

Gifted and Talented

Commencing September 2008



Loretto

Loretto Gifted and Talented



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GIFTED AND TALENTED AT LORETTO SCHOOL

Loretto is committed to the pursuit of academic excellence both inside and outside the classroom; encouraging private study, department-led after school activities and a new *Gifted and Talented* programme.

A register of pupils has recently been created which includes scholars and other gifted students in the school. This allows staff to provide appropriate work and extension exercises for these students so they can be pushed and motivated to work independently. This not only helps the students but also stimulates the teaching staff with new challenges and the drive to develop innovative teaching strategies.

Each department has their own strategy and formula for catering for their gifted and talented students. They provide both extension work within the class room setting and special activities and workshops outside the classroom after school.

HUMANITIES

The English department provide guided reading within the classroom, reading lists and various periodicals, theatre visits and extra lessons.

The Drama department encourages disciplined attitudes to rehearsal, including evening and Sunday rehearsals and assessed performance approaches. Drama students also have regular visits to the theatre to sharpen critical faculty, broaden cultural horizons and become more aware of the context of theatre and Drama.

The Art department offers an Activity slot for any student who shows an interest in the subject. As well as this, they have a Modern Art Forum which is open to all Lower 6th and a discussion group focusing on twentieth and twenty-first centuries and how it relates or reacts to previous artistic movements.

The History department offers extensive reading lists and runs a Historical society which is led by Barry Cooper.



The Music department place scholars and talented musicians in leading roles in all music groups including concert band and choir. They have two major showcases of talent each year as well as informal recitals throughout the year.

The Modern Languages department provide extension work for all students that show a flair for language and exceptionally good linguists can have sessions with language assistants in an effort to maintain spoken fluency. The department also provides magazine subscriptions and other library publications for additional reading.

MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

The Maths department set each class according to ability. They provide an accelerated Maths course leading to GCSE in the Fourth Form and Sixth Form have the opportunity to sit Further Mathematics at AS or A2. The department also provides Maths workshops Monday to Friday and take part in UK Maths Challenge competition each year. Students also have to opportunity to attend the Reimann Society which is run by Dr Martin Baker and Dr David Levey. The Reimann Society is a Maths club which looks at real-life mathematical problems in depth.

The science department encourage interest in the subject through various publications and documentaries available for students to borrow. There is also a Loretto Science Seminar: Dr Mike Topping has presented three talks for scientists and other interested parties and would like to make this an annual event. Dr Topping also runs the Biology Film Society.

The role of the Gifted and Talented programme is to enable scholars and other students currently excelling at Loretto to further and extend their knowledge in their particular talent or chosen field of interest. The aim of the programme is to set targets that enable students with special abilities to reach their potential and to have a positive attitude towards their talent. It also provides a safe and comfortable learning environment which encourages expression of ability and appropriate guidance and support from staff.

The main aspect of the Gifted and Talented programme takes place outside the classroom and has been purposefully created to promote cross-curricular learning amongst scholars and interaction with their peers. The programme is thematic with each term concentrating on one topic. Guest speakers including lecturers from local universities, poets, playwrights and Loretto



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staff contribute to the programme providing students with the opportunity to be exposed to challenging concepts and ideas, cultivate interests and an outlet to display their talents through performance, exhibition and publication. This year the theme for the Autumn Term is Milton. Several speakers have been confirmed for this term including, Barry Cooper who will be giving a lecture entitled, 'The Devil in the Detail'; Professor Gennis Byron from University of Stirling who will be giving a lecture on 'The Villain in Gothic Literature' and Viv Graham a well known Scottish comedienne and poet will be running two separate workshops for both the Junior and Senior sections of the school. As well as these speakers there will be a poetry and creative writing competition based on the themes of Milton and a Scholar Showcase at the end of term.

Overall, Loretto strives to teach students how to recognise and clarify problems, harness their creativity, seek new alternatives, evaluate ideas and monitor their own learning.

Joanne Addis

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