

CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

ABLE, GIFTED AND TALENTED POLICY

This policy was written in September 2014 and will be sent to the governors for approval in October 2014. It will be reviewed annually by the school and presented for review by the Board of Governors when necessary and no less than every three years.

Able, Gifted and Talented Students at CLSG

We recognise that the majority of students at CLSG can be identified as gifted and talented. This is a selective independent school and most of our students have a MidYis score on entry which is in excess of 125, the score usually used to define young people as mentally gifted and being in the top 5% of the ability range nationally.

In addition, many of our students are very talented in one or more extracurricular area, including music, drama or sport. Consequently, we consider that it would be invidious for the school to characterise any one group of our students as “Gifted and Talented”. Nonetheless, we recognise that students’ abilities will vary in different subjects and that it is essential to differentiate teaching and learning appropriately for the range of students we have in the school in order to stretch and challenge the most able and to provide support for the relatively less able. We acknowledge that students of very high ability have particular needs and we are committed to meeting them.

All staff involved in delivering any aspect of the curriculum are expected to develop extension and enrichment activities which also take account of the need to differentiate between very bright students. This process is overseen and led by the Director of Studies and the relevant Heads of Department.

Head of Departments have the responsibility for ensuring that a programme of extension is integrated into the curriculum and through stretch activities, outside the formal curriculum, which may include the following (not an exhaustive list):

- Sixth Form Enrichment Classes
- Subject specific Olympiads.
- Attendance at external academic (and career-related) workshops and lectures.
- National and university competitions
- Problem solving projects
- Extended Projects (EPQ)
- Academic societies

We also cater for the top end by offering the possibility to take on extra subjects at GCSE or A Level.

The Head of the Preparatory Department ensures that pupils in the Prep are provided with a full range of enriching and challenging age appropriate activities. See the notes appended to this document.

Indicators of High Ability

The following are seen as indicators of high ability and are fostered in all students where possible:

- an ability to apply concepts to novel material and to make connections between ideas
- an independent, curious, questioning approach to learning
- the ability to think creatively and with originality
- the ability to think abstractly and analytically
- persistence, insightfulness and resourcefulness in solving problems
- strong evaluative skills, high quality reasoning
- a willingness to speculate and make hypotheses to extend understanding
- domain-specific talents (physical coordination, musical aptitude, 'ear' for languages etc.)

Implications for Teaching and Learning

We aim to present challenge to our students at all levels. This is done by:

- use of open-ended tasks, enabling all students to respond at their own level
- encouraging evaluation and analysis and avoiding over-emphasis on right/wrong answers
- open-ended questioning; asking pupils to justify their answers and respond in greater depth
- problem-solving activities of varying levels of difficulty
- focusing on process rather than outcome to encourage risk-taking

In all areas of the curriculum the emphasis is on encouraging students to think for themselves. We feel that depth of knowledge and good learning habits, which equip students for sixth form study and beyond, are more important than accelerated learning and the acquisition of a host of GCSEs.

References

Admissions Policy

Assessment and Recording Policy

Curriculum Policy

Framework for Pupil Performance

PSHCE Policy

Reporting Policy