



Ellesmere



Ellesmere
Creates

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Music





Ellesmere College Music

Artsmark Gold

Artsmark is the Arts Council England's flagship programme, which celebrates the arts and cultural provision in a school. Ellesmere has been awarded Gold status for our excellent arts provision.

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.'

What do the courses cover?

Music scholars, including two organ scholars, make an invaluable contribution to all aspects of music-making at the College. In addition to performing, they have the opportunity 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 on musical performances.

College rock, pop bands and songwriters of all ages take part in the annual Cre8 evening. In addition to lessons on classical instruments, we also provide a full range of individual tuition on contemporary musical instruments. Ellesmere students have the opportunity to use the College recording studio, which has recently been redesigned and upgraded.

Instrumentalists have the opportunity to perform in a variety of ensembles at both Lower and Senior School level and Woodard Schools events have enabled College musicians to perform in Westminster Abbey, Birmingham's Symphony Hall and St John's Smith Square.

College musicians participate very successfully in local music festivals and are encouraged to perform on a regular basis. An expert team of instrumental teachers ensure that students make excellent progress in their studies. Ellesmere is a long-established centre for Associated Board examinations and pupils are encouraged to take examinations as an aid to their musical development. Regular workshops and master classes, led by professional musicians, take place at the school, for example, the Werther Ensemble who visited and worked alongside Sixth Form students to realise compositions that were created using Sibelius software in our purpose-built music computer suite.

In addition to a suite of practice rooms, the College has three Kawai grand pianos and is home to two notable pipe organs. Students study music in the classroom throughout Lower School, and then have the opportunity to opt for GCSE Music, AS and A2 Music, AS and A2 Music Technology and IB Music at Standard or Higher Level.

Music at Ellesmere

Music is vigorous at Ellesmere and central to the life of the school; it takes many forms, from traditional choral and orchestral music through to jazz, rock and pop. The Chapel Choir leads all Senior School services in the College's 500-seat Chapel. The annual Christmas Candlelit Carol Services, of which there are four, provides a major showcase for the Chapel Choir.

The Ellesmere College Choral Society brings the school and local community together, performing major choral works and joining with the Chapel Choir, Chamber Choir and Lower School Choir in the annual Four Choirs Concert. The music department has a busy concert programme and a commitment to assisting local charities in fundraising. Each year the House Singing Competition brings out the hidden talents both in singing and performance from across the whole student body. Our musicians record CD's and regularly tour Europe, where we have a strong link with the Scuola da Musica near Verona, Italy.



Ellesmere College Forward in its Thinking

Ellesmere College is a co-educational school for pupils aged 7-18, set in 144 acres of glorious rural North Shropshire, just half a mile from the historic canal-side town of Ellesmere. Whilst rural in its location, it is a relatively short distance from a number of main-line railway stations and international airports.

The College continues to thrive and grow today due, in no small way, to our focus on the needs and development of each individual student which means that all pupils can achieve their very best. It is this commitment to the individual that enables the College to welcome pupils with a wide variety of talents and ambitions.



First Class Education

The College regularly enjoys outstanding inspection reports from bodies such as the Independent Schools Inspectorate and OFSTED Child Protection, the most recent of which can be found on the College website. Academic results are excellent. Ellesmere offers the International Baccalaureate Programme alongside A-levels in the Sixth Form, and the average score for the International Baccalaureate is usually in a range equivalent to A*, A*, A* at A-level. In overall terms the College's Sixth Form leavers usually average the equivalent in A-level grades of A, B, B. Recently one of our International Baccalaureate Diploma candidates achieved 45 points (the top mark), formally equivalent to 6 ½ A grades at A-level, and was one of only 100 candidates in the world to achieve that level. Given that the College continues to require only 5 GCSEs at grade C to enter the Sixth Form the results are quite exceptional.

A wide range of subjects are on offer at GCSE and A level and, introduced recently, BTEC Sports Level 3 (A-level equivalent).

The Environment

Ellesmere is aware that the Arts is not the only factor when considering joining the College. The academic time table 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 player is coping with the demands of both academia and their artistic endeavours.

Boarding at Ellesmere

The boarding houses within Ellesmere College are tailored to meet the needs of children from the age of eight upwards. All of the Housemasters and Housemistresses are provided with information on the specific needs of each boarder and arrangements for occasionally boarding assist day pupils involved in College performances.



Scholarships and financial assistance

A music scholarship or exhibition is based purely on merit. Scholarships can be worth up to 50% of the fees (boarding or day) and made on the basis of an assessment of ability. A music scholar will normally receive free instrumental tuition on two instruments, whereas a music exhibition scholar will receive free tuition on one instrument. A variety of scholarships and all-rounder awards are available. 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. As a general guidance for considering a music scholarship at the College, a candidate – to be worthy of consideration – will attend an assessment audition and have passed the appropriate grade of examination.

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.



The Registrar

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