



Welcome back to the new academic year!

We hope you had a wonderful summer and are all set for the year ahead. Today, we're excited to share with you that **Artsmark is evolving**.

At Artsmark, we want every young person to develop their creative potential and benefit from a high-quality arts and cultural education at school. Over the past year, we've listened carefully to feedback from schools to understand how Artsmark can provide even better support, helping more schools strengthen and sustain arts and cultural education now and in the future.

How is Artsmark changing?

Through interviews, focus groups and surveys with Artsmark teachers and schools, we heard four clear messages:

1. Artsmark as an award is valued and schools want to be recognised for their commitment to excellence within arts and cultural learning.
2. Artsmark needs to be more flexible and easier to engage with.
3. There's a need for tailored training and development.
4. You want more opportunities to connect as an Artsmark community.

In response, from Spring 2027, we're moving away from a one-size-fits-all Artsmark Award. Instead of registering for a fixed two-year programme, schools will have the flexibility to reflect on their current arts and cultural offer, identify areas for development, and make improvements at their own pace. When you feel ready, you can apply for an Artsmark Award.

The Artsmark Framework remains at the heart of our offer. Schools will be able to use this to check where they are now, gather evidence of their provision, decide what to strengthen and apply for their Artsmark Award

when they are ready. We're redesigning Artsmark around two Strands.

Our two Strands are:

Award: A faster and more streamlined approach to achieving an Artsmark award, using evidence for assessment based on the Artsmark Framework. Schools will be able to apply for an award when they're ready, which will then only take a term and half to complete. This will be available from Spring 2027.

Strengthen: An offer that will be launched in Autumn 2027 and will help schools to use the Framework to understand their current provision and strengthen specific areas of practice. Schools will be able to access the Strengthen Strand without having to enrol for the Award.

All registered Artsmark schools will also be able to join our Connect opportunities. We are developing sessions to share practice, build networks and learn from a vibrant community of like-minded schools. We will be launching Connect opportunities from Autumn 2027.

These changes are designed to give schools greater flexibility, more specific support, and stronger opportunities to connect and learn from one another, while maintaining the credibility and recognition that Artsmark is known for.

Find out more

We've created a dedicated webpage with full details about the changes, why we're making them, what the new programme will look like, and answers to frequently asked questions.

[READ ALL ABOUT THE CHANGES](#)

Check your inbox

Don't worry! If your school is currently on an Artsmark journey you can continue your current journey. We will soon be sending out specific information about what these changes mean for you and what your next steps are. Keep an eye on your inbox.

In light of these changes, we have paused registrations until Spring 2027. [Register your interest](#) here to be the first to find out more about enrolling for the new Artsmark Award Strand.

Thank you for being part of our vibrant Artsmark community - we pride ourselves in delivering you a programme that is made for, with and by schools. This year marks our 25th anniversary and we are looking forward to celebrating with you while we step into our next chapter.

Best wishes,
The Artsmark team

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