



# GIFTED & TALENTED in ENGLISH at SHSSFC

## Overview and Definitions

In the English department at Sandbach High School and Sixth Form College we adopt an approach that enables all students to access the curriculum whilst being effectively challenged at all levels. This policy provides guidance on how we meet the needs of the students who we have identified as being gifted in English, both inside and outside of the classroom. Details of how we monitor the progress of our gifted students will also be detailed, as it is of the utmost importance to us that each student reaches their potential in the subject.

Gifted pupils in English are those who show exceptional academic ability; however, as a department, we pride ourselves on offering an excellent learning experience for all individuals. By adopting an inclusive approach, the opportunities and provisions we implement for gifted students are designed to benefit all students to ensure all learners have an equal opportunity to reach their potential.

## Identification

The identification process in the English department involves the following procedure:

- The Gifted and Talented Coordinator for English will select a group of top achievers in the year group, up to 5% of the year's cohort, based on their most recent attainment data.
- The Gifted and Talented Coordinator for English will contact class teachers and invite them to select and comment upon the students who they also believe to be the highest achievers in the year group. Teachers must provide reasons for their nominations of pupils and/or reasons for having them removed from the list.
- Reasons/indicators may include:
  - Exceptional verbal and written contributions
  - Nominations from third parties
  - Attainment in assessments
  - Attainment data being significantly above average
- From this information, approximately the top 5% of the year's cohort will be identified as gifted.
- Throughout the year, in line with the above indicators, class teachers are able to nominate additional students to be included on the register.

## Monitoring

A register of Gifted and Talented students will be maintained by the Gifted and Talented Coordinator for English and will be updated and amended as necessary with teacher input.

The subject teacher will be responsible for the provision and monitoring of students in their class, using the summative and formative assessment data they have access to along with their professional observations.

Co-ordinators of KS3, KS4 and KS5 and the Gifted and Talented Coordinator for English will be responsible for the monitoring of gifted students in English as part of their vulnerable groups. They will monitor and track the progress of individuals and liaise with class teachers as well as the whole-school Gifted and Talented Coordinator if any intervention is thought to be necessary (i.e. if students are identified as making little progress) by filling out a referral form.

The Gifted and Talented Coordinator for English will ensure that schemes of work are detailed with up-to-date ideas for effective extension activities for students and will ensure that enrichment opportunities are provided for students beyond the classroom.

## **Provision for more Gifted and Talented students in English include the following:**

### **Enrichment, extension, acceleration and out of class approach**

Within the English department's schemes of work, there will be enrichment and extension activities designed for gifted students and flagged up to class teachers, which will provide opportunities for young people to develop a deeper understanding by their encountering of more complex resources and ideas. These schemes will be regularly reviewed to ensure high quality activities and resources are in place to extend and challenge learners. Furthermore, at the end of each scheme of work, there will be further suggestions for enrichment activities written in for gifted students to complete alongside their topics, for example, reading lists, research projects and suggestions for extended exploration of contextual factors affecting language and literature, to help students enrich their knowledge of the subject.

The English department will offer a range of extra-curricular clubs for all students, including gifted students, to participate in in their spare time, including:

- KS3 and 4 Creative Writing Club
- KS4 and 5 Creative Writing Club
- The Voice (student magazine)
- Booked In (reading club)

Trips and visitors will be organised to help students gain a wider knowledge and understanding and to offer learners a wide variety of opportunities, both within and outside the curriculum. For example, visiting theatres to watch performances of texts they will study or that are related to study/wider context of study; having drama companies visit the school to perform and provide workshops for gifted students to stretch and challenge.

### **Acceleration**

In exceptional circumstances, there will be opportunities to fast track individuals through the curriculum to make sure that every student is effectively challenged in the subject.