



Message from Kevin McKellar

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Expert Learner - Challenging the Myth of Ability

I have been completely inspired by the most amazing book from an educationalist called Gordon Stobart. He effectively takes us on a guided tour of expertise in the worlds of sports, music, science, medicine and even firefighting as he challenges educators to look at what is known about top performers and apply knowledge of how they learn to every day teaching and learning. Questioning the myth of ability, he shows us how findings about expertise are, in his words, 'far more ordinary than the mysterious processes of the 'natural talent approach'. The book explores hallmarks of expertise in relation to high expectations and goals, mental frameworks and diagnostic decisions of teachers. He powerfully argues that expert learners and teachers are more likely to be found in expert schools that invest time in the deliberate practice of the skills of teaching and leadership.

He mentions the ability myth. He argues that it is not something which is part of our genetic inheritance - genes play a far less direct role than historically assumed it is the interplay of genes and environment which is critical. The term genius is the result of what has been achieved rather than of spotting promise. More convincingly, he argues that ability is developed over time, and high ability needs unusual levels of motivation and practice. His book is full of golden nuggets and I am delighted to say that he will be coming to work with the leadership team and the full governing body on the 6th March. I will also be inviting him in to talk to parents once we can agree dates.

You are all aware that I am a passionate Headteacher. I am also an English teacher by craft and I have not been so inspired by a book in such a long time. I will keep you all up to speed when we meet him after 6th March.

Have a great week.

Kevin McKellar

Key Stage 3 (Year 7 to 9) Curriculum Review

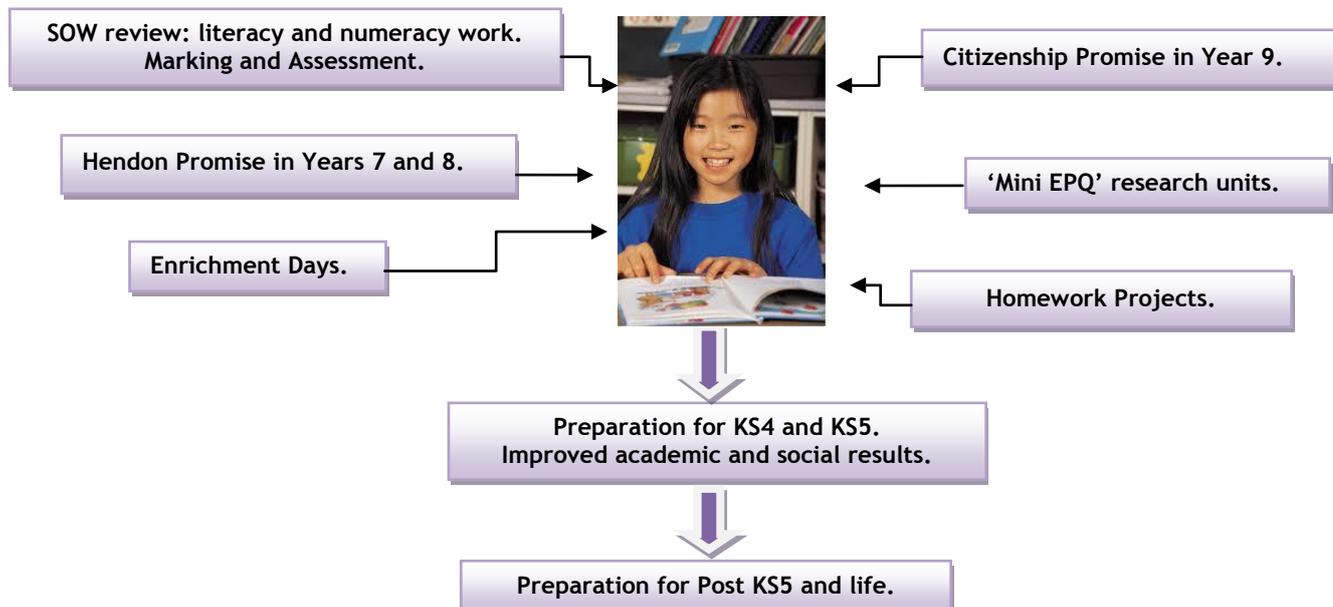
Dear Parent/Carer,

We are continuing in school to look at what and how we teach our students in Years 7, 8 and 9. This has included a review of schemes of work (what we teach in any given topic), this includes the homework projects that have been coming home for students in Years 7,8 and 9, more emphasis on literacy, numeracy and independent study skills during lesson times, enrichment days to enrich and support learning in areas of the curriculum, mini research units taught in some curriculum areas and the 'Hendon Promise' which outlines the experiences we will be delivering and/or encouraging students to participate in to develop themselves as learners. The Hendon Promise will be for Years 7 and 8 and The Hendon Citizenship Promise for Year 9. The Citizenship Promise will encourage and resource students to take an active part in citizenship in our community.

The diagram below outlines the aims and areas of change.

Aims:

1. To improve literacy and numeracy.
2. To improve students' independent study skills.
3. To improve the ability to formally present work.
4. To develop student experiences and interests.



If you have any questions about this, please contact me at school.

Tom Mann Assistant Headteacher
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Parent Voice

As you are aware, Hendon School very much wants parents/carers to be involved in the school community, so much so that teachers are approaching me to ask for parent/carer involvement in their various departments. If you are interested in attending, being involved, or finding out further information about any of the below, then please email on JackJ@hendonschool.co.uk

- Film Club - Mr Harris has invited parents to attend on Wednesday 5th March at 3.30pm to watch 'Frances Ha' with the students in the Library.
- The next Parent Forum is on Monday 10th March at 11.30am in the Library and 6pm in the Canteen. Mr Mann will be attending to discuss 'Homework' and is looking to set up a sub-committee of parents concentrating on this important topic. Please let me know if you wish to attend the Forum and/or be on the Homework committee.
- Science Week is 17th-21st March - Ms McLaughlin would like to involve parents in this as well as the Year 8 Science Club. Would you like to be a part of this? If you are unsure if your job/hobby etc would fit in with this exciting week please email me.

Jacqui Jack Parent Voice Coordinator

Following the recent Parent Governor election, Renu Barton-Hanson has been elected as Parent Governor on the Governing Body for a term of four years to 6 February 2018. Thank you to all who participated.

Shirley Paul - Clerk to Governors

Monday 3 March - Friday 7 March

Monday 3 March	Year 10 Trip	From Period 4 Onwards
Tuesday 4 March	No Events today	
Wednesday 5 March	PSHE Day Art Trip to V&A Museum Year 12 Geography fieldtrip	All day All day
Thursday 6 March	Year 12 Geography fieldtrip 6 th Form Biology trip GCSE Maths Intervention Year 9 & 10 Dance trip Japanese Exchange Visit	All day All day 3.30 - 4.30 pm Evening
Friday 7 March	Year 12 Geography fieldtrip WE Day Concert (Year 9&12) Japanese Exchange Visit	All day All Day

Year 10 & 12 PSHE Day

All students have been given a letter about a survey they will complete for Middlesex University about future career choices. If you do not wish your child to complete the survey, please return the letter to Miss Doona by Monday 3rd March.

Sign of the Week - Creativity

