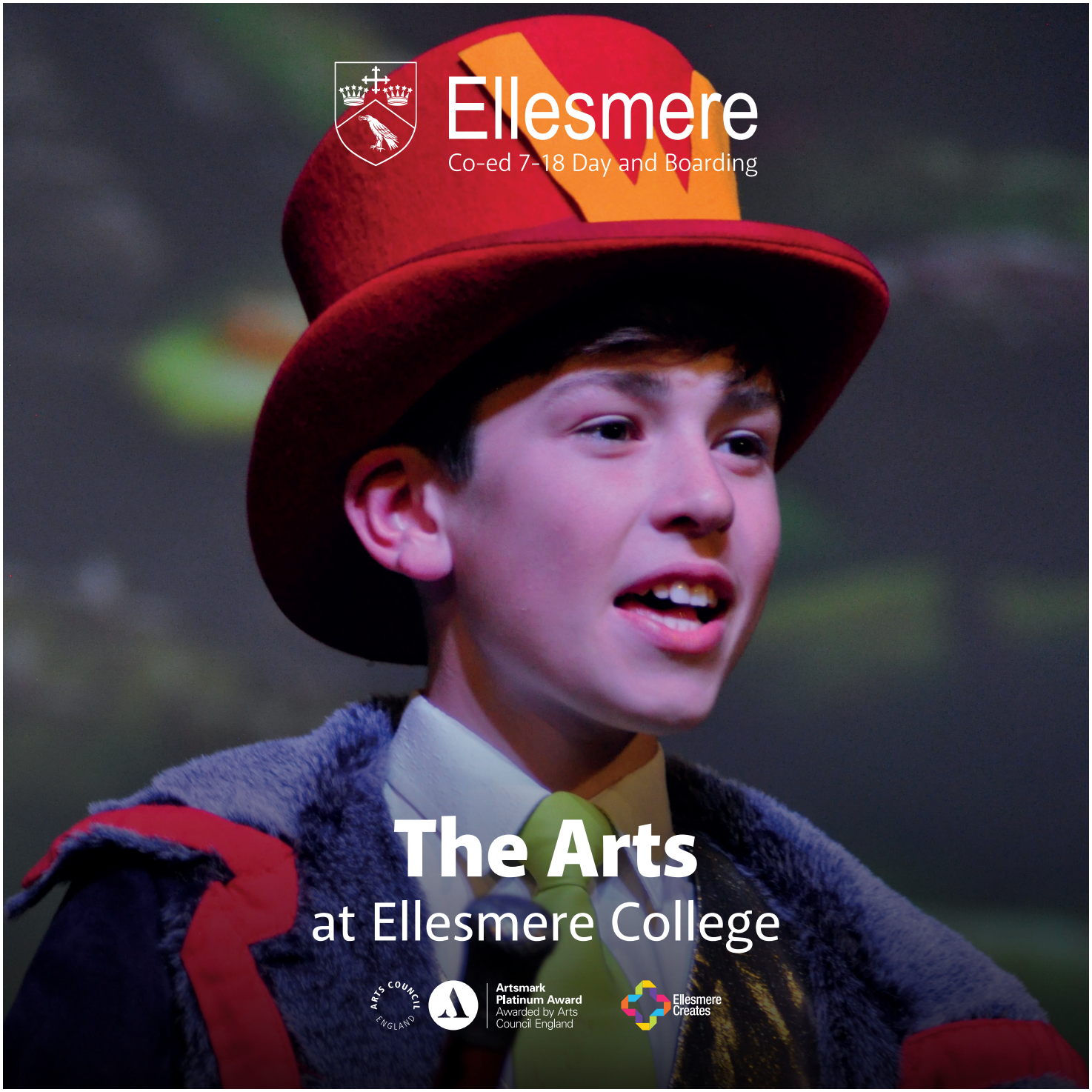

Ellesmere
Co-ed 7-18 Day and Boarding
The Arts
at Ellesmere College
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Artsmark
Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England
Ellesmere
Creates

02





















Introduction

The Arts at Ellesmere are present within the College's everyday life. We pride ourselves in that there is always an area - whether that is Art, Music, Drama or Media Studies - where students can nurture their skills and artistically thrive alongside their academic journey.

The rich and vibrant cultural life promoted by our Artsmark programme is essential to the spiritual and creative health of our community and we celebrate the fact that our busy artistic calendar allows every student to integrate with a broad range of ages and social groups to create plays, concerts and exhibitions across the disciplines.

Most importantly, we urge everyone to play their part and reap the benefits. The range of tastes and abilities catered for is as broad as it gets with lots of choice for everyone to take part - there is always plenty going on at the College.

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Artsmark Platinum

Artsmark is the Arts Council England's flagship programme which celebrates the arts and cultural provision in a school and Ellesmere has been awarded Platinum status for our excellent arts provision for over 9 years running. Ellesmere was the first independent school in the country to attain the level of Platinum – a newly created category by the Arts Council England for Ellesmere that demonstrated a commitment to the Arts to students and the community above and beyond Gold Award Level.

Extract from awarding report: 'You have a determination to deliver very high quality arts education in all the key art subjects, including dance and media technology; you see the arts as central to learning in all subject areas, to raising awareness of other cultures and to the development of the whole person; you nurture artistic talent in all students but equally value excellence and encourage the progression towards professional success in the arts; you value and reward initiative, independent learning and leadership; you have a very talented and motivated staff and a very dynamic programme of development.'

Artsmark Platinum Award
Awarded by Arts Council England

Arts Award

The Arts Award is a range of national qualifications that supports anyone aged up to 25 to grow as artists and arts leaders, inspiring them to connect with and take part in the wider arts world through taking challenges in an art form of their choice.

At Ellesmere, Arts Award is offered through our Thursday afternoon activity programme to students from Years 10 to 13 by our team of teachers who have qualified to act as advisors for the programme.

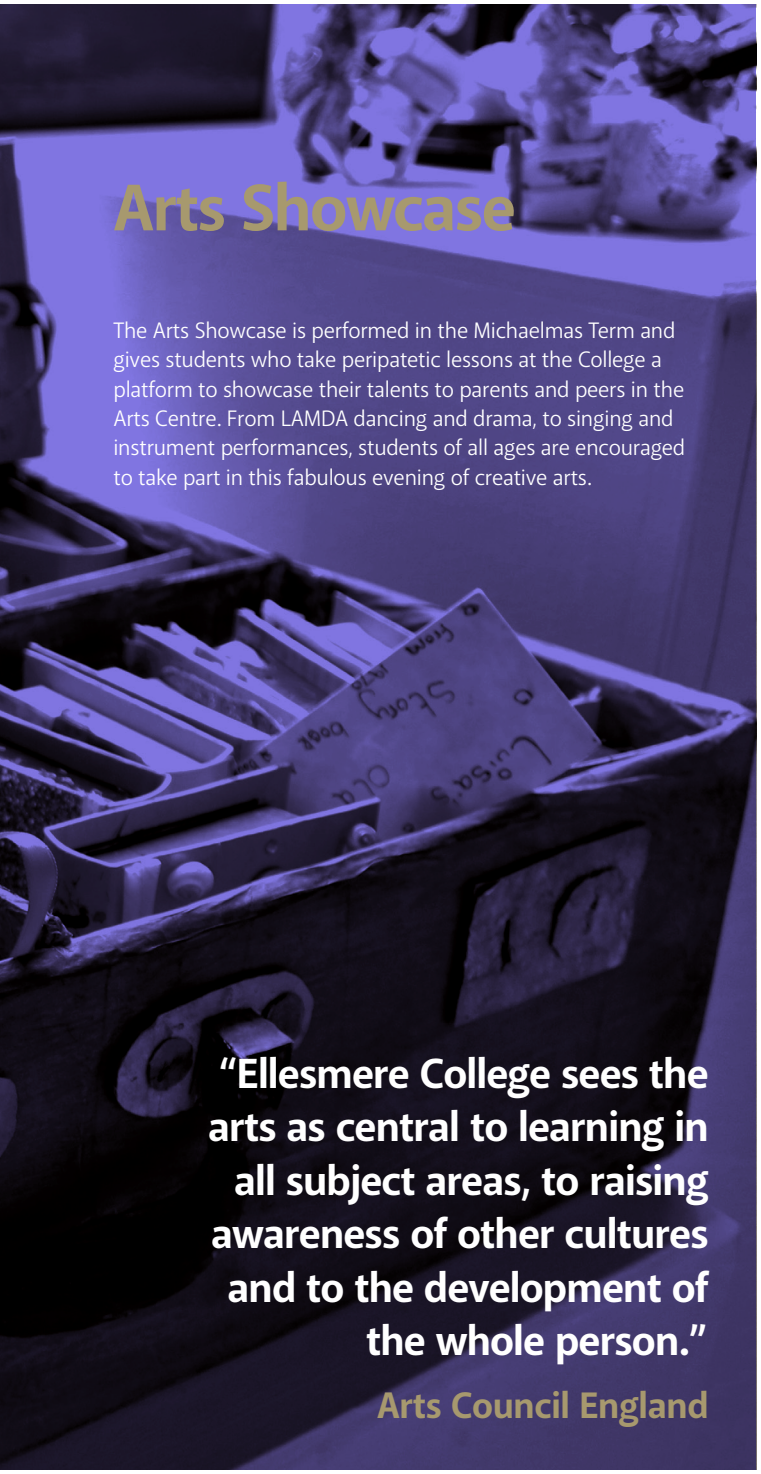
By progressing through the Bronze, Silver and Gold Levels students get to:

- discover the enjoyment of creating and participating in arts activities
- experience and review arts events
- develop creative and communication skills that are essential for success in 21st century life
- explore the work of artists and craftspeople and gain insights into the professional arts world
- gain experience and knowledge to help progress into further education and employment.

For the Bronze Award, students set themselves the challenge of learning new skills or developing existing ones in art forms as diverse as music, drama, photography, creative writing, painting and drawing, textiles, origami, set design, technical theatre and dance.

The more challenging Silver Arts Award entails students taking responsibility for planning and delivering an arts leadership project – for example: arts workshops for children from local primary schools.

The top level of Gold Arts Award challenges students to demonstrate their commitment through extended arts practice of two art forms, researching and delivering presentations and debating on a controversial arts subject, taking sole responsibility for an arts leadership project and undertaking work experience.



Arts Showcase

The Arts Showcase is performed in the Michaelmas Term and gives students who take peripatetic lessons at the College a platform to showcase their talents to parents and peers in the Arts Centre. From LAMDA dancing and drama, to singing and instrument performances, students of all ages are encouraged to take part in this fabulous evening of creative arts.

"Ellesmere College sees the arts as central to learning in all subject areas, to raising awareness of other cultures and to the development of the whole person."

Arts Council England

CRE8

Performed in the Lent Term, CRE8 embraces the many and varied talents of our students from across all key stages who come together for an evening of creativity and entertainment.

This event gives the Gold Arts Awards students from Years 10-13 an opportunity to lead an Arts related project themselves, the CRE8 evening is designed to showcase the broad range of talents the students have across the creative spectrum at the College, and allows the students to try out new material and develop their skills and confidence as young performers. Performances range from singing, poetry, drama, music, and dance - every student has the opportunity to share their work across the Arts.

Ellesmere Creates

Ellesmere Creates is a student-led website offering the chance for our students to share their ideas and experiments in expressing themselves and being creative.

Some of the work is finished and polished, but some represents work in progress, the trialling of ideas, or experiments with themes, materials and form. We believe that everyone can be creative: it is an important part of every person, but it must be nurtured over time if it is to grow and flourish and at Ellesmere our vision of every child as an individual is central to everything we do.

Each individual at Ellesmere is encouraged to develop their own imagination and creativity in whatever form they wish and we see this as vital to their success in every area of school life. As an Artsmark Platinum School, we believe that every young person should have the opportunity to experience the richness of art and culture and to get involved in the creative arts themselves.



Siobhan Phillips
Head of Art

"The emphasis is definitely on the individual: students are encouraged to find their own voice within a department that allows them to grow as a creative student."

Art at Ellesmere

The Art and Design department at Ellesmere is committed to offering a stimulating environment for a range of Art practices.

In the department we aim to give the pupils the opportunity to be part of a deeply rewarding subject that will hopefully become an interest for life. In the department we believe that creativity is a vital part of education.

There are facilities for painting, drawing, printmaking, textiles and mixed media. The traditional developments of observational and practical skills are taught in lessons throughout the key stages. The emphasis is definitely on the individual: students are encouraged to find their own voice within a department that allows them to grow as an individual. Skill development, creative thinking and independent learning are integral and pupils develop these through their artwork using a wide range of media processes and methods.







What do the courses cover?

We aim to introduce students to traditional and contemporary artists to give them a broad appreciation of the visual world. Students have the opportunity to have their work entered for competitions throughout the year. A notable competition that our students have been involved in is held at The Lowry every year. Students also are selected to exhibit their work at the prestigious annual National Art Exhibition held at the College every year and the Chester Arts Fair, which is held annually at the racecourse in Chester.

Students at Ellesmere have gone on to study Art and Design and make a career for themselves within the creative industries. In recent years students have gained places at Glasgow School of Art, Central St. Martin's, London School of Fashion, Chicago School of Art, Parsons School of Visual Arts New York, Parsons School of Art, Paris, and Berlin School of Fashion.

A-Level and International Baccalaureate Art and Design, requires students to develop their ability to show a range of skills such as:

- Independence of mind in developing their own ideas
- An interest and enthusiasm for art and design
- The experience of working with a range of media, including traditional and new media
- An awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art and design

GCSE Art and Design provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature. This two unit specification enables students to develop their ability to engage in the processes of Art and Design – to build creative skills through learning and doing, to develop imaginative and intuitive ways of working and to develop an understanding of media, materials and technologies.

Ellesmere is aware that the Arts is not the only factor when considering joining the College. The academic timetable is carefully constructed to allow those pupils with artistic interests to be able to balance studies with practice and rehearsal commitments.

There is careful monitoring of academic progress to ensure the pupil is coping with the demands of both academia and their artistic endeavours.



Rachel Schubert
Director of Drama

Drama at Ellesmere

The key skills that are gained through Drama at the College are not just linked to acting and theatre, but help in the development of highly transferable life skills such as leadership, time management, confidence, presentation and communication skills.

Drama at GCSE

The first assessed piece of work is a devised piece where the students create their own play for performance, taking into consideration their chosen skill, whether that be acting, lighting, sound or costume. Additionally, the group are expected to understand and show an awareness of all elements of theatre craft within their final production. They also perform a scripted piece and a final written exam, based on the set text of 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly.

A Level Drama and Theatre

Students select their own individual monologues and, as a group, select an appropriate scripted piece that they create to a high performance standard. In the second year their own artistic ambitions are pursued within the devised piece. This is a popular section of the course and many audience members look forward to it as an original piece that highlights the students innovative and imaginative theatrical ideas. The students also explore 'Lysistrata' by Aristophanes, 'Equus' by Peter Shaffer, as well as studying Methodologies of Theatre Practitioners.

"Drama helps in the development of highly transferable life skills such as leadership, time management, confidence, presentation and communication skills."





Technical Theatre

The range of people who work in a theatre is a very broad spectrum and Technical Theatre is critical to behind the scenes operations of all dramatic productions and events. Developing proper vocabulary and skills off-stage is as essential to a production as its actors.

We endeavour to introduce students to basic technical operation and design for the theatre working in both classroom and practical settings to gain an understanding of the technology and craftsmanship for the production of theatre and events.

The objective of Technical Theatre at Ellesmere is to provide the student with an elementary understanding of the process of realising a production, from the design through to the building, running, and striking. The student should gain a working knowledge of theatre terminology as well as a familiarity with basic theatre tools and techniques for scenery, paint, props, costumes, lighting, audio, video, and stage management.

Technical Theatre is offered at Ellesmere as part of the GCSE Drama and A-Level Theatre and Drama Course, as well as through the extracurricular activities such as Tech Club, public productions, and arts events.

LAMDA

The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) is the largest Speech and Drama awarding body in the UK. Preparation to take LAMDA examinations is provided through specialist teachers as an additional extra in: acting, devised drama, mime, musical theatre, verse and prose, public speaking, and reading for performance.

All students are entered for LAMDA and English Speaking Board examinations annually allowing Years 12 and 13 students to gain UCAS points depending on their grades.

Dance

Ballet and Contemporary dance lessons are available on an extra-curricular basis every week with our qualified dance and drama teachers: the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts and the Imperial Society of the Teachers of Dancing. One of our teachers works at county schools giving bespoke LAMDA and dance tuition and is the Principle of Shropshire Performing Arts.

Here at Ellesmere College students can take dance lessons in different styles during the term and work towards their examinations.

House Plays

At the beginning of the year we host the Competitive House Plays. These are four student-led plays at Senior School level and three House plays at Lower School level, rehearsed throughout the year and performed to a highly enthusiastic audience and a panel of judges. These plays are one of the high points of the school year for both Lower and Senior School and are thematic in nature. Over the last few of years the genres explored in Senior School have been as diverse as Shakespeare's comedies, Fawlty Towers, and classic murder mysteries. For the Lower School they have devised work around 'Horrible Histories' and classic Pantomime tales.

Tabor Academy – The American Exchange

Ellesmere College has operated a longstanding arts partnership with Tabor Academy in Massachusetts, based around a biennial exchange of student drama productions that has been happening now for twenty years.

For more information on the Tabor Academy please visit:
www.taboracademy.org



Dionne Walker Smith
Head of Media Studies

"Media Studies offers students a unique opportunity to understand the world around them, as well as to develop their own creativity."

Media at Ellesmere

The media plays a powerful role within today's society and students need to engage with this as a significant part of their education. Media Studies offers students a unique opportunity to understand the world around them, as well as to develop their own creativity. The creative media industries are also incredibly important to the economy and offer a range of job opportunities.

What courses do we offer?

Media Studies isn't just about watching films and reading newspapers; it is about actively engaging with today's media practices, theory and production. It is about understanding the business aspects of media production, as well as developing desirable employment skills such as good project management, critical thinking, teamwork and leadership and working to fulfil a brief.

At both GCSE and A Level the focus is on engaging with actual media texts and understanding their impact on audiences and wider society.





Students are taught how to deconstruct texts and critique the implied ideologies they contain, considering the influence these may have on groups and individuals. They develop skills of writing extended and detailed analysis as well as making individual presentations and taking part in group seminars.

Coursework modules at all levels allow students to carry out research and planning and then to create their own media productions in a way which reflects real media practice in the wider world. Media students particularly appreciate the opportunities to follow personal interests which the coursework offers; many international students opt to explore topics from within their own culture.

Students can opt to take an introductory course in Media Studies in Year 9 and then may, if they wish, continue on to the OCR GCSE course in Years 10 and 11. Progression can then continue into the Cambridge International A Level in Year 12, although many students take up the subject for the first time at this stage and are not disadvantaged by not having taken the GCSE.

Productions may take the form of photographic shoots and editing in Photoshop to make film posters, magazines or advertising, or filming and editing sequences in Adobe Premiere to create film trailers, documentaries, short films or music videos. We set a high value on developing individual creativity as well as learning to respond to the demands of a set brief.

Media Activities Outside the Curriculum

For those who choose not to take GCSE and A Level Media, Thursday afternoon Arts Award Media offers the chance to experiment with making media of all kinds. Here the focus is on developing creative and technical skills in any chosen media form, as well as completing the Arts Award accreditation at Gold, Silver or Bronze Levels.

Enrichment

We offer a wide variety of enrichment activities and cultural trips throughout the year, such as visits to the BBC in Manchester Salford Quays, the Bradford Media Museum, the British Film Institute and Sky News in London.

We also maintain contacts with many OEs in the creative industries ranging from Bryan Oates, the now-retired Oscar winning film editor, to Chris Bevan, a film production graduate who now has his own production company and runs regular workshops for our students. Many of our parents also offer support and advice from their own experiences of working in media businesses.

After Ellesmere

Media-based courses are a popular choice at university, and many students have been successful in gaining places to study Film and Television Production, Journalism, Marketing, Advertising, Popular Music, and other related courses at top universities in the UK and abroad.

Students going into other areas of academic study and careers find themselves well prepared to understand the role and influence of the media. They will also have developed skills in presentation, applying academic theory to real life situations, marketing and promotion, and editorial writing and digital literacy.



Tony Coupe
Director of Music

"Musical enrichment and development begins from the moment a child starts Ellesmere College."
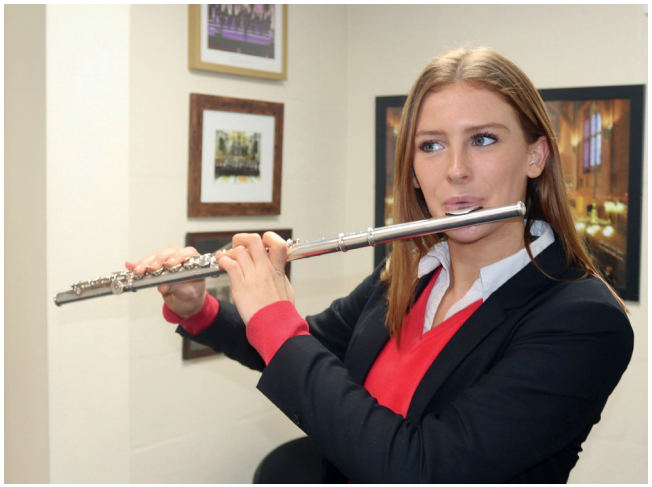
Music at Ellesmere

Music is a vigorous and essential part of life at Ellesmere; it takes many forms, from traditional choral and orchestral music through to jazz, rock and pop.

We pride ourselves on offering a first-rate musical education that is tailored to our individual students. Musicians are organised, highly motivated, aware of the quality of their work and have the desire to succeed. Our aim is to nurture these values, develop technical skills and provide countless opportunities for students to develop their confidence as expressive performers.

Vocal Music

The College has an outstanding reputation for choral music under the leadership of Tony Coupe. The Chapel Choir consists of fifty singers covering all vocal parts and singing cathedral repertoire at a high standard. They have given concerts at world class venues including Notre Dame in Paris, St Peter's Basilica and the Pantheon in Rome, Symphony Hall, Royal Festival Hall, St George's Chapel, Windsor and are currently preparing for a tour to Vienna including performances at St Stephen's Cathedral and the Haydn Concert Room.





In addition to a busy concert schedule, the Chapel Choir lead all Senior School services including the beautiful Candlelit Carol Services. Students are invited to take part in Chamber Choir and Coro Lux based on their ability, allowing them to refine their skills, perform more complex repertoire and work towards securing choral scholarships at university. The Lower School Choir, sometimes divided into KS2 and KS3, provides opportunities for our younger students to perform major choral works whilst making a valuable musical theatre repertoire meaning that musical enrichment is accessible from the very start of the child's journey at Ellesmere. Students are also welcome to join the Ellesmere College Choral Society, an ensemble that brings the school and local community together to perform major choral works while making a valuable contribution to local charities. Recent performance have included Carmina Burana (Orff), the Mozart Requiem and Handel's Messiah. These performance are often in collaboration with the Ellesmere Sinfonia – a community orchestra started at the College in 2016. All of our choirs have the opportunity to perform together at the annual Five Choirs Concert.

Irrespective of ability and experience, every member of senior school takes part in the annual House Singing Competition which gives students the chance to sing with band accompaniment. Recent themes have included The Beatles, Disney and Queen.

Instrumental Music

Instrumentalists have the opportunity to perform in a variety of ensembles at both Lower and Senior School level. There are two orchestras, woodwind, brass and string ensembles, a jazz band and opportunities for students to develop their ensemble skills within duets and trios. Instrumental staff feed into the development of ensembles but students are encouraged to take responsibility, sometimes conducting the ensembles, allowing them to develop important leadership skills.

Opportunities

College musicians participate successfully in regional music festivals and are encouraged to perform on a regular basis in assemblies, concerts and in collaboration with other schools.

An expert team of instrumental teachers covering classical and contemporary fields ensure that students make excellent progress in their studies. Ellesmere is a long-established centre for ABRSM examinations and pupils are encouraged to take examinations as an aid to their musical development. Workshops and master-classes, led by professional musicians, take place at the school, and we regularly present interactive performance talks on different aspects and styles of music.

Music scholars, including an organ scholar, make an invaluable contribution to all aspects of music-making at the College. In addition to performing, scholars are encouraged to assist and lead rehearsals, compose music for the ensembles and even take responsibility for putting on their own events to supplement the concert diary. Music and drama work closely together, often collaborating to produce musicals and showcase events.

Musicians have the opportunity to record CD's and tour Europe. In addition to a suite of purpose-built practice-rooms and a digital composition suite, the College affords students the opportunity to make use of three Kawai grand pianos, a custom-made harpsichord and the College's three organs – including the world famous Schulze Organ.

Students study music in the classroom throughout Lower School, and then have the opportunity to opt for GCSE Music, A-level Music and IB Music at Standard or Higher Level.

In recent years, students from Ellesmere have gone on to study music at Oxford, Cardiff, Liverpool, Guildhall School of Music, Royal Welsh College of Music, Leeds College of Music and Birmingham Conservatoire.



“Whether it is Art, Music, Drama or Media Studies – Ellesmere College students can nurture their skills and artistically thrive alongside their academic journey.”

- Jonathan Shaw. Head

Scholarships and Bursaries

As a general guidance for considering any Arts Scholarship at the College, a candidate – to be worthy of consideration – will attend an assessment audition and in the case of music have passed the appropriate grade of examination. Further details can be found in the separate Scholarship and Awards booklet.

Music Scholarship

A Music Scholarship or exhibition is based purely on merit. Scholarships can be worth up to 20% of the fees (boarding or day) and made on the basis of an assessment of ability. A variety of scholarships and all-rounder awards are available.

Students can apply for standard scholarships to the Music Department as well as to the following Sixth Form Scholarships offered:

- Organ Scholarship for Organ/Instrument

Art Scholarship

An Art Scholarship or award is based purely on merit. An award can be worth up to 20% of the fees (boarding or day) and is made on the basis of an assessment of ability. Where appropriate, other skills can also be taken into account and a variety of other scholarships and all-rounder awards are available.

Students can apply for standard scholarships to the Art Department as well as to the following Scholarship offered:

- Adlard Scholarship for Art

Drama Scholarship

A Drama Scholarship or award is based purely on merit. An award can be worth up to 20% of the fees (boarding or day) and is made on the basis of an assessment and an interview. Where appropriate, other skills can also be taken into account and a variety of other scholarships and all-rounder awards are available.

Students can apply for standard scholarships to the Drama Department.

As with all candidates for places at the College, we need to be confident when offering places that prospective pupils can thrive academically, so an academic and behavioural reference is an important part of any assessment.

Bursaries

Bursaries are best regarded as means-tested merit awards below the standard of scholarship level. There are two aspects to the award of a bursary: an assessment of merit, as outlined above, and an assessment of parental financial circumstances.

For further information on awards and bursaries please contact the College Admissions Department.

Ellesmere
Co-ed 7-18 Day and Boarding

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire, SY12 9AB

www.ellesmere.com

Email: registrar@ellesmere.com Tel: 01691 622 321

For more insights into Ellesmere College, follow us on:

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