

Cox Green School

More Able



Parent Booklet

2016-2017

Commitment, Aspiration and Collaboration

Cox Green School

More Able Parent Booklet

The aim of this booklet is to offer some ideas and support to parents/carers of more able children.

More able children are identified in each year group at the start of each academic year and the list is kept live so that students can move onto and off it.

More able children are identified as having a minimum level 5 fine score in their KS2 English and Maths SATs and achieve a CATs score of 120+ when they are tested at the start of year 7.

The aim for these children is to typically achieve 5A*/A grades at GCSE as this supports their application to most Russell group/Oxbridge universities and onto Higher apprenticeships.

Whether or not a child is identified as more able does not matter as it is obviously no indicator of success. This booklet is therefore aimed at parents/carers who would like some further ideas of how they can extend their child's curiosity and meet their child's requests of "Why?"

How does the school support your child?

The school has a responsibility to meet the needs of all students. With respect to more able students we support them in the following ways:

Miss Glover is the More Able Coordinator and is responsible for coordinating the More Able register.

All departments are responsible for developing and providing an enrichment programme for more able students and developing teaching material appropriate to the more able child.

An extensive enrichment programme offers extra-curricular activities both in and outside school. Enrichment clubs are advertised via the newsletter and updated termly. Other activities may involve time off the normal timetable, for example this year trips to careers fairs, University open days, Magistrates Courts and The Bank of England are all occurring. From time to time we also work with external providers on revision/exam technique and enterprise projects.

Students will be involved in mentoring sessions which will be held during the school day, during registration time. Topics that your child will look at are dependent upon their own personal needs and key stage but will revolve around:

At Key Stage 3:

- 1) Supporting and ensuring your child is achieving their potential
- 2) Encouraging and developing subject interest in preparation for selecting options for GCSE's
- 3) Developing key life skills

At Key Stage 4&5:

- 1) Developing critical scholarship skills

- 2) Equipping your child with revision and study skills
- 3) Encouraging mindfulness with regard to exam stress
- 4) Preparation for working life and careers advice

We have a link with Brasenose College Oxford where visits are made and support for the UCAS process is given in the Sixth Form.

All students are monitored to ensure that they continue to make good progress.

The KS4 curriculum is structured so that more able students follow an academic programme, such as the EBAC and have the opportunity to study separate sciences. Students are given appropriate guidance when choosing their options in Year 8.

How can parents support a more able child?

There are numerous ways in which parents can support a more able child. Here are some simple ideas:

- Set time aside to talk to your child each day
- Encourage him/her to try new activities
- Visit galleries, museums, places of historic interest and encourage him/her to reflect on these experiences
- Provide resources to support learning at home, e.g. internet, visual stimuli, books, newspapers. Encourage him/her to join the local library and to use the school library. Watch educational programmes, the news and documentaries together and discuss them
- Encourage your child to participate in extra-curricular activities at school and beyond
- Encourage your child to manage their time effectively
- Make sure your child has time to relax and play!
- Encourage them to read widely

There is no such thing as 'no homework'.

Your child at the end of each school day should spend about 15 minutes for each lesson they have had doing the following:

- Rule off under their classwork
- Re-read their lesson's notes

- Highlight new key terms – look them up and define them
- Summarise the main points of the lesson
- Look up areas of difficulty and explain them
- Write down any questions not understood and bring to their next class.

Below are a number of useful websites to further develop your child's knowledge and understanding:

- <https://www.iggy.net/> - free online website to join run by the University of Warwick that challenges able young minds
- MOOCs (<https://www.futurelearn.com/>) are free online learning courses that are great for university applications and interested children.
- TED lectures - <https://www.ted.com/talks> . Discuss anything that your child has watched/listened to.
- Get your child to look up courses at a variety of universities they are interested in and then find out about some of the content they will cover there. This can then be researched.
- BBC Radio 4 – e.g. Inside Science, Law in Action, In Our Time, History of the World in 100 Objects, Case Notes to Analysis are all fantastic food for thought – are all great programmes to encourage debating skills and improve current affairs knowledge.
- Encourage wider reading/thinking. The four good newspapers (The Guardian, The Times, The Telegraph and The Independent online) also contain plenty to think about and can easily be discussed over breakfast/dinner.
- Other suggested sources:

<http://staircase12.univ.ox.ac.uk/>

<http://nrich.maths.org/frontpage>

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree>

<http://www.economist.com/>

<http://www.iflscience.com/>

<http://www.theiet.org/>

<http://www.deepskyvideos.com/>

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/arts-blog>

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/science-blog>

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/courses/suggested-reading-and-resources>

www.excellenceeast.co.uk—Offers a range of exciting courses, activity days, online resources,

www.nagcbritain.org.uk—The National Association for Gifted and Talented Children runs a support network to help parents

www.masterclasses.co.uk—Provides specialist day and residential masterclasses for gifted children, in many parts of the country. The courses cover a wealth of different topics - science, technology, maths, philosophy, literature and the arts - in ways which involve and challenge the most able students.

www.mensa.org—Mensa, the high IQ society, provides a forum for intellectual exchange among its members around the world. Membership includes access to lectures, discussions, journals, special-interest groups, and local, regional, national and international gatherings.

www.aquila.co.uk—A fun magazine aimed at 8 -13 year olds. Aims to get children reading, thinking and asking questions!

www.suttontrust.com—A charity which aims to improve educational opportunities for young people from non-privileged backgrounds and increase social mobility. It offers support for access to university, particularly where students are first generation applicants

Top 100 books to read before you leave secondary school. How many can you tick off?

1. 1984 by George Orwell
2. To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee
3. Animal Farm by George Orwell
4. Lord of the Flies by William Golding
5. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
6. The Harry Potter Series by JK Rowling
7. A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
8. The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger
9. Great Expectations by Charles Dickens
10. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
11. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
12. The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne
13. Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
14. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
15. Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
16. Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
17. Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks
18. A Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines
19. The Lord of the Rings trilogy by JRR Tolkien
20. Danny, Champion of the World by Roald Dahl
21. The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald
22. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
23. The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini
24. A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
25. A Passage to India by EM Forster
26. Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo
27. The Hobbit by JRR Tolkien
28. A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness
29. Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
30. Holes by Louis Sachar
31. Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
32. The Noughts and Crosses trilogy by Malorie Blackman
33. Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
34. War Horse by Michael Morpurgo
35. Atonement by Ian McEwan
36. The Hunger Games trilogy by Suzanne Collins
37. His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman
38. Dracula by Bram Stoker
39. Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
- =40. A Room With a View by EM Forster
- =40. Beloved by Toni Morrison
42. Wonder by RJ Palacio
43. Emma by Jane Austen
44. Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift
- =45. Half a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- =45. The Color Purple by Alice Walker
47. Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
48. The Sherlock Holmes series by Arthur Conan Doyle
49. Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee
50. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest by Ken Kesey
51. Anita and Me by Meera Syal
52. The Discworld series by Terry Pratchett
53. Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne
54. Skellig by David Almond
55. Life of Pi by Yann Martel
56. Tess of the d'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy
57. The Artemis Fowl series by Eoin Colfer
58. A Modest Proposal by Jonathan Swift
59. My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell
60. Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
61. Brighton Rock by Graham Greene
62. Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
63. The Fault In Our Stars by John Green
64. Dubliners by James Joyce
65. Face by Benjamin Zephaniah
66. When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr
67. White Teeth by Zadie Smith
68. Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson
- =69. Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton
- =69. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
- =71. Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? by Philip K Dick
- =71. I am David by Anne Holm
- =73. The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

=73. The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
=73. V for Vendetta by Alan Moore and David Lloyd
76. The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
77. A Song of Ice and Fire series by George RR Martin
78. The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway
=79. Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging by Louise Rennison
=79. Empire of the Sun by JG Ballard
=79. On the Road by Jack Kerouac
82. The Mayor of Casterbridge by Thomas Hardy
=83. A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man by James Joyce
=83. Billy Liar by Keith Waterhouse
=83. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
=86. A Gathering Light by Jennifer Donnelly
=86. Heroes by Robert Cormier
88. Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
=89. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
=89. Schindler's Ark by Thomas Keneally
91. Forever by Judy Blume
=92. Coram Boy by Jamila Gavin
=92. Stone Cold by Robert Swindells
94. A Time to Dance by Bernard MacLaverty
=95. Cat's Eye by Margaret Atwood
=95. Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell
=97. The War of the Worlds by HG Wells
=97. The Tracy Beaker series by Jacqueline Wilson
=99. Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
=99. Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson
=99. The Time Machine by HG Wells

The 26 books to read before going to university. How many can you tick off?

Aliens: why they are here by Bryan Appleyard

A Rage to Live: a biography of Richard and Isabel Burton by Mary S Lovell

A Room of One's Own by Virginia Woolf

A Time of Gifts by Patrick Leigh Fermor

Galileo's Middle Finger: heretics, activists and the search for justice in science by Alice Dreger

Landscape for a Good Woman: a story of two women by Carolyn Steedman

Life's Greatest Secret: the race to crack the genetic code by Matthew Cobb

Musicking: the meanings of performing and listening by Christopher Small

Old Goriot by Honoré de Balzac

On Becoming a Person: a therapist's view of psychotherapy by Carl Rogers

On Poetry by Glyn Maxwell

Philosophical Investigations by Ludwig Wittgenstein

Reborn: early diaries, 1947-1963 by Susan Sontag

Sapiens: a brief history of humankind by Yuval Noah Harari

Surely You're Joking, Mr Feynman: adventures of a curious character by Richard Feynman

Talking to Strangers: anxieties of citizenship since Brown v Board of Education by Danielle Allen

The Blandings stories by PG Wodehouse

The Establishment: and how they get away with it by Owen Jones

The History Man by Malcolm Bradbury

The Secret History by Donna Tartt

The Invisible Gorilla: and other ways our intuition deceives us by Christopher Chabris and Daniel Simons

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

The Women's Room by Marilyn French

This Changes Everything: capitalism vs the climate by Naomi Klein

This is Water: some thoughts, delivered on a significant occasion, about living a compassionate life by David Foster Wallace

You Are Not So Smart: why your memory is mostly fiction, why you have too many friends on Facebook and 46 other ways you're deluding yourself by David McRaney

50 things to do before you are 11 3/4 years old. How many can you tick off?

- 1.Climb a tree
- 2.Roll down a really big hill
- 3.Camp out in the wild
- 4.Build a den
- 5.Skim a stone
- 6.Run around in the rain
- 7.Fly a kite
- 8.Catch a fish with a net
- 9.Eat an apple straight from a tree
- 10.Play conkers
- 11.Go on a really long bike ride
- 12.Make a trail with sticks
- 13.Make a mud pie
- 14.Dam a stream
- 15.Play in the snow
- 16.Make a daisy chain
- 17.Set up a snail race
- 18.Create some wild art
- 19.Play pooh sticks
- 20.Jump over waves
- 21.Pick blackberries growing in the wild
- 22.Explore inside a tree
- 23.Visit a farm
- 24.Go on a walk barefoot
- 25.Make a grass trumpet
- 26.Hunt for fossils and bones
- 27.Go star gazing
- 28.Climb a huge hill
- 29.Explore a cave
- 30.Hold a scary beast
- 31.Hunt for bugs
- 32.Find some frogspawn
- 33.Catch a falling leaf
- 34.Track wild animals
- 35.Discover what's in a pond
- 36.Make a home for a wild animal
- 37.Check out the crazy creatures in a rock pool
- 38.Bring up a butterfly
- 39.Catch a crab
- 40.Go on a nature walk at night
- 41.Plant it, grow it, eat it
- 42.Go swimming in the sea
- 43.Build a raft
- 44.Go bird watching
- 45.Find your way with a map and compass
- 46.Try rock climbing
- 47.Cook on a campfire
- 48.Learn to ride a horse
- 49.Find a geocache
- 50.Canoe down a river