

'Connections'

2012 brings some exciting endorsement and accreditation opportunities for FE Colleges, so why not use the expertise of The Forge to increase the profile of the arts in your college.



For the first time [Artsmark](#), Arts Council England's national award is available to FE Colleges. Recognition for the quality arts offer provided by FE Colleges has never been more important. You may have already made your application, why not tell us how you got on?

If you didn't have the opportunity this round, why not consider an application for Round 13? Curriculum provision, access to Arts Award and arts enrichment opportunities you provide all contribute to Artsmark. Partnerships with artists and arts organisations are also part of the criteria, which is where a partnership with The Forge can help you achieve a successful application.

The National Skills Academy for Creative and Cultural said: *'Introducing Artsmark to the Further Education sector will allow training provision and arts activity in colleges to be audited, celebrated and improved. By encouraging collaborations with professional artists and practitioners, Artsmark rewards creative collaborations, industry engagement and links with the creative industries.'* Pauline Tambling, Managing Director



[Arts Award](#) supports young people in enjoying the arts and developing creative leadership skills. The Award is achieved at Bronze, Silver and Gold (levels 1, 2 and 3 on the Qualifications and Credit Framework). The Gold award is also recognised on the UCAS Tariff (35 points) supporting your young people as they apply to University.

Are you already delivering Arts Award? The Forge is looking for case studies to raise the profile of Arts Award, and we'd love to find out how the award work is embedded in your setting. If you're just starting out on the Arts Award journey, why not become an Arts Award adviser?

The Forge offers one-day training courses that you can book onto. Alternatively, if there is a group of eight or more from the same organisation we can come to you. The Forge is running Bronze and Silver Arts Award adviser training on the 23 February 2012. To book, please visit <http://www.artsaward.org.uk/training>.

Finally, The Forge is an Arts Award Welcome Centre offering opportunities and expertise to support young people working towards their Arts Award. Our door is open for:

- ✓ Information, advice and guidance
- ✓ Partnerships and collaboration
- ✓ Participation in activity with artists

Why not connect with [The Forge](#), a creative industry with a national track record which is local to you? Contact us now on 01207 284 5151 or enquiries@intheforge.com.