



N E X U S

**Gifted Programme**

**Information for Parents and Carers Academic  
Year 2020-2021**



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you and your son or daughter to the Gifted Programme here at Nexus. The Gifted Programme will provide your child with some incredible opportunities to engage with their interests and passions, within a framework of very high expectations and academic rigour. Our mission is to develop enquiring minds and inspire the next generation of critical thinkers and solution finders. We are at the start of a very exciting journey, and I look forward to working closely with you to make sure that your child's educational journey is extraordinary.

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "S Belshaw". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Mrs Sarah Belshaw

Head of Nexus and the Gifted Programme

In this guide you will find information about:

- Nexus Days for each year group
- The shape of the Nexus day
- Roles and responsibilities of key staff members
- Useful contact details
- Nexus approach to learning and assessment
- Academic Intervention
- STEM and Nexus Liberal Arts
- Co-Curricular programme
- Additional Useful Information: Break and Lunchtime, Uniform, Equipment, Transport, pick up and drop off
- Key dates for September 2020
- Contacting us

I hope that you will find answers to many of your questions within this guide, but if you have further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us on [reception@nexuscsia.co.uk](mailto:reception@nexuscsia.co.uk).

Students in the Gifted Programme will have a Tutor group at Nexus, a House at CSIA and will be fully integrated into school life. As with all other students at CSIA, for most school communications, the Tutor will be the first point of contact. For any concerns specifically regarding Nexus, please contact Mrs Sarah Belshaw, Head of Nexus or Mrs Naomi Godolphin, Director of Nexus.

### **Covid-19**

The information in this handbook has been written on the grounds that Nexus is operating to its usual capacity in September. However, we may need to adapt our provision to meet any required covid-19 measures. Any changes to the programme will be fully communicated with you nearer the time.

## **Nexus days for each year group**

	<b>Week A and B</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
<b>Year 8</b>	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
<b>Year 9</b>	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
<b>Year 10</b>	Monday, Wednesday and Friday
<b>Year 11</b>	Monday, Wednesday and Friday

## **The shape of the Nexus day**

On Nexus days students in the Gifted Programme will spend the whole day at Nexus. Students can be dropped at Nexus from 7.45am onwards. We do not accept students on site before 7.45am. They should be collected at 4:30pm.

Starting in September, CSIA and Nexus will have four lessons a day. Students will have a 10 minute tutorial at 8.25am and a 20 minute tutorial prior to lesson 4. Students need to arrive prior to 8.25am for a punctual start to the day. Lessons finish at 2.45pm.

Co-curricular is a core part of the gifted programme. Starting in September, students will need to participate in 3 co-curricular classes a week as a minimum. At the end of the school day, students will have the opportunity to join in with "Tea and Toast" at Nexus until 3.15pm when co-curricular activities commence. On birthdays or other special occasions students may bring cake to share with other students at teatime if they wish. Co-curricular activities finish at 4.30pm. If your child is also participating in co-curricular activities on the main campus, these will finish at 4pm. Buses will be provided to transport students between the two sites on days when their co-curricular activities are on a different site.

Collection times will vary slightly across the week:

- 4.30pm pick-up at Nexus: On days when your child has co-curricular at Nexus
- 4pm pick up from the main campus: On days when your child is participating in co-curricular activities on the main campus
- 2.45pm pick up: On days when your child is not participating in the co-curricular programme.

Please ensure that pick-up is punctual. We ask that all students vacate the school building by 5pm. We are able to offer additional silent study at Nexus to students on earlier pick up days if families are unable to make suitable transport arrangements. Please make contact in September if you feel that additional silent study arrangements will be needed: [reception@nexuscsia.co.uk](mailto:reception@nexuscsia.co.uk)

### **Absence During the school day**

If your child is absent, either through illness or because of an appointment, please inform school in the normal way, through the main school switchboard on 01209 712280. Do not call Nexus specifically for absence during the normal school day. This process remains the same on every day of the week.

### **Absence during Co-Curricular**

It is a compulsory part of the gifted programme to attend co-curricular. Your child needs to attend 3 co-curricular classes a week (see the programme details for further information). Absence from the co-curricular programme should only be in exceptional circumstances. For example, birthday parties do not classify as an exceptional circumstance. If your child needs to miss one of their co-curricular classes due to an exceptional circumstance, please inform us in advance. You can contact Nexus reception either by phone (call the main switchboard on 01209 712280 and select option 2) or email: [reception@nexuscsia.co.uk](mailto:reception@nexuscsia.co.uk)

### **Roles and responsibilities of key Nexus staff members**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Mrs Naomi Godolphin	Director of Nexus, Assistant Principal	Year 7-11 Pastoral Provision Co-Curricular Programme Primary Outreach Community Engagement
Mr Gareth Rees	Lead Practitioner	Academic Intervention Raising Standards Lead
Dr Nick Gower	Lead Practitioner	Nexus Research
Dr Cate McGovern	Lead Practitioner	Nexus Liberal Arts Teaching and Learning
Mr Tom Platts	Lead Practitioner	Nexus STEM

		Teaching and Learning
Mrs Sally Richards	Pastoral Lead	Pastoral support for Years 7-13
Miss Emma Jeffery	Pastoral Care Officer	Pastoral support for Years 7-13
Mrs Nicola Sampson	Receptionist	Parent enquiries Administration

### **Email Addresses:**

Mrs Sarah Belshaw: [belshaws@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:belshaws@cambornescience.co.uk)

Mrs. Naomi Godolphin: [godolphinn@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:godolphinn@cambornescience.co.uk)

Mr Gareth Rees: [reesg@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:reesg@cambornescience.co.uk)

Dr Nick Gower: [govern@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:govern@cambornescience.co.uk)

Dr Cate McGovern: [mcgovern@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:mcgovern@cambornescience.co.uk)

Mr Tom Platts: [plattst@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:plattst@cambornescience.co.uk)

Mrs Sally Richards: [richardss@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:richardss@cambornescience.co.uk)

Miss Emma Jeffrey: [jeffreye@cambornescience.co.uk](mailto:jeffreye@cambornescience.co.uk)

Mrs Nicola Sampson: [reception@nexuscsia.co.uk](mailto:reception@nexuscsia.co.uk)

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any concerns about your son or daughter's life at Nexus. Any other concerns should be directed in the first instance to your child's tutor.

### **Nexus approach to learning and assessment**

Students on the Gifted Programme will be studying a curriculum that has been specially designed to challenge the most able students. The curriculum will follow similar topics to those studied on the CSIA main campus, but the approach will be more challenging and with repetition removed.

Homework and some classwork will be set via classcharts and google classroom so it can be accessed from both school and home. Your child will be given access code information in September.

Students will be regularly assessed, both formally through testing and homework, and through lesson activities. Students will be given regular feedback and instruction, advice and support on how they can improve.

Students in the Gifted Programme will receive reports and Parent Evenings on the main CSIA report schedule.

### **Academic intervention**

The Gifted Programme is very challenging academically. At the beginning of each academic year, your child will be asked to sign the Nexus agreement providing your child with an annual opportunity to express their commitment to the programme.

The team at Nexus prides itself on supporting all students to make outstanding academic progress. We are all working towards the same goal. If your child requires academic support, they will be encouraged to complete additional independent work in targeted subject areas or may be invited to attend academic intervention in the place of one of their co-curricular activities. In some cases, agreements may be reached for your child to attend an additional after school session each week in order to meet their academic needs. Academic intervention may be short term or more longer term depending on the needs of your child. Parents will be fully informed of our interventions and will be invited to attend review meetings to guarantee maximum transparency and to ensure our support is targeted as needed.

If a student begins to fall significantly behind their peers in the programme or if a student's commitment towards the programme becomes a concern, parents will be invited in for a meeting with Mrs Belshaw, Mr Rees or Mrs Godolphin. Support and actions will be agreed to help the student re-align with the aims of the gifted programme. However, if after six months of support via an action plan, the student is not enjoying the Programme, is not meeting expectations in terms of their attitude or is not making the expected progress, then the student will leave the Programme and re-join lessons at the Main Campus from the start of the following term.

### **STEM and Nexus Liberal Arts**

Nexus has a strong reputation for its specialism in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. This coming year and in the future, Nexus is placing equal emphasis on Nexus Liberal Arts. Opportunities will be provided over the course of the gifted programme for

students to expand their knowledge and skills in both STEM and Liberal Arts subjects. We believe strongly that a gifted child needs to have a breadth of experiences, knowledge and skills in order to fulfil their potential academically and in life. Nexus students will be encouraged to be logical and creative, practical and theoretical, factual and fictional, great planners and outstanding communicators. They will be challenged to develop skills in all areas to ensure they are equipped to make the most of all opportunities that present themselves throughout their lives. Your child will find out more about the opportunities available in September when Nexus Liberal Arts will be launched.

## **Co-curricular programme**

### **Co-curricular mission Statement**

The enriching co-curricular programme at Nexus complements learning in the academic curriculum to provide each student with a skillset that will support them in their future.

A key priority of the Nexus co-curricular programme is to light the fuse of enquiring young minds: to encourage curiosity, to push our students beyond their comfort zones and to encourage our gifted young students to embrace learning beyond the curriculum.

A combination of academic and co-curricular learning increases the willingness to take risks, develops social interaction, boosts confidence and enhances the development of leadership skills. Providing these opportunities enables the students to face new challenges in an environment where risk-taking is encouraged and supported. It will prepare them for higher education and the world of work. The students can learn to work in teams and take initiative. This will help to produce well-rounded individuals who believe in themselves, who take responsibility for their actions, who are well organised and who are pro-active and persistent.

### **Co-curricular Programme**

The co-curricular programme is being launched in September with slightly different foci. Equal emphasis is being placed on both STEM and Liberal Arts activities, whilst also actively encouraging students to participate in enrichment opportunities held at the main campus. Your child will have three compulsory evenings to attend (Tuesday-Thursday), potentially four if your child would like to participate in more enrichment activities.

Primarily the co-curricular programme will be delivered by CSIA/Nexus staff to ensure

consistency. The aim of all activities provided is to go beyond the curriculum, to be challenging and to be engaging.

Students will be able to choose which aspects of the programme they would like to participate in each semester. At the end of each semester, students will receive a certificate recognising their participation in the programme. At the end of the academic year, your child will be invited to a presentation event where they will “graduate” and will receive recognition for their participation. Additional rewards will also be presented during this event to students who have excelled in the varying aspects of the programme.

All of your child’s certificates will be compiled within your child’s personal development profiles. By the time your child has completed the Nexus gifted programme, they will have had a breadth of experiences and substantial evidence to enable them to demonstrate their abilities and interests to universities and employers. When writing university applications, your child will have had genuine access to areas of academic pursuit that are usually reserved for university level study. Their applications will be enriched with knowledge and experiences beyond the expected level.

### **Year 7 and 8 – Foundation Programme:**

Below is a summary of the different areas to be covered within the Year 7 and 8 programme. Please note, the content of each of the activities is currently being planned and the programme will be launched with full details in September. Please also note, that there are three compulsory evenings this year. Your child can opt for a fourth evening should they wish to.

Programme focus	What will be on offer?
<p><b>STEM Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One of the compulsory co-curricular evenings.</li> <li>- Wednesday or Thursday evening</li> <li>- Held at Nexus.</li> <li>- 4.30pm finish time.</li> <li>- Your child will have the opportunity to complete one STEM activity per semester (4 a year)</li> </ul>	<p>Maths</p> <p>Engineering and 3D Design</p> <p>Robotics</p> <p>Py Game</p> <p>Design and Technology</p> <p>Science</p> <p>Mechanics and Physics</p>
<p><b>Liberal Arts Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One of the compulsory co-curricular evenings.</li> <li>- Wednesday or Thursday evening</li> <li>- Held at Nexus.</li> </ul>	<p>Geography</p> <p>Politics</p> <p>History</p> <p>Literary criticism and poetry</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 4.30pm finish time.</li> <li>- Your child will have the opportunity to complete one STEM activity per semester (4 a year)</li> </ul>	<p>Up for debate</p> <p>Music</p> <p>Journalism</p> <p>Mandarin</p>
<p><b>Enrichment Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One of your child's compulsory co-curricular evenings.</li> <li>- Tuesday Evenings.</li> <li>- Held at Nexus (4.30pm finish) or at the Main campus (4.00pm finish). The location will depend on your child's choice.</li> <li>- Your child will have the opportunity to complete one enrichment activity per term (3 a year).</li> <li>- They could also opt to complete an additional enrichment activity on Friday evenings at the main campus.</li> </ul>	<p>There is a wide range of enrichment activities available. Some include:</p> <p>Sports clubs</p> <p>Chess Society</p> <p>Reading club</p> <p>Silent study</p> <p>Choir</p> <p>Poetry society and Poet Laureate</p> <p>Dungeons and Dragons</p> <p>Coding</p>
<p><b>Lectures – Optional:</b></p> <p>It has become an established part of the Nexus programme to offer lectures led by university lecturers. This is not a compulsory part of the programme this year, however, your child will have the opportunity to sign up for lectures each semester if they would like to. Lectures are held on Monday evenings.</p>	<p>Programme for this coming year has not been confirmed.</p>

We will be holding a Co-Curricular Fair in early September. Depending on Covid-19 measures, we also hope to invite parents to attend. At the Fair, your child will be able to see the choices available for the co-curricular programme. Your child will also be provided with a co-curricular booklet providing full details of all co-curricular activities to help them with making their decisions. Letters will be sent out nearer the time providing further information about the fair.

### **Sports Clubs**

If your child wishes to take part in Sports clubs at the main campus on Tuesdays, your child will be able to opt for this as their enrichment choice. We would like to encourage Nexus students to be physically active and to contribute to CSIA's sports teams.

### **Homework**

If your child would like to complete some of their homework at Nexus, we have ensured flexibility within the Tuesday evening enrichment programme for this. Silent study will be an independent learning environment with computer access available. Your child will be able to sign up for this each semester.

## **Additional Useful Information**

### **Break and Lunchtime**

Food will be available to purchase at Nexus at break and lunchtimes. The canteen at Nexus has the same fingerprint or PIN system that is used on the main campus, so meals can be paid for by topping up your child's parent pay account online. If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will be able to receive these at Nexus. There is no charge for after school tea.

### **Uniform and Equipment**

#### **Uniform**

##### **Uniform Expectations for Years 7 - 11**

**Full and correct uniform is expected at all times and should be worn in an appropriate manner. All items of uniform should be clearly named.**

- Black blazer with embroidered CSIA school logo on breast pocket and house badge on left lapel. Blazer to be worn at all times, unless given permission by staff to remove.
- White shirt/blouse (long or short sleeved). Students may not wear visible t-shirts underneath their shirt/blouse. Shirts must be buttoned up to the collar and tucked into trousers. Shirt collars must be worn turned down.
- Black and grey striped school clip on tie.
- Black V-neck jumper (optional).
- Black tailored and formal trousers with only one button fastener visible. No decorative buttons, buckles or zips. Skinny trousers, jeggings, leggings or jeans are not permitted. Trousers must be full length and have a crease down the front. Trophy Textiles stock the CSIA accepted style of trousers.
- CSIA school skirt with logo visible; no rolling or tucking in of the skirt is permitted. The CSIA school skirt should not be altered.
- Black formal leather polishable shoes; low heeled and providing adequate support and protection (no trainers, skate shoes, canvas shoes, boots or dolly shoes). No coloured logo on footwear. No patent or suede shoes.
- Black socks and black tights only; no trainer socks and socks must be below the knee.
- Jewellery may not be worn to school, including facial piercings of any kind (e.g. lip/nose/tongue), except a watch and one plain stud in each **ear lobe only**. Stretch earrings with spiked fasteners are not permitted.
- Excessive make-up is not to be worn; all make-up should be minimal.

#### **Uniform**

- Banned items: Nail varnish and/or nail extensions – natural nails only; Fake eye lashes; Drawn on eyebrows – eyebrows should be natural, a natural colour and not dyed; Tattoos including henna tattoos; Bandanas and headbands.
- No extremes of hair (including facial hair) style or colour (natural hair colours and one colour only), at the discretion of the school, unless agreed on religious, cultural, ethnic, or medical grounds.
- Plain black belts may be worn through belt loops on trousers. Buckles on belts to be plain and small in size.
- Outdoor coat or jacket, which is not to be worn indoors.

#### **CSIA Equipment**

Equipment is also an important part of the school day and as such the following items are compulsory:

- Suitable school bag (to hold A4 books and folders)
- Pencil case
- Reading book
- Black or blue pen (at least two)
- Pencils
- Rubber
- Ruler
- Water bottle (recommended, not compulsory) – must only contain water.

Additional desirable equipment includes:

- Coloured pencils
- Calculator
- Protractor
- Glue stick

The above uniform and equipment guidance will be sent home to you and is available on the main CSIA Year 6 portal. Issues with hair cuts tend to be due to hair colour (hair needs

to be one natural colour) and length of hair. For example, if a child's hair cut is shorter than a grade three and if a child has extremes of length between the top and sides then the hair cut will be classed as extreme.

## **Transport**

Parents of students on the Gifted Programme will be asked to sign a letter that confirms that they are happy for their son or daughter to be transported between CSIA main campus and Nexus either in a minibus, or, rarely, in the car of a member of staff.

## **Public buses**

Some students are entitled to free transport on a Public Bus. To arrange this for your child call the Transport Department at Cornwall Council (01872 322003). Depending on which side of Camborne your child approaches CSIA, they may be able to leave the bus at the Station stop on the mornings that they come to Nexus. If your child's bus stops at the main campus and the council will not extend their bus pass to Nexus, please contact us and we will aim to put a plan in place for transport to the Nexus campus from the main campus.

## **Drop off and pick up**

Please come in the far end (not the Station end) of the Nexus car park and use the large layby in the car park for dropping off students. Students should not arrive on-site before 7.45am, and must be collected by 5pm at the latest when the campus closes. There is limited space on the Nexus campus for parking. Please do not block the car park while waiting to collect your child, and consider a car share arrangement if at all possible.

## **Issues with transport**

If you are struggling with significant transport issues, please contact us on [reception@nexuscsia.co.uk](mailto:reception@nexuscsia.co.uk) and we will see if we are able to help.

## **Key Dates**

Currently, the school is reviewing its start of term arrangements to comply with Covid-19 measures. As soon arrangements are confirmed, we will be in contact again to provide specific details about the start of term.

## **Contacting us**

Strong partnerships with parents and carers are key to a young person's success. We would encourage you to contact us if you have any concerns regarding your child.

We have a website where you can keep up to date with news and events.

[www.nexuscsia.co.uk](http://www.nexuscsia.co.uk). From the website you can navigate to our Facebook page where we will post further news and events.

For any enquiries about provision on the main campus or PE, please contact the main school reception on 01209 712280.

For anything specifically related to Nexus, we can be contacted by choosing Option 2 from the main switchboard or by using the email addresses listed previously in this handbook. For most enquiries, please contact reception.