



Headteacher:
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Science



INVESTORS IN
PEOPLE UK



Healthy School



International
School Award
2011-2014

Training
School



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Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to inform you that The Cherwell School has recently been awarded Artsmark Gold status.

Artsmark is 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 a smaller number gain gold status.

Achieving Artsmark status demonstrates that the school has a number of very special qualities. These are indicated by some of the criteria listed below, which the school has to meet:

- have an excellent arts and cultural offer
- are forward thinking and open to development
- are committed to investing in staff and young people
- are committed to listening to students and providing opportunities for our community
- have an effective approach to building sustainable relationships with arts and cultural organisations
- value the arts and culture through a broad and balanced curriculum

To achieve Artsmark, we had to undergo a rigorous application process, followed by a validation visit from a professional arts consultant. We were assessed on many areas of our provision including arts in the curriculum, extra-curricular arts activities, how we work with artists and arts organisations and how well our arts provision impacts on staff development and the wider community. The process of gaining this award has been very beneficial 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.

We hope you share our delight in being nationally recognised for our arts and cultural provision. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Hollindale, Faculty Leader for Performing Arts, who led our application and also the many other staff and students who create and take the numerous opportunities available to them.

Yours sincerely

Paul James
Headteacher