



John Bentley School Artsmark Gold Award

The John Bentley School awarded Artsmark Gold, June 2010

Following our Artsmark Silver award in 2007 the Arts Council England has awarded Artsmark *Gold* to our school this month in recognition of the school's commitment to, and excellence in, arts education. We are now a part of the 1676 schools in England who received an Artsmark award this year.

I am delighted that the Arts Council has recognised our dynamic arts education programme. Our students really enjoy working with the range of arts professionals, community groups, organisations that they regularly come into contact within their Arts subjects, and I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work in achieving this award.

"I am convinced that our levels of participation and excellence in these curriculum areas make us a better school. I believe that creativity in its many forms is a powerful vehicle for us as humans, both to understand ourselves and the world and to express this understanding in unique ways that can improve us as people and the world we live in."

Gordon Trafford - Headteacher

For us Artsmark is more than simply a mark of distinction; taking part in the scheme has enabled us to develop our arts provision, and see the students who take part become more self-confident, engaged and excited about learning.

"Arts Council England believes that the earlier children are creatively inspired, the more likely they are to have a lifelong engagement with art – something that can transform lives and give young people a voice for their thoughts and feelings."

“Artsmark - now nationally recognised as a prestigious and coveted award - sets the standard for an outstanding arts provision in schools and it’s great to see so many new schools attaining the Artsmark award this year. This award recognises The John Bentley School’s commitment to providing exciting art experiences and their belief in the power of creativity.”

Alan Davey, Chief Executive, Arts Council England

This is an exciting achievement for our school and marks the culmination of one journey over the past 10 years bringing arts education to the forefront, encouraging more students to realise their potential in the arts and broadening and deepening the arts experience through teaching & learning, activities, trips and choice at KS4 and 5. Certainly subjects such as Photography and Dance have been a welcome and added boost to the already healthy arts experience our students can undertake.

The future for the arts here at the John Bentley School is very positive as we look to deepen our links to the local community, offer further experiences for our students to work with arts professionals and organisations, give more opportunities for more students to display their work publically as well as remain rooted in the ethos of the arts for us which is simply about **creativity**, **sensitivity** and **communication**.

Blayne Cooper

Head of Performing Arts

For further information contact:

School name

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Arts Council England - Artsmark

The Artsmark team

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Notes to editors:

Artsmark

1. Artsmark is a national scheme developed by Arts Council England in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department of Education and Skills, the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Authority, OfSTED.
2. The total number of awarded schools in round 10 is 1676. There are 310 schools with an Artsmark, 495 schools with an Artsmark Silver and 871 schools with an Artsmark Gold.
3. Artsmark is currently being reviewed to better respond to and align with emerging education, arts policy and technology changes. A refreshed scheme will be piloted from September-December 2010 and a new Artsmark will be launched in September 2011. Please check for updates on the new Artsmark scheme on www.artsmark.org.uk

Arts Council England

4. Arts Council England works to get great art for everyone by championing, developing and investing in artistic experiences that enrich people's lives.

As the national development agency for the arts, we support a range of artistic activities from theatre to music, literature to dance, photography to digital art, and carnival to crafts.

Great art inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves, and the world around us. In short, it makes life better.