



Stopsley High School and Community College is the first school in Luton to achieve the prestigious NACE Challenge Award for excellence in provision for able, gifted and talented pupils.

'At Stopsley High School providing well for able, gifted and talented pupils is a whole school undertaking which has been embedded over several years. The ethos within the school is one of challenge, of pupils creating and taking full advantage of the very wide range of educational opportunities on offer.

There is a strong focus on learning and achievement. Teachers are forward-looking in finding ways to maximise learning and they shape the curriculum to offer personalised learning pathways for able, gifted and talented pupils. Work is well planned and challenging for pupils, with opportunities for deep thinking and problem solving figuring strongly in lessons.

Pupils have good attitudes to learning and say that they are excited to be a part of the school's well established Gifted and Talented Programme. Parents have a high degree of satisfaction with what the school provides, largely due to the inclusive nature and the rich variety of gifts and talents being catered for.'

Extract from Challenge Award Assessment Report July 2007

Stopsley High School and Community College is the first school in Luton and the twenty-fifth secondary school in the UK 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, in challenging all pupils, including those with high abilities, to achieve their best.

The Award is given by NACE: the National Association for Able Children in Education, a leading national education organisation and registered charity established for 24 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 Stopsley High School 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 school, were impressed by the very strong whole school involvement in provision for able, gifted and talented pupils, the very effective systems to track the progress of pupils and the innovative role of a Gifted and Talented Learning Mentor.

Assessors judged the quality of the school's work by observing lessons, interviewing the pupils, teachers, parents and governors and by looking at the pupils' 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.

Aug 2007 Julie Fitzpatrick. Chief Executive

NACE
P O Box 242
Arnolds Way
Oxford
OX2 9FR

T: +44 (0) 1865 861879
F: +44 (0) 1865 861880
E: info@nace.co.uk
W: www.nace.co.uk