

## **CHALLENGING OUR MOST ABLE POLICY – PARENTS GUIDE**

At Sir Harry Smith Community College we strive to meet the needs of all our students.

For our most able students we provide more challenging lessons and additional opportunities. These students are identified based on test results, work quality and teachers' and parents' views. More able children often need more support at school, but not necessarily more structured activities. They may need more freedom to learn at their own pace, and/or more guidance. We endeavour to nurture our most able student's all-round development as well as their intellectual development.

### Identifying Our most able Students

Our most able students work at a standard which is in the highest 10% of their year group. They could excel in one or more academic subject area or have an exceptional talent in a practical subject such as Music, Art, Drama or P.E.

Students can be identified at any stage, as we acknowledge that everyone develops at differing rates as they progress through the school. Students are identified using academic test results, highlighted by curriculum departments, and can also be suggested by parents.

### How do we support our most able students?

At Sir Harry Smith Community College, we take our responsibility to meet the needs of all of our students very seriously, and work in partnership with parents to ensure continued progress.

- Curriculum areas develop additional teaching materials appropriate to the more able child and co-ordinates enrichment activities.
- We have a comprehensive programme of extra-curriculum activities and after-school clubs aimed at offering additional enhancement opportunities.
- A host of enrichment trips, workshops, competitions, external providers and guest speakers are available to support students.
- We have a programme in place to identify possible Oxbridge and Russell Group University candidates from Year 9 onwards and provide close links through a Widening Participation Programme with the University of Cambridge to offer visits, support through the application

process and mock interviews to offer the best possible preparation for Post 18.

- All students' progress is regularly monitored to ensure they make continued progress and have the best opportunity to reach their full potential.

### How Parents can Support Students

Parents can support their children in many ways such as:

- Taking them to museums, galleries, places of historic and scientific interest
- Actively encouraging their hobbies
- Reading with them and developing their curiosity through questioning.
- Playing games and solving puzzles, and enjoy interacting both with adults and their peers. Parents need to try and provide opportunities to take risks and get them out of their comfort zone.
- Intellectual development of children is supported particularly well when they are regularly exposed to intellectual stimulation. This promotes a growth of knowledge and problem solving skills.
- Give them the opportunity to experience unstructured 'free time', where children have the responsibility to amuse themselves and develop their imagination and creative skills.