

Our approach to greater depth

We believe that every child at our school has the potential to achieve and, in time, excel. This is why we do not label any children with the 'gifted & talented' tag. We reject the notion that some pupils are born with an innate academic ability. We reject the argument that some can and some can't perform certain skills or acquire knowledge and expertise in a specific domain. We stress to all of our pupils the importance of working hard, because hard work is the true key to success.

We do not set or stream learners according to their prior attainment. Every child at the academy has full access to the curriculum. Children who fail to grasp a concept are given a course of rigorous same-day intervention aimed at catching them up. This way, all pupils move through the learning together and no child is left behind.

We do acknowledge that some children will grasp an idea quicker than their peers. Rather than move these children on immediately to the next objective, we encourage them to go deeper with their understanding of the concept. We do this through targeted questioning or through tasks planned for this specific purpose. Every child, in every lesson, has the opportunity to work at a greater depth – a concept we refer to as 'depth for all'. The goal of the academy must be for 100% of its pupils to be working at greater depth within the expected standards of reading, writing and mathematics by the time they go to secondary school.