



LANDAU
FORTE
ACADEMY

AMINGTON

How Parents/Carers can
help to support the
'most able' children

How has your child been identified as the most able?

All Schools/Academies are required to have a database of students that are considered to be gifted and/or talented. In line with the National Guidance, our most able register is comprised of the top 10% of our Academy population. You would have been contacted by letter indicating which subjects your child is gifted or talented in.

Characteristics of the Gifted and Talented child

- Keen powers of observation.
- Learn or read very early, often before school age.
- Reads widely and rapidly.
- Well-developed vocabulary – takes delight in using unusual and new words.
- Has great intellectual curiosity.
- Absorbs information rapidly – often called sponges.
- Very good memory – can recall information in different circumstances.
- Have the ability to concentrate deeply for prolonged periods.
- Very good powers of reasoning and problem solving.
- Have intense interests.
- Possess unusual imagination.
- Have a great interest in ‘big’ questions, eg the nature of the universe, the problem of suffering in the world, environmental issues.
- Very sensitive – perhaps getting upset easily.
- Very concerned about rights and wrongs, concerned about injustices.

How will Landau Forte Academy Amington endeavour to support the 'most able' pupils?

- The most able students need to be presented with work that challenges, stretches and excites them on a daily basis.
- Tutors will provide opportunities for students to develop specific skills or talents to the highest possible level, where appropriate.
- Tutors will provide opportunities for students to work at higher cognitive levels when an opportunity arises.
- More able students should be seen as individuals with particular needs in one of more areas of the curriculum, not as a separate or distinct group.
- The Academy will also provide opportunities for extra-curricular activities (clubs, musical activities, sporting activities). Where available, students will also be able to take advantage of opportunities outside the Academy.
- Enrichment activities, such as educational visits and curriculum enhancement sessions, will be available where appropriate.

Suggestions for Parents/Carers of Able Children

Parents/carers should be seen as partners in their child's learning and support should be offered to them in terms of what it means to have a 'more able' child in the family.

The following are suggestions for supporting able children at home:

- Read with them, even if they are good readers
- Able children enjoy learning new words – have a new word of the week at home.
- Extend their general knowledge with a fact of the week.
- Encourage physical activity to develop co-ordination and general fitness.
- Do not always focus on your child's obvious skills – encourage them to sample new activities.
- Puzzles, crosswords, logic games, word games, card games, board games all help to develop the thinking skills and social interaction.
- Learning a new language together.
- Use of adult language.
- Give children a broad range of experiences.
- Encourage children to ask questions and answer them as fully and honestly as possible but admit it when you do not have a full answer.
- Sometimes the most effective support that a parent can provide may be actually to limit the number of engagements and formal activities that their child is exposed to, in order to ensure that the child has the space and 'free time' in which to play, experiment and develop hobbies and interests of his/her own.
- Above all – learning should be fun and enjoyable.
- All children, including the most able need to develop self-esteem and confidence, to be given praise and encouragement.
- Talking with, and listening to a child is one of the most important factors in the development of language. Language develops the learning pathways of the brain.
- Children need to know that parents are proud of who they are and not what they achieve. Their ability should not become the centre of the relationship between parent and child.
- Children need to be allowed 'failures' and mistakes – they are a necessary part of growing up and learning. Indeed, parents should

never be afraid to say they do not understand something or that they made a mistake – it can be reassuring for the most able!

- Able children can be self-absorbed and need to be encouraged by parents to appreciate and listen to the views of others and learn to interact with others.
- It is important to be aware of the needs and talents of the other children in the family.
- It is important to compliment what is done at school and not replicate what goes on in school.

How can parents/carers continue their partnership with Landau Forte Academy Amington?

- Any concerns or worries that you may have about your child's progress at the Academy should in the first instance be directed to the Personal Tutor. It is extremely important not to involve the child or in any way make the child aware that you have concerns – this can worry a child and cause conflict in the mind of the child.
- The Academy appreciates the partnership with parents/carers who are learners, helpers, school supporters, sources of information and resources!
- Understanding how the Academy works, appreciating the work of the busy tutor, communicating to the child positive feelings about the Academy and parents/carers sharing their time and talent are all part of this partnership.

Resources for Parents/Carers:

The National Association for Gifted Children:

www.nagcbritain.org.uk

www.gridclub.com – lots of ideas to support able pupils