

### **Gifted and Talented Children**

What do we mean by gifted and talented? Dorset LEA defines very able and 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:***

## **"Make a Comedy Play in a Weekend"**

**A course for keen dramatists and comedians in Yrs 8 to 12**



**At Leeson House, near Swanage  
from Friday 27<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

**£140 ALL INCLUSIVE**

**Course Tutor and Director: *Dave Hollis***  
[www.dodrama.co.uk](http://www.dodrama.co.uk)



**On this 3 day theatre course we will create at least one quite mad comedy play. To help us be as funny as possible we will study a wide range of comedy techniques, looking at themes of traditional comedy, mistaken identity and circus clowning.**

**Extracts of classic and modern comedy theatre on film will be used to inspire us. We will also study Hollywood comedy films, and recreate our own 'Charlie Chaplin' silent comedy film on video.**

**Students should realise that we take comedy very seriously and should be prepared to work very hard (and have fun). You will not need to audition for this course, but if you join you will take on an acting role in the story.**

**This course is very suitable for students who like to be slightly daft and a little nutty. Because of the nature of this course there will be a maximum of 12 students only.**

**The course will begin at 5pm on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and end on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May, with a theatre presentation of the comedy play at 4pm to an audience of parents and friends.**

**Please wear practical clothing for the course. Loose jeans and soft clothes are essential. It is essential that students bring two pairs of shoes. Please bring both outdoor shoes and soft shoes (trainers perhaps) suitable for indoor use. You will need to avoid wearing jewellery, piercings, rings, and belts with big buckles. A full kit list will be sent to you nearer the time**

### **Course Director and Tutor: Dave Hollis**

Dave Hollis was Head of Drama at Selwood School, Frome, where he taught improvisation, acting skills, speech and voice work until the summer of 2004.

He is an experienced theatre director who writes, designs, and directs plays for the New Theatre Company.

He has a number of awards for play-writing and directing, and several of his full length plays have been published. He recently took his theatre company on a tour to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Dave has been on several acting courses at the R.S.C. at Stratford, and will be passing on some of the methods he learned there to the students he teaches at Leeson House.

Look for further details of his teaching courses on

[www.dodrama.co.uk](http://www.dodrama.co.uk)

### **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.