

Arts Mark Gold School Accreditation

The Cherwell School has recently been nationally recognised for outstanding contribution to arts and cultural education

Artsmark Gold has been awarded to The Cherwell School for its commitment to, and excellence in, arts and cultural education. Arts mark is the Arts Council England's flagship programme enabling schools and other organisations to evaluate, strengthen and celebrate their arts and cultural provision. At the moment only 14% of schools in the South East of England have Artsmark and even fewer gain gold status. Ellie Hollindale, Faculty Leader for performing Arts explained "Artsmark gold is awarded in recognition of the real commitment we make in providing a hugely diverse range of top quality dance, drama, music, art and design, literature and arts through the wider curriculum for all of our students. The process of gaining this award has been very beneficial for the students in enabling us to assess how well we are doing, what students' value and enjoy and where we need to develop further opportunities based on their interests and enthusiasms." The award recognises that The Cherwell School has an excellent arts and cultural offer and effective approach to building sustainable relationships with arts and cultural organisations, with the report stating that "the school is forward thinking and open to development, committed to investing in its staff and young people, listening to its students and providing opportunities for its community; has an effective approach to building sustainable relationships with arts and cultural organisations; and values the arts and culture through a broad and balanced curriculum".

Gold Level Arts Award at The Cherwell School

The Cherwell School will be offering this award to students in Sixth Form from September 2014. Employers, universities and colleges know that Gold Arts Award is a qualification that shows young people's level of commitment and progress in the arts, and in developing new skills. This award carries thirty five UCAS points.

Arts Award Gold is...

- A great way to be inspired by and enjoy the arts
- The top level of five levels
- A framework for learning new skills and sharing them
- An opportunity to develop creativity and leadership skills
- A link between you and creative arts professionals

Gold Arts Award is the highest level at Level 3, (we also offer Silver and Bronze Awards in years 7-11 but you do not need to have attained these in order to take Gold). This award develops your creativity, communication, planning, teamwork and leadership skills. The award is also recognised on the UCAS Tariff (35 points). Gold has been designed for young people aged 16 to 25.

You need to plan your work with an adviser, and keep a record by creating your own Arts Award portfolio. You can pick your own style of portfolio – this could be a diary, video, website blog – or something different altogether. Gold has two units – Unit 1: personal arts development and Unit 2: arts projects leadership. **There are no entry requirements or set time limit for completing Gold Arts Award. It will take you around 90 hours to complete, working with your adviser and independently.** Arts Award can be based around any arts or media activity. There are set rules on how you present your final work. You just need to be ready to explore new creative experiences.

Find out what inspires you, share your talents, and you'll walk away with an award that makes a real difference in the world of work and the arts.

Arts Award is managed by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England. Employers and colleges recognise it as proof of your skills and commitment.

Special note about AS and A Level Music

Advanced Musician Programme

Cherwell is one of the largest centres for AS/A Level music in the county and as such is able to offer additional enhanced opportunities for students.

AS and A Level musicians at Cherwell receive a fabulous opportunity to attend series of specially designed workshops, recitals, lectures and seminars together with tutorial support for keen young musicians designed by Dr. John Traill (course leader) in partnership with St. Anne's College (University of Oxford.), with Oxfordshire County Music Service in and the Oxfordshire Music Education Partnership.

The programme includes a series of recitals and lectures at St. Anne's College, special sessions at the Centre for Music, where, at times, the whole County Youth Orchestra will be used as a 'teaching tool', support from university students (including support for A level composition), composition workshops, lectures from world class musicians, a conducting and ensemble leadership. There are also be opportunities for performance of participant's compositions. This year's course also includes a conducting workshop.

The aim is to help students to maximise their potential as expert young musicians. This course is unique in the U.K.

Performance Specialists

It is recognised that many students studying Music will wish to undertake the full 4 AS Levels. However for a small number wishing to pursue music at conservatoire level we recognise the need for students to maximise their time practising their instruments and developing their solo and ensemble performing skills.

For a small number of students we will consider the possibility of study of only three AS Levels with the additional time being devoted to performance, master classes delivered through the Advance Musician Programme and additionally focussing on the Arts Mark Gold Award (which carries thirty five UCAS points). Students considering this path will be required to audition in the summer term prior to starting sixth form and should be a minimum of Grade Six ABRSM standard on their principal instrument.