

The most able students: under the spotlight

South West Regional Conference— 5 March 2015

Following the recent release of the national OFSTED report on the performance of the most able students in schools, Mrs Ansell, Deputy Headteacher KS3 and Mrs Bajic-Raymond, Deputy Headteacher KS4 were invited by Richard Light HMI to present a case study about Cotham School's sustained success with our most able students at this prestigious conference on 5 March. The Key Note speakers were Bradley Simmons HMI, South West Regional Director, Sean Harford, OFSTED Director Schools, Joan Hewitt, HMI, Conor Ryan, Sutton Trust Director of Research and Communications, Sue Mordecai, former Chair of NACE (National Association of Able Children in Education) and our Deputies. This was a wonderful opportunity to showcase the achievements of our students and staff and to celebrate the success of the school with students of all abilities.



Our High Ability Pupil Premium students achieved **90%** 5A*-C with En/Ma in July 2014 and closely matched our non-pupil premium students. 34% of PP students were entered for Ebacc and **20%** achieved it against 11% nationally. Many more PP students achieved C+ grades in 5 out of 6 Ebacc subjects. Another highlight is that **10** PP students (HAP and MAP) achieved 5 or more A*/A grades, 6 of whom had more than **8A*/A**. Most HAPs made more than 4 levels of progress in English, Maths and Science. One of the PP student with 10+ A/A* grades attended a PiXL award ceremony in London. The key strategies which led to this improvement: a rigorous academic curriculum accessible to all PP students, excellent quality of teaching, high aspirations and expectations, University workshops including Medicine/Law, high quality IAG/careers support, high quality resources supplied to enable students to achieve A* in practical subjects. As the majority of HAP PP students were EAL and 70% were BME we provided specific additional tutoring in English language and Maths as well as revision sessions for potential A/A* students across the subject areas.