



# High Attaining Policy

## Vision

Samuel Whitbread Academy's vision is to ensure all students will become the **BEST** that they can be.

## Aim

We aim for our high attaining policy to provide **all** students with the opportunities to achieve and excel. For attainment, ambition and aspiration to be celebrated and to encourage students to challenge themselves in every aspect of school life. The policy aims to ensure regular review of HPA or HA student progress and that appropriate support and opportunities are in place.

## Definition of Terms

### Higher Prior Attaining (HPA)

In this policy, the term 'Higher Prior Attaining' relates to any student who achieves an average KS2 scaled score of 110 or above. In the absence of KS2 data the academy will use GL assessment data and a scaled score of 115 or above.

### HA Students (HA)

In this policy, the term 'HA Students', includes those with higher prior attainment data, but also those students nominated by teachers due to their aptitude, ambition and/or aspiration in a particular subject area.

## Identification

In order to identify students Samuel Whitbread use a range of evidence; together these allow for meaningful identification and will include:

- Quantitative data: For Year 9 students - KS2 prior attainment; Year 8 GL assessment data; transition data provided by middle schools. For Sixth Form students - GCSE Average Point Score of above 6.1.
- Qualitative data: Teacher recognition and recommendation; parental/carers, self and/or peer nomination

This allows us to identify student potential and nurture potential and specific qualities they possess.

If it is perceived by any concerned parties that inclusion is no longer beneficial, students may be moved out of the HA cohort either temporarily or permanently.

All HA students are placed on a centralised database which is updated throughout the academic year. Teachers are made aware of students in their classes who are identified as HA through our primary school data system (Bromcom).

Staff receive regular training to recognise indicators of potential in individuals to ensure the process of identification is consistent, fair and representative of our cohort.

## Curriculum and Teaching & Learning

The academy will provide all HA students with their entitlement to the National Curriculum and additionally, provide access to enhancement and enriching activities, including our Super Curriculum for Year 9 and Year 10 students. Best pedagogy and practice will be shared frequently through CPD opportunities and our annual 'The Anthecology' publication. It is expected that staff provide challenging activities in their lessons which may include specific extension activities, adaptive teaching to motivate and challenge students, high oracy expectations and Tier 3 vocabulary.

Departments regularly review their schemes of learning and accompanying resources, provide extended reading opportunities and discuss the provision for HA during departmental meetings, Learning Walks and/or Book Carousels.

### **Aspirations**

HA students will have access to a range of opportunities where they can challenge themselves beyond the curriculum. The key vehicle within school to support this is The Society. Membership is open to all students, in all years. The aim of The Society is to promote and encourage aspiration amongst the student body by organising a wide range of activities and experiences, including external speakers, educational visits, student voice opportunities, entrance into local, national and international competitions and debates. We aim to encourage student independence, empowering them to plan their own pathways and participation.

We encourage our Sixth Form students to aspire to the most competitive destinations, including the Russell Group universities, as well as prestigious degree apprenticeships. Opportunities to visit universities are organised regularly and universities are invited in to deliver lectures and workshops. A comprehensive support plan, including mentoring, tutorials and interview practice is provided for all students navigating these highly selective application processes.

### **Monitoring and Evaluating**

Monitoring and evaluating the High Attaining Policy will be carried out at several levels.

- Senior Leadership Team
- Heads of Department & Subject Leaders
- Governors

### **Implementation and Review**

This policy will be circulated to all Academy staff and published on the Academy website for parent/carer information. The policy will be reviewed two yearly.

### **Author and Date**

Alex Duric – January 2025

Date ratified by Governors – February 2026

Next review date – January 2028