

Academic Achievement and Mentoring

Pupils can expect individual mentoring by specialist staff. This could be a member of school staff, a successful individual from local business or an older pupil. Students will be able to access opportunities to train as mentors to Primary School pupils, developing leadership and team skills that are relevant to future careers as well as being something impressive to put on college applications and UCAS forms.

Subject specific master classes will push individual students to achieve the highest grades and also build the skills required for the next level of learning; for example moving successfully from GCSE to A level. Where beneficial, a flexible curriculum allowing extra study time, extended courses and early entry examinations, (GCSE / A level) will be offered.



Parental Support

Lydiard Park Academy will provide Parental workshops aimed at supporting you to support your child. As well as a link to other parents with pupils in the Academy you will have regular contact with the staff involved. In order to keep track of your child's progress extra academic progress meetings will be available and you will be allocated a named person that you can contact directly on an on-going basis.

How to apply

Greendown already has a track record of success with Gifted and Talented students that few schools can better. As Lydiard Park Academy, this new bespoke programme will allow such students to do even better. If you feel that your child should be part of the programme or you wish to ask further questions please feel free to contact me on **01793 874224** or email **shesten@greendown.swindon.sch.uk**

Primary Pupils and the Academy

We will be inviting students from across five partner primary schools to attend the Academy. This will give younger students the chance to experience the secondary school environment, as well as giving our Gifted and Talented students the chance to act as mentors and coaches. More information will be given to Primary schools shortly.

Lydiard Park Academy

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LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY



Gifted and Talented

Turning Potential into Performance

Our clear aim is that Lydiard Park Academy will be a school that challenges all pupils to be the best that they can be. September 2012 will see the launch of the Gifted and Talented Academy as a key part of meeting this aim.

We believe that a Gifted and Talented pupil shows skill, talent, flair, individualism and consequently has the potential to go deeper and learn faster. Pupils identified with an individual talent for one area of the curriculum will be placed on the Gifted and Talented register and receive subject specific support. Those pupils who meet the 'Gifted' criteria across three or more subject areas will also be invited to join the Gifted and Talented Academy Programme. During selection pupils will take a cognitive ability test to gauge potential and information from teacher assessments will also be taken into consideration.

How is it different to any other schools Gifted and Talented programme?

Our new academy programme will go much further than the Gifted and Talented provision that is on offer in other schools, which typically don't go much further than occasional extra-curricular extension opportunities and have little impact on day-to-day lessons. Our programme also includes:

- Extensive, on-going training for all teaching staff by specialists from a leading national charity for Gifted and Talented pupils. This will increase the amount of challenge in lessons and encourage creative and independent thinking.
- A focus on the skills and attitudes needed to be successful as well as subject-based knowledge.
- Individual mentoring to ensure pupils are encouraged to explore where their abilities could take them, as well as being supported along the way.
- At Lydiard Park Academy we focus first on the quality of teaching, ensuring high quality lessons and extension work for the very able pupils. It's also about more than just achieving high grades – we want pupils to leave Lydiard Park Academy with the skills, confidence and high aspirations that will help them progress to the best universities.

What are the aims of the Academy?

The academy aims to enable every child to grow in confidence, thrive and to develop to the best of their abilities through:

- High quality teaching, providing challenge, motivation and high aspirations within the classroom
- A curriculum that offers opportunities to excel in every subject
- An ethos of exceptional achievement
- Close monitoring making sure pupils are achieving in all subjects
- 1:1 mentoring by specialist staff
- Tailored programmes for individual pupils
- Subject specific master classes
- Exciting projects outside of the curriculum to stretch and develop a particular interest and talent
- An opportunity to develop skills such as high order thinking skills that will help pupils progress to leading universities.
- Working with Villiers Park Educational Trust, leading national experts on educating gifted and talented children.
- A close link with parents, offering guidance that will help you support your child as well as an on-going dialogue over academic progress



Career Development

At Lydiard Park Academy we want pupils to acquire the skills required to be successful at college, university and in their future professions, as well as gaining excellent GCSE results. These skills include high order thinking skills, presentation and interview techniques and, of course, the confidence and ambition to push themselves in the future. Through master classes run by local business leaders, visits to leading universities and competitions in public speaking and enterprise we can ensure that Gifted and Talented Academy pupils will be better prepared for whatever path they decide to take in the future.

Support will also be given in career development and when choosing post-16 courses and colleges. Where necessary we will assist pupils in applying for scholarships or bursaries that might be available.

Villiers Park Educational Trust and Scholars Programme

"Villiers Park Educational Trust is a national charity that helps very able young people achieve their full academic potential and gain a place at a leading university. We are committed to fair access - enabling students from less advantaged backgrounds to compete on equal terms."

Villiers Park Educational Trust

Through our partnership with Villiers Park, we have gained two key benefits that underpin this programme – namely, specialist training for teaching staff to allow them to deliver the skills required for further and higher education, and links with top universities. Lydiard Park Academy is one of only a handful of schools nationally to be able to put forward pupils for the Villiers Park Scholars Programme. This scheme is already established within the school, giving successful applicants access to individual mentoring, extended residential master class events and support towards gaining a place at Oxford, Cambridge or another top university. This is a four year programme that starts in Year 10 and continues through Sixth Form College.