

Why QEH
for the most
academically
able students?

Because...

We challenge and delight students who are highly academically able. Here's what they can look forward to:

- Scholars' Programme for top 10% of pupils in each year group
- Gifted and Talented Programme for next 10% of pupils
- Enrichment tasks in different subject areas
- Lunchtime clubs so pupils can follow a particular area of interest
- The chance to compete in local and national academic competitions
- Notification of external workshops, lectures and summer camps.

Our aim is to help exceptionally gifted students achieve their full potential. We help them become more independent as learners and hone their skills in critical reading, reflection and expression. In doing so, we prepare them better for success at A-level, at university and ultimately, in their chosen professions.



Inspiring a lifelong
love of learning



Specific provision for gifted students

We're a selective school and so all our pupils are academically able. But some of our students are exceptionally gifted and we believe they deserve specific provision to stretch and challenge them.

We do this through two tailored enrichment programmes:

- Our Scholars' Programme - this is aimed at the top 10% of pupils in each year group.
- Our Gifted and Talented Programme - this is aimed at the next 10% of pupils in each year group.

The activities in these two programmes are carefully designed to meet the needs of high achievers and range from international enrichment trips to twilight challenge sessions in subjects as diverse as writing a screenplay and wave and particle theory.



My boys have loved QEH!
They felt at home so quickly and really enjoyed being able to be themselves with other like-minded lads. The teachers really 'got' them and although they're very different characters, QEH brought out the best in both of them.

Katie, parent

Led by highly experienced staff

All staff play a role in delivering these enrichment programmes and identifying our most academically able students. However, two staff play a particularly important role - Dr Mark Dutton and Mr Joe Martin.

Dr Mark Dutton is Director of our Scholars' Programme and Co-ordinator of our Gifted and Talented Programme. He took his doctorate at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto in Canada, a world-renowned centre for research in education. He then put his research into practice at leading schools in Canada and the UK before joining us at QEH to teach in our English department. Dr Dutton also teaches the Sixth Form Italian Programme.

Mr Joe Martin is our Deputy Head (Academic) and was previously our Head of History and Politics. He studied History at Brasenose College, Oxford and has taught in many schools in different contexts. Mr Martin works closely with Dr Dutton and the QEH Heads of Department to identify academically gifted pupils and create specific provision to stretch and challenge them.

Our Scholars' Programme

Our Scholars' Programme is designed to meet the learning needs of students of very high academic ability (the top 10% in each year group). It provides a continuous programme of academic enrichment from Years 7 to 11. Activities are designed to stretch and challenge students, maintaining their enthusiasm and engagement in their studies. Long term, the programme aims to encourage pupils to take greater ownership of their learning, developing critical thinking skills beyond GCSE requirements.

Our Programme Director meets all Scholars once a fortnight to monitor their progress and ensure they are sufficiently challenged and engaged.



Enrichment activities designed to challenge and stretch

Provision in the Scholars' Programme includes:

- enrichment days in Years 7 to 9, including a visit to sites of outstanding natural beauty and historical significance in the Brecon Beacons National Park
- cultural excursions to the Bristol Museum, M Shed and Watershed Cinema in Bristol
- a two day cultural trip to London for Year 8 pupils during the summer term
- an international enrichment trip for Year 9 and 10 students during the Easter holidays. Recent destinations include Lisbon, Barcelona and Paris
- the opportunity for Year 10 students to complete the AQA Level 2 Project Qualification Programme. This helps to develop pupils' research and writing skills and also earns credit for half a GCSE qualification
- enrichment tutorials for Year 11 students on a range of current issues in politics, arts and science.

Our Scholars also benefit from everything offered under our Gifted and Talented Programme.

Our Gifted and Talented Programme

Our Gifted and Talented Programme is our provision for the next 10% of pupils in each year group.

Enrichment activities include:

- subject enrichment projects in Years 7 to 9 in up to three academic subjects. Students select these subjects themselves under the supervision of our Programme Co-ordinator Dr Mark Dutton
- an enrichment reading programme in Years 7 to 9. This includes key fiction texts such as George Orwell's 1984 and Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451, as well as non-fiction texts such as Stephen Hawking's A Brief History of Time and Albert Einstein's The World As I See It
- twilight challenge sessions held after school on advanced topics in a range of academic subjects. These include logic, screenplay writing, wave and particle theory, and the world of Odysseus.



QEH has been the best decision we have made for our son. You've brought out something special in him that is hard to put into words.

Rachel, parent



Criteria for entry to our Scholars' Programme

The students in our Scholars' Programme are exceptional learners with high intellectual aptitude and consistent strengths across a wide range of academic subjects.

Overall, they represent the top 10% of students from each year group across all subject areas. Not all the highest achieving students in a given subject will be QEH Scholars. Some of our top students excel in only one or two subjects and hence their learning needs are best met by enrichment in specific subjects or by other opportunities such as competitions, clubs or excursions.



Of course we're delighted that he has done so well academically. But really we're just happy that he's been in an environment in which he's been allowed to become his true self. It will set him up for life!

Jo, parent

Initial entry criteria

Initial entry in October of Year 7 is offered to boys who:

- score exceptionally highly on all parts of the QEH entrance examination
- do very well on the MidYIS standardised test. This measures ability and aptitude for learning rather than achievement
- receive a high number of recommendations from their subject teachers.

Membership is reviewed annually

Membership in the programme remains fluid through Years 7 to 10 to ensure that each student's learning needs are being best served by the additional academic provision we offer.

At the end of each academic year, the Programme Director and Deputy Head (Academic) review each student's academic results and consult with their subject teachers. Following this, some pupils may remain in the programme, some may leave, and some new students may join.

Any student awarded an academic scholarship when they join QEH based on their entrance exam results will, of course, maintain this financial scholarship throughout their time with us, regardless of whether they are a member of our Scholars' Programme.

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For more information

If you'd like to know more about admissions for exceptionally
gifted students, please email: admissions@qehbristol.co.uk
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