

# **DCSF Targeted Support Programme for gifted disadvantaged Year 10 students**

We are writing to you on behalf of Excellence East (formerly the Eastern Region Gifted and Talented Partnership) and Norfolk Children's Services to invite you to participate in a new DCSF initiative for a particular group of Year 10 students. This is the Targeted Support Programme (TSP) for Gifted & Talented, which is intended to be a structured journey driven by the learner.

We appreciate that the programme will be completely new to you and you are likely to want to know much more before committing time and energy to it. This letter provides a brief summary of the programme and the opportunities it offers but our support for schools also includes a one to one visit from me or one of our consultants to help you explore the programme and its implications in greater depth.

## **What is the Targeted Support Programme?**

It is a one-year pilot programme for gifted learners in Year 10 from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through a highly personalized approach for each student, it provides additional support to help improve self-esteem, skills, motivation and aspirations, and attainment at Key Stage 4 and beyond. Its ultimate aim is to enable as many gifted disadvantaged participants as possible to compete for and secure places on competitive HE courses and thereby to improve the life chances of these students and contribute to greater social mobility. The DCSF anticipates that the initiative will continue beyond the first year.

## **Who is eligible?**

Eligible students are Year 9 pupils in the January 2009 census who were identified as gifted by their schools **and** were also eligible for free school meals (FSM) **or** were classified as a Child in Care (CiC). Regrettably, those identified as talented are not included in this pilot. Pupils who are identified as both gifted and talented and who meet the FSM or CiC criteria are eligible.

Pupils are not eligible if they have participated in the National Challenge G&T pilot programme or the University of Warwick's GOAL programme.

## **What does the programme offer?**

The programme includes:

- a. an obligatory online needs analysis that is undertaken by each student in order to identify their individual needs and to orientate them in respect to additional learning opportunities which might be of benefit. The Needs Analysis is the focus of an enabling conversation with the student, intended to provide him/her with a framework or personal action plan for development over the next year;
- b. external support for the G&T lead teacher/coordinator in the use of the needs analysis tool and in matching opportunities to individual needs;
- c. access to a catalogue of external opportunities ranging from two-day progression skills courses to subject specific workshops in local venues;
- d. a small scholarship per eligible student (£250) which may be used to meet all or part of the cost of any learning opportunity within the catalogue or to support

participation (e.g. to meet transport costs). The DCSF has indicated that the scholarship may also be used to cover the costs of specific texts students may require or ICT support. Please note that the scholarship is only available to those students whose school confirms their willingness to participate in the current year.

It is important to note that elements a. and c. above are universally available to gifted 14-19 year-old learners, whether or not they are eligible for the TSP initiative.

Further details of the scholarship and the catalogue will be provided through the external support and will also be available on the Excellence East website at <http://www.excellenceeast.org.uk/> and on the national TSP website that is currently being established by the DCSF.

### **What will Excellence East and your local authority provide?**

Each school participating in the pilot will be entitled to external support from one of our team of advocates who will visit the school to meet with the G&T Leading Teacher/Coordinator to discuss the programme and the opportunities appropriate for individual students. We will also assist schools to extend their work with local networks.

### **Why should your school participate in the project?**

This is an opportunity for disadvantaged able students to access opportunities and experiences that could significantly improve their life chances.

### **What does the school need to do next?**

Please confirm that you wish to participate in the Targeted Support Programme by identifying your eligible students, and returning the attached form to the address indicated.

It is also essential to secure whole school and senior leadership support for the initiative.

Further information on the scheme may be obtained from your local authority adviser or from Excellence East by emailing your enquiry to [excellenceeast-tsp@hotmail.com](mailto:excellenceeast-tsp@hotmail.com)

You may also wish to get started by accessing the Needs Analysis Tool which is currently located at <http://ygt.dcsf.gov.uk/secondary/content.aspx?contentid=1612&contenttype=5>.

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