

## Mensa Success for College students

Mensa, the “High IQ Society” approached us to see if we wished to test any of our able students. We decided to go ahead and 7 students out of the 12 tested were offered membership of the society. This meant that they were in the top 1-2% nationally for high IQ. One of the students, Laura Garwood, takes up the story :

*"I'd heard about MENSA before, in the news and on television, but it always seemed distant. It was always some famous physician being a member, or one of those incredibly intelligent 5 year-olds who can play the piano perfectly or can calculate extremely hard sums in a second. Never for a second did I think that I could become a member.*

*The opportunity came in the summer term. A group of Gifted and Talented students from Years 7, 8 and 9 were asked if they would like to take a MENSA test. This test would find out our IQ and see if we qualify to become a member. It was a shock to think we could take the test. It seemed unreal. I highly doubted that I could become a member, but it was an amazing opportunity that I couldn't let pass. Standing outside Bedford Gym before the test was strange. Usually waiting for a test I'd be nervous and trying to revise the subject in my head. This time was different. No-one knew what would be in the test and so all we could do was stand and wait.*

*The test was very secretive. The papers came in a sealed envelope and it couldn't be opened until just before we did the test. There were many sections, all with different things to do. The strange thing about the test was that it measured how we thought, not how much we knew.*

*When we had finished, I walked away feeling a sense of achievement. I had no idea how I had done, but completing a MENSA test seemed like quite a special thing to do. Over the summer holidays, we anxiously waited for our results. Quite early on in the first half-term back, we were called to Mrs.Jenkinson-Dix's office. We stood there nervously, wondering why we were there. Then we were handed a rather official-looking envelope each. This was it! We were told to wait and not to open them. It was very tempting, though!*



*The successful students : Back row, left to right, Nathan Kerslake, Laura Garwood, Ben Balmford, Kiefer Page ; front row, left to right, Yvonne Litschel, Anastasia Barnes and Alexandra Brown*

*We filed into Mrs Jenkinson-Dix's office and sat around the large round table. Everyone looked so nervous. After saying hello and talking to us briefly, she told us to open the envelopes. I pulled out the letter from inside and read it carefully. My jaw dropped. There, on the paper in front of me, was my IQ and what percentage of the population I was in. I had to read it over and over again. It didn't sink in. I was shocked into silence. Shaking, I looked up at everyone else. They seemed just as shocked as I was. We had all qualified to be members of MENSA! Unbelievable. This meant that we were all in at least the top two percent of the population.*

*We all read out our results. It was amazing to hear what everyone's IQ was. I couldn't believe that I was sitting with potential members ; and I was one of them! I read out my score and it finally sunk in. I grinned."*