

More able at Furness Academy

At Furness Academy, we believe it is important to provide appropriate learning experiences for all our students and for all ability levels.

An ethos of high expectation and aspiration is a central building block for developing and providing for our more able learners.

More able students are supported, challenged and extended during their time at Furness Academy. All departments and teachers have a crucial role to play, supporting the development of these students so that they reach their true potential.

We define more able students using the NACE and DCSF definitions below:

- The National Association for Able Students in Education (NACE) suggests that “more able” describes learners that have the ability or potential to work and achieve with depth above age related expectations in academic subjects.
- The DCSF defines “more able” students as those who work consistently above age related expectations as defined in the National Curriculum Programme of Study and can apply their skills and knowledge.

Curriculum, Teaching and Support

Teaching, learning and assessment, enrichment resources and wider learning opportunities provide challenge for all, particularly more able learners.

The curriculum offers breadth, depth and flexibility alongside organisational strategies and systems which allow all children to flourish and meets the needs of more and exceptionally able learners.

Provision includes social and emotional support for more able learners and includes access to appropriate information, advice and guidance. CEIAG is bespoke for those students guided by their Director of Learning and Standards and the Director of Careers. More able students receive targeted careers guidance designed to open their minds to ambitious careers, which they may not otherwise have considered. This has included a trip during which high-attaining pupils worked in a Chemistry lab at Manchester University.

Professional Development

Teachers are central to providing challenging and enriching education, and their professional development is paramount. Commitment to, and action for, improving the skills of all staff in the school to achieve excellence in meeting the needs of more able learners. Our fortnightly CPD sessions are a fundamental part of this.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A highly effective quality assurance framework for monitoring action plans and assessing the effectiveness and impact of the school’s policy for more and exceptionally able learners.

Some of the wider curriculum opportunities that are on offer for more able students at Furness Academy:

- Science Live – University of Manchester (Opportunity to meet top scientists)
- I'm a scientist – Webinars for science careers/research
- Saturday More able English and Maths conference - Year 11
- Salter's Festival – University Lancaster (Year 8 and 9)
- Oxford and Cambridge University seminars – (Year 9 and 10)
- Top of the Form – STEM Competition
- Access Program – University of Lancaster
- Members of NACE – The National Association for Able Children in Education
- The Brilliant Club – The Scholars programme
- Bright Eyes – Science extra curricula year 7 and 8 club
- Lego League- 'Coding / programming'
- BAE STEM Year 8
- Infinity Festival – Top STEM companies and scientist event
- KS3 AND KS4 National Maths Challenge Competition
- Year 7 and 8 Wordsworth Writing Competition
- GO4Set Year 9
- Debating Club – National debating Competition