme;
- LAMDA: one permanent teacher offers tuition up to ATCL level
- The Model United Nations (regional and international meetings);
- Various cultural exchanges. including language exchanges to France, Spain and Germany.

## **8. Compliance and Monitoring arrangements**

This policy will be subject to a thorough review process including consideration at the Education Committee on an annual basis. This will ensure that practice across the Senior School is in line with this policy, the Complaints procedure and with current guidance and legislation.