DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL

Where every child is known and valued

Stretch and Challenge Policy

Compiled by	Head of Juniors
Approved by	Headmaster
Date of Publication	September 2024
Next Review	September 2025

Stretch and Challenge Policy

Introduction

At Ditcham Park, we are committed to providing an environment which encourages all students to realise their potential. We look to provide effective learning opportunities across the curriculum for all learners and this includes strategies and opportunities that challenge.

Aims

We aim to:

• provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to their needs
• recognise all pupils' entitlement to an appropriate education by means of adaptation, enrichment and extension of the curriculum
• provide the opportunities to work at higher cognitive levels as appropriate and to teach according to pupils' level of understanding
• provide tasks that challenge intellectually and encourage self-motivation
• provide for the 'whole child' both intellectually and socially within the context of the school.

Principles and Practice

The classroom is the main focus of stretch and challenge for all at Ditcham Park School. Students are exposed to a wide range of stretch and challenge strategies in the classroom. These aim to develop higher order thinking skills. Some examples of the ways students may be challenged in lessons might include:

• adaptive teaching which encourages stretch and challenge for the most able
• learning activities with varied starting points which acknowledge prior attainment
• the use of students as experts or examiners in lessons
• individualised target setting
• classroom displays with challenging tasks and examples of outstanding work
• tasks and questioning that encourage evaluation, synthesis and analysis
• peer teaching
• wider reading of subject-specific literature e.g. newspapers, journals and novels
• independent learning projects
• lead roles in discussion and group work
• independent research

'More Able'

Students with potential for high outcomes across a range of core and other subjects are defined as MA (More Able). These students have an MA code entered into Schoolbase so that staff are aware they are performing beyond expectation across many subject areas.

This cohort comprises 3 groups:

Group 1:

Predictive attainment scores and standardised scores in reading and maths indicate high potential outcomes across a range of subjects, including 'core' subjects.
At the start of years 3, 5 and 7, all pupils sit the CAT4 cognitive abilities' test, which give indicators to a child's ability level and potential attainment. In addition to this, from Reception to year 6, pupils sit termly standardised tests in reading and maths (PIRA and PUMA) to track their attainment and progress. Pupils who are consistently standardising above 120SS are then identified as MA on SchoolBase.

Group 2:

Prior High Attainment (PHA) on entry to the Senior school indicate high potential outcomes across a range of core and other subjects. Information is sought from the previous school as to the ability of the child. Those children who have previously been identified as having high ability are identified on SchoolBase.

Group 3

Subject-specific able students. These students will have a particular strength in a focused area. They may have exceptional practical skills in subjects such as music, drama, art, PE or D&T.

The progress and attainment of all pupils is reviewed on a regular basis.

Enrichment

In addition to classroom provision, MA pupils have a range of opportunities to continue to develop their strengths. In Year 6, pupils can apply for scholarships in music, drama, art, sport, English or maths. These scholarships afford additional subject-specific tuition as well as co-curricular opportunity.

Provision outside the classroom

At Ditcham Park, we pride ourselves on the range and number of activities that take place beyond the classroom. These include clubs as well as excursions and school trips. Activities and clubs listed are open to all students but are particularly beneficial for stretch and challenge.

Academic Scholar lunch programme

In years 7-11, academic scholars and other MA pupils are invited to attend an academic scholar lunch every other week. The aim of the lunch which is attended by the Headmaster and organised by our Marketing Director is to facilitate wide ranging academic discussion and promote academic ambition.

Sports Development Programme

The Sports Development Programme is designed to inspire, inform and develop our sports scholars and other talented sporty boys and girls. Professional sportsmen and women are invited to the school to meet the scholars and explain their career pathway, lifestyle, training programme etc. Every other week, those pupils on the programme attend a fitness, injury prevention and sports' psychology session. Furthermore, scholars enjoy trips to centres of sporting excellence such as Surrey Sports' Park.

Creative & Performing Arts Programme

The Creative & Performing Arts Programme is designed to inspire, inform and develop our musicians, artists and dramatists. Masterclasses are offered and inspirational individuals from the creative sector are invited into school. Music, Arts and Drama scholars are encouraged to undertake an Arts Award to further develop their interests and talents.