

Gifted and Talented Children

What do we mean by 'gifted and talented'? Dorset LEA defines very gifted children as:

... children who have ability or abilities beyond the large majority of the children in the school and who consequently require more challenging teaching and opportunities.... Their potential will be shown in any or all of a wide range of contexts such as different learning styles, creativity or leadership.

(Dorset LEA Policy for Very Gifted Children, Feb 2003)

All schools are now required to identify their gifted and talented children, and ensure that their needs are met through supplementing the curriculum with additional opportunities and enrichment activities.



Leeson House Field Studies Centre

Here at Leeson House, we provide a range of enrichment courses designed specifically for these gifted and talented children. Courses generally run over weekends, although some may take place during the week. The price of each course includes accommodation, food, tuition and most materials.

The courses are open to children from any school, but we do ask that the child's school complete an endorsement confirming that they would be suited to the intensiveness and subject matter of the course.

The content of the courses is intended not only to support and enrich the National Curriculum, but also to extend outside of it into other areas. All the teaching staff are experts in their field, and with working with gifted and talented children.

Leeson House has been providing residential experiences for children for many years, and the staff here are practised in easing the worries of those children away from home for the first time, along with caring for all who stay with us. Where possible, friends are put together in bedrooms, providing it has been requested on the application form.

Places are limited, so please book early to avoid any disappointment! Feel free to phone the centre on 01929-422126 if you have any queries or concerns.

The Dorset programme for gifted and talented children offers you an opportunity to be part of the exciting residential course:

"Siege Engine 2 - The Cannon"

***"Be part of the team to design, make and fire working medieval cannons"
(For keen maths and science students who will be in Yrs 6 to 8)***



**At Leeson House, near Swanage
On Friday 27th to Sunday 29th May 2011**

£140 all inclusive

Course Director: John Winder
www.smugglershole.wordpress.com



“Siege Engine 2 – The Cannon”

This course brings together applied classical mechanics, 17th century maths and experimental archaeology based on primary sources to produce an explosively exciting course.

Shortly after the English Civil War, artilleryman Nathaniel Nye, introduced his treatise on the Art of Gunnery. A small footnote at the back of the book described a cannon made entirely out of pasteboard capable of firing a shot the size of a football. Lightweight and cheap to make, these devices could have been a deciding factor in skirmishes throughout history. Did they really work? Were they accurate?

Based on years of research into primary accounts and practical work, the students will recreate and test, under strictly controlled conditions, scale models of these cannons.

During the trials, the students will use ballistics pendulums, measure kinetic energy and use classical mechanics to create gunnery tables as a means of prediction for the performance of their cannon. They will then go on to test their theories by firing tennis balls from a safe distance in the grounds of Leeson house.

Although at no time will the pupils come into contact with gunpowder or loading the cannons the outcomes will certainly be an experience to remember.

Candidates for the course will need to be familiar with using algebra and trigonometry. There will be pre course materials to help with this.

The course starts at 5pm on Friday 27th and finishes at 4pm on Sunday 29th May 2011. There will be a presentation of the work carried out during the course at 3pm to which all are welcome.

You will need to bring:

Practical outdoor clothes that can get dirty, waterproofs, sturdy footwear, warm layers plus clothing suitable for wearing in hot sun, sun hat and suncream.

A full kit list will be sent 1 month beforehand.

Course Director is John Winder

John Winder has been developing hands on science and history courses for 6 years for large residential centres. The aim of all his work is around making education exciting and memorable, often with explosive results! With a background in physics, pyrotechnics and a love of historical machines and techniques, he has cannons at different locations across the UK for a variety of courses and research purposes. He currently works at Smuggler's Hole, a project dedicated to making learning fun for all ages with the theme of maritime crafts and demonstrations.

Leeson House Field Studies Centre

Leeson is an historic house situated on the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset - an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The local landscape encompasses hills, heath and the Jurassic Coastline – a World Heritage Site – all derived from the local and wide-ranging geology. Sites such as Corfe Castle, Arne Nature Reserve and the Purbeck Hills all provide inspirational settings for both physical and academic activities.

Facilities include 2½ hectares of ecologically managed grounds, a games field, classroom, laboratory and library, and a large games room. Accommodation is in dormitories, with separate shower and toilet facilities. Staff will be resident close by in the house during all overnight courses.

Leeson works within Dorset LEA's guidelines for safety during offsite and residential visits. All staff are checked via the Criminal Records Bureau, as are any visiting teaching and support staff. All security measures have been taken to ensure the safety of students whilst staying at Leeson House.