



NACE PRESS RELEASE



National Association
for Able Children
in Education

Blake Valley Technology College achieves The Challenge Award for excellence in provision for able, gifted and talented students

‘This college has a culture in which it is cool to be clever and pride of achievement is shared by all, students, parents and staff: a climate which encourages young people to become role models for their peers & for younger pupils.’

Challenge Award Assessment Report Oct 2005

Blake Valley Technology College is the sixth secondary school nationally to achieve the prestigious Challenge Award for Able, Gifted and Talented Pupils. This Award is given for high quality work by the whole school, teachers and governors, challenging all students, including those with high abilities, to achieve their best.

The Award is given by NACE: the National Association for Able Pupils, a leading national education organisation and registered charity established for 22 years. The Association exists to help the daily work of teachers providing for pupils with high abilities whilst enabling all pupils to flourish. It provides advice, training and resources for teachers, including The Challenge Award Self-Evaluation Framework which Blake Valley Technology College has used to audit and plan what it provides for able, gifted and talented pupils. Many thousands of primary and secondary schools are using the Challenge Award Framework to develop their work.

Assessors, who spent a day in the college, were impressed by the college’s strong whole-school commitment to improving provision for all students through an emphasis on the needs of the more able. One young man interviewed said, “This school has done everything for me”. There are high expectations of students’ progress and students are confident in discussing their learning.

Assessors judged the quality of the college’s work by observing lessons, interviewing the students, teachers, parents and governors and by looking at the students’ work.

The Award is given when schools demonstrate that they meet the criteria of the Award and are committed to continuing high-quality provision for able, gifted and talented pupils.

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