



St Anne's Academy

Gifted, Talented & More Able

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HONESTLY, IT'S TRUE!

Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor for lack of good ideas.

Thomas Edison's teachers said he was too stupid to learn anything.

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Welcome to the first edition of St Anne's Academy Gifted, Talented and More Able newsletter for parents/ carers of students who have been identified and placed on the Academy's register for their potential ability in particular subject areas.

I hope that this newsletter will keep you informed of events taking place in the Academy for the Most Able, as well as informing you of websites and activities that can be used to support your child in realising their true potential.

This will also be an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our wonderful students—both in and outside of the Academy.

If you should have any questions or require any further information about how we can work together to support your child, please do not hesitate to contact me at the Academy.

Miss V Hallam



YOUNG GIFTED & TALENTED

Identification and Definitions

When identifying Gifted, Talented and More Able students we use a variety of sources to ensure that we have a complete picture. A combination of staff referral, data capture results and parental information is taken into consideration in order to identify our G&T pupils.

For your information:

Gifted and Talented pupils are learners who have developed, or have the potential to develop abilities to a level significantly ahead of their year group.

'Gifted' pupils are learners who have abilities in three or more academic subjects such as Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, etc.

'More Able' pupils are learners who have abilities in one or more academic subjects such as Maths, English, Science, Geography, History, etc.

'Talented' pupils are learners who have particular abilities in practical subjects such as PE, Design Technology, Art, Drama, ICT, etc.



nace

National Association for Able Children in Education

I am pleased to announce that the Academy is now a member of NACE, The National Association for Able Children in Education.

NACE specialises in working with schools and teachers to improve learning for able learners.

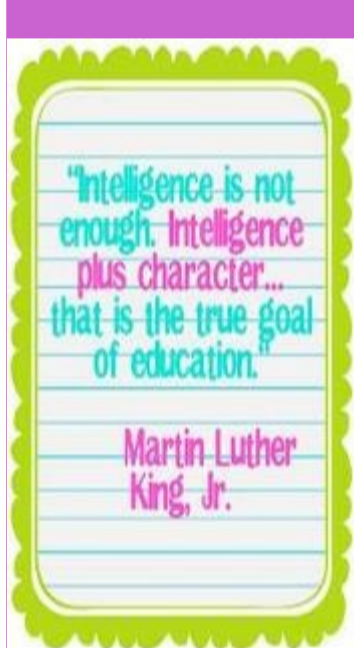
Founded in 1983, NACE is

recognised nationally and internationally as the UK's leading independent education organisation for able learners. Through its valuable network of members NACE provides high quality guidance, support and training, enabling teachers to attain the best from able learners in the everyday classroom, whilst enabling all

learners to flourish and achieve.

If you would like any further information regarding NACE please contact me or visit their website;

www.nace.co.uk



IGGY

Connecting and challenging the world's brightest young minds

The Academy realises that part of nurturing students Gifts and Talents involves providing experiences outside of the classroom.

IGGY is a no fee global educational social network designed to help gifted and talented young people aged 13-18 realise their full potential.

They're part of the University of Warwick so members have access to great educational resources and get to work with top academics and other

gifted and talented young people around the world.

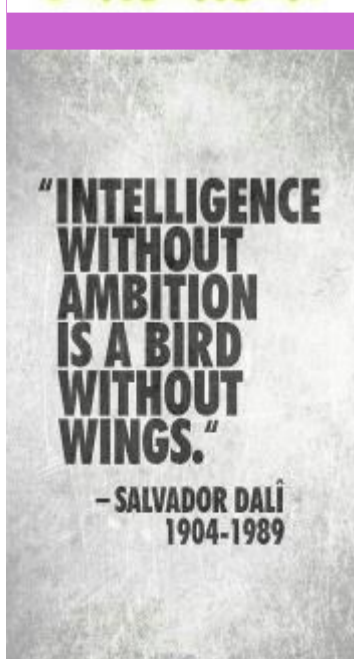
Members can create their own profiles, make friends and collaborate internationally. Members can access a broad range of distinctive academic stimulus materials that bring a new dimension to their learning and way of thinking. As part of a thriving online community, members stretch their critical and creative thinking, broaden their

communication skills, develop research techniques and become independent learners.

Students are able to register for an account with Academy support, I will be contacting parents/ carers of eligible students in the near future to share more information.

In the mean time please feel free to explore their website;

www.iggy.net/



MANCHESTER GATEWAYS

MANCHESTER 1824

The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester Gateways Programme provides Y7-Y11 learners within Greater Manchester the opportunity to take part in a coherent series of Higher Education awareness and subject-specific activities.

The Academy applied to be part of the Programme and has been offered the opportunity to select 12 students from years 7 and 8 to be part

of the Gateways initiative.

Year 8 students will be visiting the university on November 25th and during the Exploration Visit will be exploring the range of subject areas, that can be studied at university. There are 55,000 different courses offered by over 300 higher education institutions - a mind-boggling range to choose from!

They will look at prospectuses and interview current stu-

dents to find out about some subjects that they may already be familiar with and some that will be entirely new to them.

Mentoring Program

We are also lucky enough to be part of the Year 10 mentoring scheme, also run by the University. More details on this exciting opportunity to follow.

What's happening at St Anne's Academy?

Inspirational Speaker

Staff and students were given a boost at the beginning of the term when Mark Ritchie visited the Academy. Mark is a passionate Scotsman who has travelled all over the world communicating about the cross. He mixes a unique blend of humour with the Gospel message. Mark is a popular communicator and has spoken at a variety of events such as Spring Harvest, Festival Manchester and New Day. Mark has ministered in a number of formats, ranging from football stadiums to after dinner speeches and had the entire Academy fully engaged when delivering his talk. Not only did Mark have the Academy in stitches with his stories but he also invited us to view challenges as opportunities—a great message to start off our school year!



Whitworth Art Gallery

A group of Year 11 students visited Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester on the 15th of October. They went to see the current 'Textile' exhibition. For many of the students this was their first visit to an Art Gallery. They took photos and made notes about the different kinds of Art work they saw. The intention of the trip was for students to gain first hand experiences of where art is exhibited and also raise aspirations by visiting such an environment.



Reverse Engineering Day

On September 28th three of our Gifted Science students attended a 'Reverse Engineering' day, organised by STEM Ambassadors at the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. Through reverse engineering (taking an item apart and studying the components), the students learnt about how ubiquitous engineering is in their day-to-day lives, developed their presentation skills, practiced practical mechanical/electronic engineering and interviewed STEM professionals about a career in STEM. Our three students, Lorna McGhee, Matthew and Daniel Vere were a credit to the Academy and the organisers of the event even contacted us afterwards to say how brilliant they were!

Well done Lorna, Matthew and Daniel! We hope you had a great day!



Royal Exchange Theatre Visit

On the 8th of October, twelve Year 10 Performing and Production Arts students visited The Royal Exchange Theatre. They had the opportunity to explore life in a professional theatre and the industry. They also interviewed the creative team and experienced how the theatre works from both a performance and production aspect. This gave them great insight into how the skills they are acquiring from their course could be transferred into a real life career.

Cinderella

Rehearsals are currently underway for the annual Academy Christmas pantomime, Cinderella. We have students involved across years 7-13 and the year 13 Performing Arts students will be assessed on their performances for their BTEC unit. Any Talented students who would like to be involved in the production with set design, costume or general organisation should see Miss Williams.

Sports Stars!

Ellie Jones (Year 9) and Emma Dickson (Year 8) represented the Academy in the Rochdale Schools Cross County Championships, Ellie Jones finished 2nd overall out of the Year 9 girls which is a fantastic achievement. Emma Dickson is still training and competing regularly for County at swimming—getting up at 5am before school for training! Lizzy Stack, Ellie Jones, Abi Nolan and Georgia Cocking all train and play for Manchester Girls Football team and are having a very successful season.

The girls show extraordinary commitment to their chosen sports and this is reflected in their success. Well done girls—we are very proud of you and look forward to hearing about more of your achievements!

Characteristics of More Able, G&T learners

The following characteristics (taken from the 1998 Ofsted review of research by Joan Freeman) are not necessarily proof of high ability but they alert us to enquire further into an individual's learning patterns and ability levels.

He or she may:

- be a good reader
- be very articulate or verbally fluent for their age
- give quick verbal responses (which can appear cheeky)
- have a wide general knowledge
- learn quickly
- be interested in topics which one might associate with an older child
- communicate well with adults – often better than with their peer group
- have a range of interests, some of which are almost obsessions
- show unusual and original responses to problem-solving activities
- prefer verbal to written activities
- be logical

- be self-taught in his/her own interest areas
- have an ability to work things out in his/her head very quickly
- have a good memory that s/he can access easily
- be artistic
- be musical
- excel at sport
- have strong views and opinions
- have a lively and original imagination/sense of humour
- be very sensitive and aware
- focus on his/her own interests rather than on what is being taught
- be socially adept
- appear arrogant or socially inept
- be easily bored by what they perceive as routine tasks
- show a strong sense of leadership and/or not necessarily appear to be well-behaved or well liked by others

Supporting Your Child

In many ways parental support and encouragement is even more vital to a child's success than school support.

As the parent of a More Able, Gifted or Talented child, it is important to firstly understand who your child really is:

Notice the changes in their development

Guide their learning

Feed their enthusiasm

Above all, encourage their love of learning as this is perhaps the most important lesson you can teach them.

For more information and ideas of how to help your child at home, you may find the following websites useful:

www.nace.co.uk

www.iggy.net

www.gateways.manchester.ac.uk/programme/

www.potentialplusuk.org/

www.youthsporttrust.org/

