

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:

"A Time Travellers Weekend"

A creative writing course for students in Yrs 6 to 8



**At Leeson House, near Swanage
on Friday 18th to Sunday 20th February 2011**

£140 ALL INCLUSIVE

Course Tutor and Director: *Dave Hollis*
www.dodrama.co.uk



Do you like writing short stories? Do you want to write poems? Come on a weekend of peace and quiet for you to dream inside your own head and to write as you wish.

We'll look at word hoard ideas and then make an ideas machine that writes mad sentences for you. The atmosphere will be very creative, with time for personal thought and personal writing.

The sessions over the weekend will be divided between group discussion, private tuition, and individual time for writing.

Wander the grounds of Leeson House where we will be staying, watch a deer in the bushes, daydream in the grass, look out through the windows of the 200 year old house, and write to your heart's content.

Weather permitting we'll pop down to the castle or the steam train, wiz back in time and steal some ideas from the past.

We aim to create and finish several short stories and poems over the weekend.

The weekend will end with a presentation of selected pieces of work to parents and friends on Sunday afternoon.

The size of this group will be limited, so get in touch soon to reserve a place.

The course will start at 5pm on Friday 18th and finish at 4pm on Sunday 20th February 2011. There will be a presentation of the work undertaken on the course at 3pm to which all are invited. A full kit list and joining instructions will be sent in January 2011.

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

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.