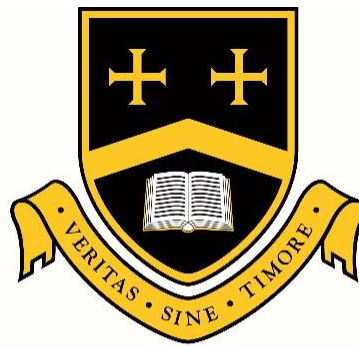


More Able Learners Policy



CATERHAM
SCHOOL

Policy Author:

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Next Review Due:

September 2026

More Able Learners Policy

Philosophy

The Academic Enrichment Programme exists to support the intellectual development of all pupils, with a particular focus on those identified as More Able Learners (MALs). Its principal aim is to nurture and extend pupils' academic potential, encouraging them to engage with ideas beyond the standard school curriculum and to make the most of both internal and external enrichment opportunities.

Pupils included in this programme are expected to take a proactive role in the academic life of the school. They are encouraged to:

- Set high expectations of themselves regarding their learning habits
- Contribute to classroom discussions and academic activities, serving as role models to their peers
- Participate in at least one academic enrichment activity
- Collaborate with teachers to explore opportunities for further intellectual challenge

To stretch themselves beyond the standard curriculum, pupils may also:

- Take part in the enrichment programme or sessions run by the appropriate Enrichment Tutor: Senior (Arts & Humanities); Senior (Science & Mathematics); or Junior
- Take part in academic enrichment clubs, societies, workshops, and educational trips
- Undertake independent reading from curated resource lists provided by Heads of Department and the Librarian
- Enter internal and/or external academic competitions

Identification

In First to Fifth years, a pupil is identified as a MAL by fulfilling at least one of the following three criteria:

- Having an academic scholarship
- Attaining a MidYIS or Yellis score of 130 or more
- Achieving in the top 15% of the year in their end of year exams

In some cases, pupils may also be included on the specific recommendation of teachers.

In the Sixth Form, continued eligibility is dependent on an average GCSE score of 8.25 or above. Where pupils do not hold GCSE scores, a combination of ALIS scores and teacher recommendation is used.

The MAL list is reviewed regularly and always reflects pupils' academic performance and progress as these evolve.

Scholarship Societies

All scholars and other MALs are invited to join the weekly Scholarship Societies that run for First Year to Fifth Year (Sixth Form enrichment is under the umbrella of Oxbridge and other Early Applicant programmes). Scholarship Societies are overseen by the three Enrichment tutors but staff from across the school, from a variety of subject areas, and representing a range of academic interests also contribute to the sessions. Pupils not identified as MALs can still attend these sessions if they wish to.

Normal lessons

All lessons at Caterham should be ambitious, aspirational, and inspire a love of learning. In a number of subjects, where setting and blocking allow, pupils are grouped by ability from an early stage to ensure sufficient challenge, while smaller class sizes – particularly at A Level – allow for more tailored, in-depth academic engagement.

Outside of lessons

A broad array of academic co-curricular opportunities is available to pupils across all year groups.

All pupils are encouraged to participate in one of the school's three Independent Research Project competitions, as well as contribute to academic publications, produce entries for the Academic Shorts film series, and compete in both internal (e.g. the Spivey Essay Prize) and external challenges (e.g. Olympiads, debating competitions, essay contests).

A comprehensive Oxbridge and Early Applicants Programme runs annually from January to December, offering subject-specific enrichment seminars and guest talks, focussed workshops tailored to leading UK and international institutions, preparation for university admissions tests, and mock interview practice.

The role of the Enrichment Tutors: Senior (Arts & Humanities); Senior (Science & Mathematics); and Junior

Key responsibilities:

- To devise and implement a programme of academic enrichment for MALs, including our academic scholars
- To develop and run a programme of activities, seminars and speakers which promote academic discussion and scholarship for pupils (Scholarship Societies)
- To play a central role in the preparation of pupils applying to leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge
- To oversee the preparation of the pre-interview tests for universities where these are required, and organising internal practice tests
- To oversee and analyse data for each Oxbridge cohort, including the collation of feedback from the candidates
- To encourage and oversee collaboration between elements of the above programme in the Sixth Form, ensuring that there is synergy and consistency between academic departments
- To work collaboratively with our family of schools with MALs in Years 5 and 6
- To initiate and oversee collaborative enrichment opportunities with our feeder schools and our partner schools, such as those in the East Surrey Learning Partnership
- To identify, promote and facilitate opportunities for our most able pupils to enter local, national and international competitions
- To liaise with the Deputy Head Academic to support the work of enrichment clubs and societies
- To ensure that the Library and other resource areas (e.g. Sharepoint) have sufficient and appropriate materials to stretch and challenge the most able and ambitious pupils

Impact of MAL initiatives

The effectiveness of the Academic Enrichment Programme is assessed through a variety of mechanisms. Provision for MALs in the classroom is regularly reviewed through lesson observations and learning walks; and academic progress and engagement are closely monitored by Heads of Year and Enrichment Tutors, using internal examination data and interim reporting.