

Nicholas Chamberlaine School, Bedworth, Warwickshire, celebrates Gold Award for Arts excellence!



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Nicholas Chamberlaine School (NCS), part of the Griffin Schools Trust (GST), is proud to have received an Artsmark Gold Award from the Arts Council England, for its high-quality arts and cultural education. The award recognises the school's commitment to ensuring all pupils benefit from a rich arts education, helping to build confidence, character and resilience and equipping them with the cultural understanding, knowledge and skills they need to succeed in life; NCS has a truly award-winning arts programme spanning music, visual arts, photography, drama and technology.

Schools qualifying for an Artsmark Award are evaluated on eight criteria including the provision of wide-ranging arts and cultural experiences for all students, planning for continuous development of the arts, student engagement, staff development, partnerships with professional arts organisations, and embedding creativity across the curriculum in EBACC and STEM subjects (maths, language and literature, history, geography science, engineering, etc).

Commenting on the rigorous Artsmark Award process, Kim Waldock, Arts Consultant Education and Strategy, GST, said, "Essentially, it is about creating opportunity for all students to participate in meaningful arts, creative learning and high-quality performance and art making. The whole school community is involved, teachers and student 'arts ambassadors' promote arts in the school community and network with other schools within the Trust to share plans, ideas and resources. We partner with several professional arts-based organisations and provide regular opportunities for students to perform and watch performances. With the broader range of options available there has been a significant uptake of GCSE arts subjects."

The new arts provision includes the NCS Encore Programme providing orchestral instruments and free tuition for all Year 7 and Year 8 students in partnership with Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) and Warwickshire Music Hub. The students are taught by

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professional musicians and take part in showcase performances, a rare opportunity in most schools today. Eventually the programme will include all students in Years 7-9. NCS was the first school outside London to partner with MiSST.



NCS Encore Programme (prior to Covid restrictions)

Recent restrictions and school closures have meant changes to performance schedules have had to be made, however students can now access the full arts programme through Google Classroom. Key Stage 4 and 5 students have resources and materials delivered to their homes, so they can continue with projects and reach their full potential.

Griffin Schools Trust supports the arts across all its 13 schools. The Griffin Arts and Sports Fund supports students who demonstrate dedication and ability in artistic pursuits outside school. Every year the arts are showcased and celebrated during the week-long Griffin Arts Festival when pupils of all ages participate in a wide variety of arts activities: dance, drama, design, spoken word and music, with performances shared digitally across the Griffin schools family.

The Griffin Schools Trust ethos of proud traditions, wide horizons, high achievement, is reflected in every aspect of the Artsmark Gold Award and school staff are extremely proud to accept this award, “The school experience goes well beyond the confines of the curriculum. The single most important mission of GST is to provide the conditions in which children discover who they are and then go confidently to take their places in society, making a contribution to it through the use of their talents. The Arts are an essential element of this experience, building resilience, aesthetic maturity, empathy and appreciation, but most importantly we study the arts for the pleasure they afford us all.”