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'Facebook for Mensa members' attracts thousands of brightest schoolchildren

The country's brightest school pupils are being invited to join a social networking site that is the equivalent of Facebook for Mensa members.



More than 2,500 of the most gifted pupils have joined the International Gateway for Gifted Youth (IGGY) social networking website Photo: ALAMY

By Sam Marsden

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More than 2,500 teenagers have already signed up for the International Gateway for Gifted Youth (IGGY) website, which combines challenging questions and puzzles with the opportunity to chat online with other gifted youngsters around the world.

The site is open to students aged between 13 and 18 who have been recommended by a teacher as having the potential to perform in the top five per cent of their peers, [The Independent reported](#).

Three-quarters of those who have signed up so far are from the British Isles, although it has also been used by pupils in India, Singapore, South



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Africa, Hong Kong and Australia. Membership costs £120, but pupils from poorer backgrounds pay less.

IGGY, which was developed by academics at Warwick University, offers science and maths quizzes and poses questions for debate such as: "Is it a problem that the average age of members of the House of Lords is 69?"

The site is also following an expedition by Arctic explorer Mark Wood and recently launched its own short story competition with a £2,000 prize.

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Dr Adam Boddison, the project's academic director, told The Independent: "It's a bit like building the Olympiads of education.

"It's acceptable to strive for excellence in sports but it doesn't seem acceptable in education. Watch this space. We want to change that."

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