Most Able, Gifted and Talented Handbook

What does being able in a certain subject suggest about my skill set and potential?

What does ‘able’ look like at each Key Stage?

What careers could I consider?

What can I read to extend my knowledge of the subject?

Who do I talk to about opportunities, visits and provision?
Introduction

What does ‘most able, gifted and talented’ mean, and how do I know if this term applies to me?

The term ‘most-able pupil’ is decided at KS2, based on SATs data. A pupil who gets the ‘Higher Standard’ (a score of 110+ in Maths and English and has writing of a ‘greater depth) is considered ‘Most Able’.

The aim of identifying students is to ensure staff are always challenging those students who show outstanding potential while in our care.

How does this term fit with the Catholic ethos of our school?

The term ‘most-able,’ is a complex one. It is a national requirement that we identify ‘most-able’ students for staff reference, but this is never intended as an exclusionary label. Every student at Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy is valued and all students need to be challenged and supported as much as possible.

It is vital, therefore, that this term is perceived by students, staff and parents alike as a method for identifying those students who are achieving excellent outcomes and may require challenge that extends beyond the usual provision for their age group.

At the same time, there is no reason why all students of a subject who have high aspirations and want to pursue connected careers cannot benefit from teachers’ expertise, school resources and specific classroom strategies.

We can use the scripture below as a guide for working hard: -

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord”.....

(Colossians 3:23)
What should I expect in lessons?

Your teachers are specialists in their field, so they are aware of expected standards for your curriculum key stage and will be used to adapting resources to suit a range of learning needs.

Whilst it is important that you trust and respect your teachers' judgement, communication is key. If you are regularly finding lesson content overly basic and feel that you require extra challenge that hasn't yet been offered, your first step should be to communicate this politely to your class teacher and seek their advice.

On many occasions, the more 'basic' content may be necessary and a vital foundation for future learning, so do be aware of this. Your teacher can listen to and respond to your concerns, and if they have the necessary evidence that you require more challenge they can make adaptations where needed.

Other staff members within departments can also support your interest and ability in the subject, so don't be afraid to ask.

What can I do independently to maximise my potential and opportunities?

Departments and individual teachers are always working hard to ensure you have what you need to achieve your potential in a constantly changing climate for education.

One essential component, though, is the role that you play in reaching your potential.

Your aim may be to leave education with 'exceptional' qualifications that set you apart in a competitive jobs market - the key to making this happen is you. Students who leave Saint John Houghton Catholic Voluntary Academy with wonderful opportunities ahead of them, regardless of targets and grades, are highly motivated, independent and inquisitive. They constantly seek opportunities to improve their skills and have built up resilience against pressure and setbacks.

Read all you can about the subject area in which you are particularly able. Research career options and potential training routes. Talk to people who can guide you and have experience (older students, staff and parents). This handbook, compiled by all subject areas, should be a useful starting point.

Good luck!
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for English! This means you are...

A mature and effective communicator and likely to be an avid reader. You have an advanced grasp on language and you can analyse, evaluate and synthesise information to a very high standard. You may be a skilled and sophisticated writer who can take their reader on an original, emotive journey whilst maintaining excellent standards of technical accuracy. You are likely to empathise with both fictional characters and real life experiences across a range of genres and scenarios.

CAREERS
At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for...

A career in journalism and print media, the law, visual media and the arts, writing, presenting, academic lecturing and research, teaching, business, publishing and literary agency work, management and much more.

At KS3 you will:
Read enthusiastically and utilise your ever-growing vocabulary in your written work; analyse in depth to an impressive level, showing genuine and specific understanding.

At KS4 you will:
Show sophisticated understanding of a range of literary texts, from poetry to nineteenth century fiction and Shakespeare. Your writing will be compelling and original.

RECOMMENDED READS
We expect students to read on a regular basis and read a range books from a variety of authors and genres.

KS3: We recommend a lot of the CILIP Carnegie Book Award winners. Notable recommendations: Northern Lights (Pullman), A Monster Calls (Ness), The Graveyard Book (Gaiman), Watership Down (Adams)
RECOMMENDED READS

KS4 – to support understanding of the key texts

The Art of Poetry (Vol. 6) by Neil Bowen and Katherine Mortimore
The Art of Drama (Vol. 1) An Inspector Calls by Neil Bowen and Katherine Mortimore
Shakespeare on Toast by Ben Crystal
Shakespeare: The Worlds as a Stage by Bill Bryson
Much Ado About Nothing / A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare
Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens
Plays by J.B. Priestley
York Notes Study Guides
CGP Study Guides
Collins Snap Revision books

KS4 – to develop an appreciation of English literature

1984 by George Orwell
Brighton Rock by Graham Greene
A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle
The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Life of Pi by Yann Martel
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
The Picture of Dorian Grey by Oscar Wilde
Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier
The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Lewis Stevenson
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells
Woman in Black by Susan Hill
The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins

We’d advise all students to talk to their English teacher for other book suggestions.

Websites we’d recommend KS4 students visit:

British Library - this has some excellent background reading material for the key texts studied
https://www.bl.uk/

The Saint John Houghton English Channel on Youtube.

Youtube

BBC Bitesize

https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/

Lit Charts – this is a great little site to download revision charts and materials
https://www.litcharts.com/
Congratulations if you are have an aptitude for Maths! This means you are...
Logical, able to follow and spot patterns, a problem solver.

At KS3 you will:
Show a fluency in all previously taught areas of mathematics, able to apply this knowledge confidently to new situations and problems.

At KS4 you will:
Same as above but to a higher order of mathematical understanding, evolving to proof and a confidence in generalising and algebra.

CAREERS
At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for...
Accountant, research scientist (Maths), data analyst, statistician, research developer.
It can also open pathways to careers in other fields such as: Engineering
Finance
Software and Computing

RECOMMENDED READS
KS3-
https://nrich.maths.org/
https://parallel.org.uk/
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06mfd19
RECOMMENDED READS

KS4-

http://www.mrbartonmaths.com/

http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z6vgq1j6 (Maths)

https://nrich.maths.org/

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06mfdl9

EXTENSION TASKS-

https://nrich.maths.org/


https://parallel.org.uk/
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for RE! This means you are...

A student who is able to reflect on fundamental questions on the meaning of existence, the place of humanity in the world, and our relationship to each other and to God. You will be able to evaluate different opinions and perspectives, and develop independent insight into a range of challenging ideas.

At KS3 you will:
Think and reflect on key Church teachings, match scripture passages to situations in life and understand how key church teachings impact on us today.

At KS4 you will:
Think and reflect on key Church teachings, match scripture passages to situations in life and understand how key church teachings impact on us today. You’ll evaluate different perspectives (Religious, Atheist and Humanist) on religious, scientific social and ethical issues and make judgments about the validity of one position over another.

RECOMMENDED READS
KS3
BBC Teach - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4KN50fql7f45fx2DqG7tt9
Busted Halo series - https://www.youtube.com/user/bustedhalovideo
RE Quest - https://request.org.uk/
Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church
RECOMMENDED READS

KS4
BBC Religion - https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion
BBC Teach - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4KN50fa7f45fx2DqG7ttg
Busted Halo series - https://www.youtube.com/user/bustedhalovideo
Catechism of the Catholic Church
Email a believer - http://pof.reonline.org.uk/
Judaism information - https://www.chabad.org/
RE Quest - https://request.org.uk/
In Our Time - Religion BBC4 podcasts - https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gvqlg
The Vatican Website - http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html
TrueTube - https://www.truetube.co.uk/
Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church

EXTENSION TASKS-

Catholic Encyclopaedia - http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/
Peter Kreeft on Apologetics
Peter Singer on human life
Richard Dawkins on Evolution
Stephen Hawking on the Big Bang Theory
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for MFL! This means you are...

Flexible in your thinking and can apply what you've learnt to new situations;
Diligent and take time to learn new vocabulary;
Creative in how you put language together;
Resilient and secure in the knowledge that mistakes are part of learning.

At KS3 you will:
Use a variety of great adjectives and intensifiers, as well as talking about events in a number of time frames. Verbs will become easier to manipulate as students learn to differentiate the different parts of a conjugated verb.

At KS4 you will:
Discuss in depth issues in society in a number of time frames, with reference to local and wider world issues.

CAREERS
At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for...
- Trading with other countries.
- Working in other countries.
- Interpreting and translating from your own home, as well as travelling the world doing this.
- Any trading company as you have a desirable skill which will enable you to progress.

RECOMMENDED READS – Vocab and Grammar practice – KS3
www.language-gym.com
http://www.lemonchedesados.fr/ - French news for young people
RECOMMENDED READS – KS4

www.language-gym.com
http://www.lemondedesados.fr/ - French news for young people

EXTENSION TASKS-

- Use a flashcard app/website to create flashcards with new vocabulary on a range of topics. You can ask Mr Riley or Miss Cook for specific lists of vocabulary to learn or you can find vocab yourself.
- Learn the four key verbs in the main tenses – avoir / être / faire / aller
- Study the 3 basic present / past / future tenses sheets available from Mr Riley or Miss Cook.
- Log on to Kerboodle and do any practice Reading and Listening exercises
- Find out what the CONDITIONAL tense is – When is it used and how is it formed?
- Find out what the IMPERFECT tense is – When is it used and how is it formed?
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for Geography! This means you are...

Curious about the world! You are good at problem solving, analysing data and constructing technical answers based on evidence.

At KS3 you will:

Explain geographical processes in a detailed manner, using an array of key terms consistently in your answers. You may begin to recognise connections between human and physical topics.

At KS4 you will:

Construct analytical and balanced arguments regarding key geographical issues. These answers should include an array of key terms, evidence and individual knowledge (attained from watching the news or independent research).

CAREERS

At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for...

Environmental consultancy, town and city planning, disaster management, climatologist, researcher/scientist, teacher... or even other non-geography related careers due to the amount of transferable skills! Such as architecture and chartered surveyor.

RECOMMENDED READS

KS3-
BBC Bitesize for core knowledge and tests!
Royal Geographical society for the latest research projects, articles and journals.
National Geographic for up to date geographical news articles and case studies.
RECOMMENDED READS

KS4-

BBC GCSE Bitesize for core knowledge and tests
Coolgeography.co.uk – useful for revision and wider subject reading
Royal Geographical Society website, Geography Review magazine and National Geographic website – and simply watch the news!
National Geographic for up to date geographical news articles and case studies.

EXTENSION TASKS-

Check your challenge mats in the back of your exercise book and knowledge organisers with the “deeper thinking” box tailored for each topic you study at key stage 3!
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for Art! This means you are...

Creative, imaginative, experimental with media and techniques and not afraid to take risks.
You are also likely to be hardworking and dedicated.
You are able to look imaginatively and insightfully at the work of others and develop original ideas.
Gifted and talented pupils in art and design are those who: show distinctive skills in their ability to make, record and manipulate in visual and/or tactile form; have a very good knowledge and understanding of the subject area; are able to interpret, critically appraise, problem solve, take risks and develop information, materials, thoughts and ideas; show the tenacity and ability to imagine, create and express in visual and/or tactile form in order to make a unique and original contribution to art and design.

At KS3 you will:
Be experimental with art media and techniques and ‘think outside the box’.
Use ideas from artists’ work in your own work in insightful and complex ways. Use art materials with a high level of confidence and skill and include imaginative small details in your work.

At KS4 you will:
Illustrate advanced methods of working and consideration to produce increasingly sensitive, emotionally charged and characterisations beyond your years as an actor.

CAREERS
At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for you into careers such as...
Architecture; interior design; set design; game design; graphic design; illustration; animation; photography; fashion; jewellery making; film production and many more.

RECOMMENDED books and websites
KS3- www.tate.org.uk
www.sqatchigallery.com
www.pinterest.co.uk
Taschen – Realism
Taschen – Surrealism
Taschen – Cubism
RECOMMENDED READS

KS4 - Websites
www.tate.org.uk
www.sqatchigallery.com
www.pinterest.co.uk

Groenick, U and Reimschneider, B (2005) Art Now, Taschen
Student Art Guide – Help students Excel www.studentartguide.com

Tate Gallery Online www.tate.org.uk

Artcyclopedia www.artcyclopedia.com

Books
Taschen – Art now
Taschen – Illustration now
Matthew Collings – This is modern art
Vitamin P – New perspectives in painting

EXTENSION TASKS

➤ Draw the view from your window. Look at the small details. Remember the observation rules.
➤ Explore watercolour paints, consider the use of primary and secondary colours and paint something with a surrealism theme.
➤ Discover photography - take some photographs, think about light, space and composition.
➤ Make a sculpture out of found objects and then draw what you have created.
➤ Have a look at some artists on one of the above websites, decide on an artist you really like and create a copy of one of their pieces of work in your own style.
➤ Have a look at the work of Bansky – create your own ‘tag’ to show your identity.
➤ Create your own illustration for your favourite book. Have a look at the work of Quentin Blake.
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for DT! This means you are...

Experimental and analytical, good problem finders and problem solvers, able to produce creative ideas and develop these via 2D and 3D modelling and refining ideas as you work.

You will take innovative approaches to a range of topics and may have a passion for a specific area of design.

At KS3 you will:
Research, analyse in depth and develop a concept through imaginative solutions; work with limited assistance to produce quality outcomes that are fit for purpose.

At KS4 you will:
Identify gaps in the market where product development is necessary or viable and creatively generate proposals that meet the design criteria. Produce a quality outcome that meets the specification and needs of the user/client.

RECOMMENDED READING
KS3-
BBC Bitesize
BBC technology website
BBC click
Technologystudent.com
RECOMMENDED READING

KS4-
BBC Bitesize
BBC technology website
BBC click
Technology student.com
www.GCSEPOD.com
https://www.mybluprint.com/topic/woodwork

What is Product Design? By Laura Slack
Design Of The 20th Century By Charlotte And Peter Field
Materials for Inspirational Design: Wood / Metals / Plastics By Chris Lefteri

EXTENSION TASKS-
- Download sketch up and create digital sketches of your work.
  - Practice the following drawing styles with your current project work.
    - Isometric
    - Oblique
    - One point perspective
    - Two point perspective
  - Skill up your rendering skills
    - Practice rendering with coloured pencil
    - Practice rendering with felt tip pens
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for ICT! This means you are...

Logical, mathematical and adept at problem solving.

You are likely to be adept at using technical vocabulary and you are likely to be independent and intuitive.

At KS3 you will:

Create a complex solution that includes procedures. Describe the stages of program design.

At KS4 you will:

Code complex programs such as encryption/windows applications.

CAREERS

At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for...

- Application analyst
- Data analyst
- Database administrator
- Games developer
- Information systems manager
- Multimedia programmer
- Systems analyst
- Systems developer
- Web developer

RECOMMENDED READS

KS3-
Code.org
Microbit.org
Teachlondoncomputing.org
RECOMMENDED READS

KS4-

Teach ICT (website)
Visual Studio 2010 (book)
Codecademy (website)
Codefights (website. Advanced)

EXTENSION TASKS-

Research Business/ computing on 'google'
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for Food! This means you are...

Scientific and creative. You are able to plan and work logically to create imaginative dishes that fit a brief. You are able to be analytical to work out why ingredients and cooking methods don’t always work as expected.

At KS3 you will:
Plan, research, evaluate and make in detail with limited help to produce quality outcomes that are fit for purpose.

At KS4 you will:
Investigate through scientific experiments (Non Exam Assessments- NEA) different ingredients and cooking methods.
Produce individual hypothesis, run experiments and analyse the results to make concluding statements.
Research recipes and ingredients to plan and produce dishes that are suitable for a specific brief or diet.
Plan and create the selected dishes, whilst following health and safety procedures and presenting the highly skilled dishes in a professional manner independently.

RECOMMENDED READS

KS3
Text book - GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition WJEC Eduqas Complete Revision & Practice (with Online Edn) ISBN: 9781789080995
Website: www.foodafactoflife.org.uk  www.bbcgoodfood.com  www.nhs.uk – the section ‘Eat well’
Watch programs such as the Great British Bake Off and Masterchef
Be inspired by using recipe books such as those written by Mary Berry, Jamie Oliver, The Good Housekeeping Institute etc.
RECOMMENDED READS

KS4-

TEXT BOOKS


Websites

www.foodafactoflife.org.uk  lovefoodhatewaste.com  www.bbcgoodfood.com

British Nutrition Foundation - www.nutrition.org.uk/  www.nhs.uk

Recipe Books Be inspired by using recipe books such as those written by Mary Berry, Jamie Oliver, The Good Housekeeping Institute etc. For example
- Mary Berry Cookery Course: A Step-by-Step Masterclass in Home Cooking
  ISBN: 9781409367949
However, lots of these recipes on the internet!

EXTENSION TASKS

Watch Cookery programs such as Master Chef and The Great British Bake Off
Practice your practical skills! Try cooking as much as you can at home!
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for PE! This means you are...

Skilful in a range of physical activities. You will be creative in your approach to games/athletics, gymnastics and/or dance. You will be able to evaluate your own and others performance and give ideas on how to improve performance.

At KS3 you will:
Compete at District standard and above in their chosen sport/activity and perform a complex range of skills consistently in a range of activities.

At KS4 you will:
Compete at District standard and above in their chosen sport/activity. Perform complex skills in pressured situations and be able to lead and coach others. You may also develop your skills further by taking a national governing body coaching award.

CAREERS
At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for...

Professional sportsperson eg footballer, cricketer, athlete etc
PE Teacher
Sports coach
Sports psychologist
Physiotherapist
Sports Analyst
Sports Scientist
Health and fitness roles
Referees and umpires

RECOMMENDED READS
KS3
You tube for skill development and knowledge of rules and regulation
National governing body websites for up to date information on skill development and rules
TV – watching professional sport performer
RECOMMENDED READS
KS4-

BBC GCSE Bitesize
National governing body websites e.g. ESNA (England Schools Netball Association)
Coaching manuals for various sports
GCSE - OCR textbooks
Varied sports magazines e.g. 'Golfworld', 'Four Four Two' (Football)
Various coaching websites e.g. Sport Nottinghamshire, Sportsplan, UK coaching
You Tube has a wide variety of coaching videos that are useful to learn / develop new skills.

EXTENSION TASKS-
Research sporting opportunities and clubs within your local area which may be of interest to you.
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for Science! This means you are...

- A creative thinker
- Mathematically astute
- Have an aptitude for problem solving

At KS3 you will:

Explain complex, abstract phenomena using key terms and definitions, applying them to real life contexts

At KS4 you will:

Make "big picture" links between elements of the course to answer questions through problem solving and creative thinking skills

CAREERS
At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for...

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary Science
- Biomedical Sciences
- Pharmacology
- Biomechanics
- Engineering
- Law

RECOMMENDED READS

KS3/KS4 AQA related guides
BBC Bitesize
- livescience.com
- Tassomal
- Studywise.co.uk
- Thestudentroom.co.uk
- Gojimo.com
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for History! This means you are...

Able to analyse and evaluate evidence and use this to support an argument. You should also be able to make judgements and critically assess a range of source material.

At KS3 you will:
- Analyse and explain a range of historical interpretations and different judgements about historical significance.
- Evaluate critically a range of sources and reach substantiated conclusions independently.
- Use historical terminology confidently, thinking about how terms can change meaning according to context.

At KS4 you will:
- Demonstrate a consistent level of analysis
- Show a sophisticated breadth of knowledge
- Develop a line of argument
- Make reasoned judgments
- Critically use sources to support an argument

CAREERS
At the highest level, achievement in this subject can open doors for...
Teaching and research, politics, the media, careers in business and commerce, law and many more areas.

RECOMMENDED READS
KS3-

BBC Bitesize
JohnDclare.net
Horrible Histories
RECOMMENDED READS
KS4-

http://www.historytoday.com/  http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/
http://www.bbc.co.uk/history

- Olaudah Equiano, The Slave Narrative of Olaudah Equiano
- John Keegan, The First World War
- EH CAR, What is history? (especially for students thinking of doing History at university)
- Any academic books on the Tudors and Russia (1917-1953) (A level)

EXTENSION TASKS-)
Congratulations if you have an aptitude for Music! This means you are...

Interested in the composition of music from all period of time. You have a keen interest in playing and performing music.

At KS3 you will:
Explore the origins and learn the fundamental basis of music theory. You will learn the importance of instrumentation through the elements of music. You will also learn world music such as Reggae, The Blues and Bhangra.

At KS4 you will:
Perform and Compose musical pieces on a favoured instrument. You will learn how to be descriptive with music from a range of genres. You will also be able to identify musical instrument by ear as well as develop aural pitch through melodic dictation.

CAREERS
A number of companies look for musicians and people with music qualifications when employing. This is because musician’s brains are trained to deal with complex tasks and can remained focused for longer periods then non-musicians. Learning to play an instrument takes dedication and patience – all qualities that a well-rounded individual should harness. Careers include Teaching, Performer, Music engineer, Music producer, Music management, artistic director and light and sound design.
RECOMMENDED READS

KS3-
Music Theory for beginners (Usborne)
Studying at grade 2/3 level on Instrument
BBC bite size – Music

RECOMMENDED READS

KS4-

GCSE OCR Music for the Grade 9 – 1 Exam (CGP)
GCSE Music Study Guide (Rhinegold)
GCSE Music Revision Guide (Rhinegold)

Studying at a grade 4/5 level on any instrument

EXTENSION TASKS:-
- Understand and write out intervals on a stave
- Learn the notes on a Treble and Bass clef
- Learn the composition of a major and minor chord
- Understand the intervals in a major scale
- Learn how to identify key signatures
- Explain a harmonic equivalent