

## **The Arts Award**

Being creative means being unique, this does not always lend itself to the narrow confines of art or drama or music exams. Students should be free to study whatever creative endeavors they choose – any type of music, drawing, painting, photography, drama, filmmaking, poetry, creative writing or script writing.

Our school became an ‘Arts Award Centre,’ because this programme responds to the freedom of creativity by allowing students to study any creative area in a structured and supportive way, which then leads to certification.

Managed by the Trinity College, London, in association with the Arts Council, the Arts Award was developed to support young people who want to explore a creative path which veers away from the traditional exam offering. Along with building confidence, resourcefulness and leadership skills the award prepares students for further education or employment.

The Award has three levels for secondary students - Bronze, Silver and Gold. The Gold level earns 35 UCAS points and is equivalent to an ‘A’ level in England. One day it will hopefully be equivalent to a ‘Higher’ in Scotland.

From the Arts Award website (<http://www.artsaward.org.uk>):

Our mission is to support young people who want to deepen their engagement with the arts, build creative and leadership skills, and to achieve a national qualification.

Through the Arts Award's five levels, children and young people up to age 25 can explore any art form including performing arts, visual arts, literature, media and multimedia. The award builds confidence, helps young people to enjoy cultural activities, and prepares them for further education or employment.

You’ll end up with a portfolio or arts log that shows off your creativity and gives you a recognised national qualification or award. You’ll need to:

- Take part in different arts activities.
- Be inspired by artists and arts organisations.
- Experience arts events.
- Share your arts skills with others.
- Put together a portfolio.
- Set yourself arts challenges.
- Organise your own projects.
- Research arts careers and the arts sector.

This award allows students to work autonomously and independently and is a more flexible provision than the usual exams. It was a huge success at our school.