



## Gifted Awareness Week 2011 Template Letter

Dear *(Insert name of your MP. See [Parliament's website](#) for details.)*

Every child deserves the right to equitable educational opportunities throughout their schooling experience but there is no doubt that the needs of all children are not always the same. The needs of gifted and talented children are certainly unique but no less important than those of any other group of children in our schools and centres.

*(Insert a personal statement that reflects why you feel gifted and talented students' needs are important.)*

This coming week, **13 to 19<sup>th</sup> June**, we will celebrate *Gifted Awareness Week* with the aim of bringing public awareness to the on going needs of our gifted and talented children. It is also a chance for us to rejoice in the joy and pleasure that working with and parenting these exceptional children brings. As a member of *(insert the name of your association/organisation)* or as a parent/teacher of a student attending *(insert the name of your programme)*, I am writing to urge you to discuss and debate the issue of gifted and talented education in this important election year.

Giftedness and talent is broad and wide-ranging, inclusive of all ethnicities, cultures, socioeconomic groups and those with disabilities. Having exceptional academic, creative, artistic, cultural, leadership or physical abilities and qualities means these children have unique learning needs and social and emotional differences that require appropriate education, support and understanding.

Since 2005 schools have been required to identify and provide for gifted and talented students, and this has been a huge step forward in raising the awareness and interest for appropriate gifted education provisions for all schools. However, gifted and talented education needs to be seen in terms of a long term strategy with the appropriate vision to support this strategy. This has not always been evident in the past when gifted education has tended to be dealt with on more of an ad hoc basis. This lack of continuity of support has not been beneficial for gifted learners themselves and has led to varying rates of progress for many as provisions see saw from year to year.

*(Insert some of your own experiences here – personalise the letter with your own story.)*

This is not a time to limit appropriate services to our best and brightest, who not only have the potential to lead us into an innovative and successful future but who as individuals deserve to have their educational needs met in an equitable and appropriate fashion. We urge you and your colleagues in Parliament to question, debate and discuss this issue, with the aim of *increasing* the investment in and attention to our gifted and talented children.

Yours sincerely

*(Insert your name and association/organisation)*