

Platforms for creating digital portfolios

In an increasingly digital world, there are lots of unique ways in which young people are choosing to log their Arts Award journey and gather evidence digitally.

Whether a portfolio is fully digital or partially digital for specific parts or units of their award, there are many benefits to using digital evidencing, such as:

- ▶ work being immediately shareable with the adviser
- ▶ being able to easily edit, update and track evidence
- ▶ it can save on memory space on school and home computers
- ▶ it is instant and accessible
- ▶ the whole award process - from planning through assessment - can be digitised.

We have put together a few key factors to consider when choosing an online platform, this resource presents just some of the many free to use options available to young people and advisers that have been used to create portfolios.



Photo: Bhavesh Jadva

Remember - internet access is required for all and some platforms require a young person to have an email address so please ensure they are kept safe online and follow your organisation's safeguarding guidelines. There are certain age restrictions on digital platforms, as an adviser your role is to make sure it is an appropriate and safe platform for your young people.








Top Tip

Advisers will need to ensure that all portfolios, regardless of which digital platforms have been used, can be easily converted into a format that can be uploaded to our submission platform if you are moderated, see [our website](#) for more information on preparing for moderation.



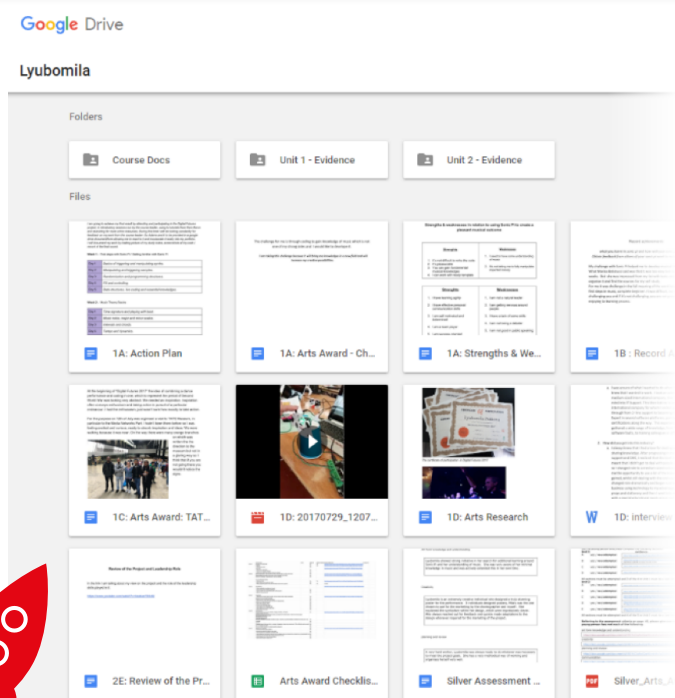


Google Docs

- Is it mobile?  Google Docs is a free web-based application, it can be downloaded as an app for mobile devices, it is easy to navigate and media files can be created, edited and stored online.
- Is it accessible?  Whilst perhaps not as simple to use as a drag and drop page builder, there are accessibility features available to help users with disabilities enabling them to access Google Docs, including the option to write, edit and format documents using voice commands.
- Is it E safe?  All files are private unless shared with others such as the adviser or moderator. Shared files can be made private again at any time.
- Is it young person friendly?  Participants can organise and customise their work into folders including a wide range of media such as film, photos and audio. Google Docs saves work automatically.
A variety of creative evidencing techniques can be used so the young people can personalise to suit them.
- Is it adviser friendly?  With the correct access settings, advisers can help participants to organise their work into the relevant Arts Award units and parts. They can leave feedback directly on documents and upload assessment report forms ready for moderators to view.

U Can Too used Google Docs with Silver Arts Award. Not only was their evidence entirely digital, the project also involved digital arts through learning to code with Sonic Pi. By using Google Docs, participants could easily record their development, using URLs to navigate between evidence. Assessment report forms were completed digitally, using hyperlinks to allow moderators to quickly find the relevant evidence.

Here you can see examples of a Silver folder and how files are organised, with a detailed action plan below:



Action Plan: Evidences

WEEK 1

Day 1






Task Description: First steps with synths in Sonic Pi.
Study source: Sam Aaron's Tutorial for Sonic Pi.
It's not too complicated. It was simple and approachable.

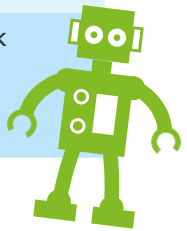
[Listen Here](#)



Day 2

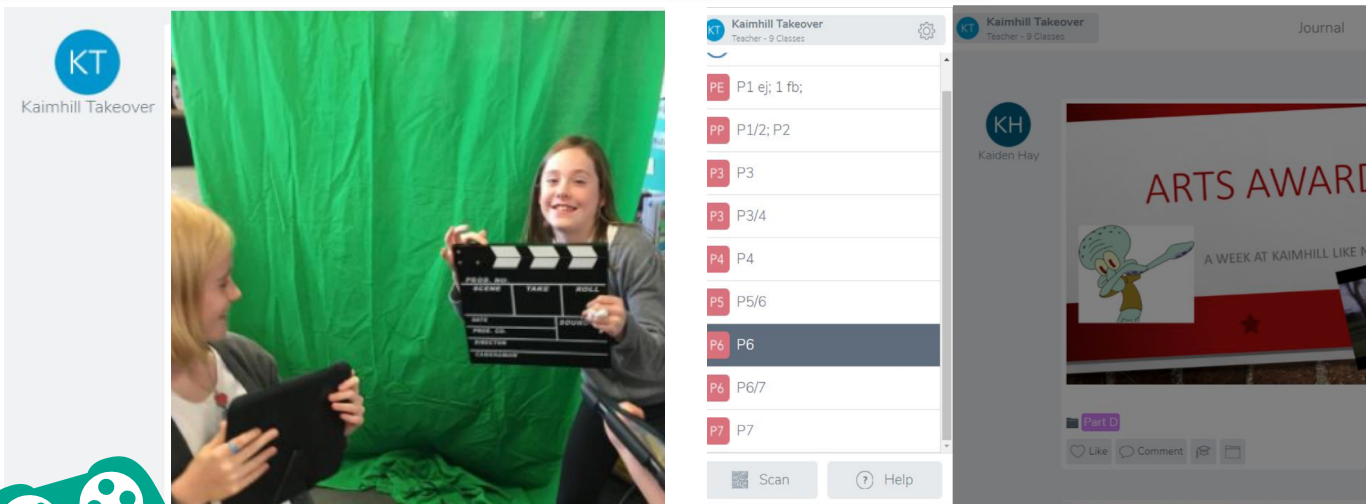
Seesaw

Is it mobile?		Content is uploaded, organised by participants, and immediately accessible to advisers from any device. Simple to use and supports a wide range of evidence types from drawings to videos.
Is it accessible?		With built-in audio recording, drawing and caption tools, Seesaw makes it easy for participants to create their own evidence, giving a variety of evidencing tools to suit needs.
Is it E safe?		Advisers approve all new additions and comments before anything is shared. Advisers control who can view the content and what kind of feedback options are available for peers who view the work.
Is it young person friendly?		Participants can share their work with others and get feedback. They can also create videos that combine drawing and audio to help explain their process. A variety of creative evidencing techniques can be used so the young people can personalise to suit them.
Is it adviser friendly?		Advisers can make notes that are visible only to each other, and add work into an adviser-only private folder. Seesaw works with QR codes so teachers can scan the QR code using the app, and all photos and films go into their class folder.



See Think Make have been using Seesaw as part of their digital primary schools takeover project. They discovered that parents who would not normally connect with the school were interacting and commenting on their child's work. Seesaw was used at Kaimhill School, both to organise the work of individual participants in a class and in pages as a portfolio.

Here you can see examples of photo evidencing, organised into pages:



One note

Is it mobile?		OneNote is on Office 365 so is mobile and can be accessed wherever users login. It acts like a digital notebook.
Is it accessible?		Young people can add evidence in a variety of different formats to suit their needs, gathering information and collaborating with one another. They can also hand-write directly onto the page.
Is it E safe?		OneNote classroom is set up on a school/internal network in order to be a private resource for both advisers and young people, so is shared internally only.
Is it young person friendly?		Young people can collaborate across OneNote, adding their own pages and evidence in formats such as photographs, written notes, sound files, videos and YouTube clips and young people can personalise to suit them.
Is it adviser friendly?		Every adviser has access to their groups' work within OneNote. It is easy to manage and communicate directly with young people.






Wellington College are using OneNote with all their students. The page outlines are created by a teacher and then shared with other staff who participate as advisers across large groups. Pages can be added for the students relevant to specific parts, simply titled Part A, Part B etc, with details on what is expected of the students added to each. Students are recording and taking photographs as evidence and adding them to their pages.

Here is an example of research into an arts inspiration, detailing photos,

The screenshot shows a OneNote page titled "Timeline of Hussein Chalayan". The page contains several text boxes and images, with handwritten annotations in various colors (green, brown, yellow, blue) highlighting key information.

- Timeline of Hussein Chalayan:**
 - Born on 12th of August 1970:** Circled in green.
 - Graduated from His local prep school:** Circled in green.
 - Was born on the island of Cyprus in the town Nicosia:** Circled in green.
 - Because of Greek and Turkish relations there were cases of human rights abuse so they moved to England.** Circled in green.
 - BA Hussein achieved a diploma in fashion and clothing at Warwickshire School of Arts, and proceeded to study Fashion Design at Central Saint Martin college of arts and design in London.** Circled in brown.
 - Handwritten note:** "Graduated from School to Start a career in fashion" (Circled in brown).
 - The collection he did for his graduation was called "Tangent Flows" and it was when he buried some dresses in his friends backyard for several months and later dug them back up and performed it.** Circled in yellow.
 - After tangent flows Brown's boutique decided to buy display and display collection in their shop window.** Circled in blue.
- Awards:**
 - Hussein Chalayan has received many awards over the years because of his amazing fashion pieces and exhibitions. Here are the awards that he has won over the years for his designs, pieces and Exhibitions
 - Hussein Chalayan received "Fashion Visionary Award" for his 20 years of Design Excellence during Audi Fashion Festival, Singapore (2013 May)
 - Hussein Chalayan received The Lucky Strike Designer Award. This award is annually presented by the Raymond Loewy Foundation (2012 November)
 - Winner of Outstanding Lifetime Achievement to Design at the FX International Interior Design Awards, London (2009 November)
 - Brit Insurance Designs of the Year Award in the Fashion category for the A/W'07 Airborne collection (2008 March) - A/W'07 LED Dress exhibited as part of the 100 nominations exhibition in the Design Museum, London.
 - Awarded Design Star Honouree by The Fashion Group International at their annual Night of Stars Gala, New York (2007 October)
 - Hussein Chalayan awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2006 (2006 June)
 - British Fashion Awards – Designer of the Year (2000 February)
 - British Fashion Awards – Designer of the Year (2000 March)
- News Press About Hussein Chalayan:**
 - Hussein Chalayan has been the centre for a lot of attention in the fashion world. There are a lot of news articles about him. Here are a few from the New York Times.
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/topics/person/hussein-chalayan>

Dropbox

Is it mobile?		Dropbox can be used on all devices, acting as an online file storage system, syncing files. There is a free version that young people can use (with limited storage) and an upgraded version that advisers can opt for with extra storage if they pay a monthly subscription.
Is it accessible?		Dropbox is effectively an online filing system which works like any computer hard drive. If a young person is able to use Microsoft Office then they should find Dropbox easy to navigate, it can store a variety of evidencing techniques.
Is it E safe?		The work is only shared between the group and the adviser, and all accounts are password protected. It can be shared more widely by sharing the link to the folder via email.
Is it young person friendly?		Participants can save a full range of media in Dropbox from text and powerpoint to video and audio, whilst saving space on their own devices. They can view work by others in a group, share their own work with named contacts and download documents to edit them.
Is it adviser friendly?		Advisers can organise folders on Dropbox at the start of a project so that young people are clear about the structure of the award and can drop their work into the relevant sections. You can download the software and work offline, files then update automatically when reconnected online.

Wigmore Hall used Dropbox to support young people to combine digital and physical portfolios. Advisers share templates and resources with participants knowing that they are stored in a secure space. Young people save their work in a variety of media including Word, Powerpoint, photos, PDF, MP3 and advisers can then comment on their content as they continue to add more evidence. If young people are working in a group then advisers set up folders that they all share.

Top Tip








Be mindful that if one participant deletes a file, it gets deleted for everyone so a quick demo with the young people at the start helps to avoid deleting someone else's work.

Here is an example of young people's folders and files evidence collated within each:



Blogging

Is it mobile?		Blogging is done via any computer or device. It's a great way to capture evidence on the go. By creating their own website the young people have full control over content and can share with their adviser directly. There are a range of different platforms available including Blogger.com, WordPress and Tumblr.
Is it accessible?		Most young people will be familiar with the blogging platform they have chosen, which should suit their needs and be accessible for them. Young people can include text, photos, film, vlogs, weblinks, screenshots or audio clips.
Is it E safe?		As a default many platforms will make the site publicly available online, but some can also be password protected so check which is most suitable for your young people.
Is it young person friendly?		Participants can use a full range of mixed media within a blog, including typed text, photos, screenshots and video. Blogging is a really creative way for young people to personalise their online evidencing.
Is it adviser friendly?		Advisers can set up and manage their young people's work, ensuring privacy settings. They can add comments and clearly view the young person's journey on the go.

Salisbury Arts Centre worked with a young person, who undertook a week-long work experience placement at the centre. During this time she completed her Bronze Arts Award, supported by her adviser Melanie Evans, and created a blog about it. The portfolio was created by uploading content to her website, evidencing each part using text, photos, screenshots and weblinks.

Telferscot Primary School have also used blogging as a platform for Bronze with their Year 6 pupils. Each pupil has their own area on the website with separate pages for the different parts and they update their blog entries with text, photos and screenshots for the relevant parts. A great way to ensure evidence is gathered for each part individually.



Top Tip



as a young person completes their Arts Award they may not naturally add evidence in a structure to fit the parts and units. Advisers must try to encourage them to evidence each part separately so it is clear to the adviser and moderator which part and/or unit their evidence reflects. Organising them into sections may help.



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Creativity

We believe that engaging in creative activities is a brilliant way to develop many vital life skills as well as being brilliant for your brain.

We enjoy sharing new creative experiences such as making sculpture, printmaking, textiles, painting, ceramics, 'extreme drawing', mosaic and more in artist lead family workshops.






We offer a Creative Arts Award Programme for those interested in gaining qualifications at the same time as discovering new things about themselves, nurturing self esteem and growing their confidence!

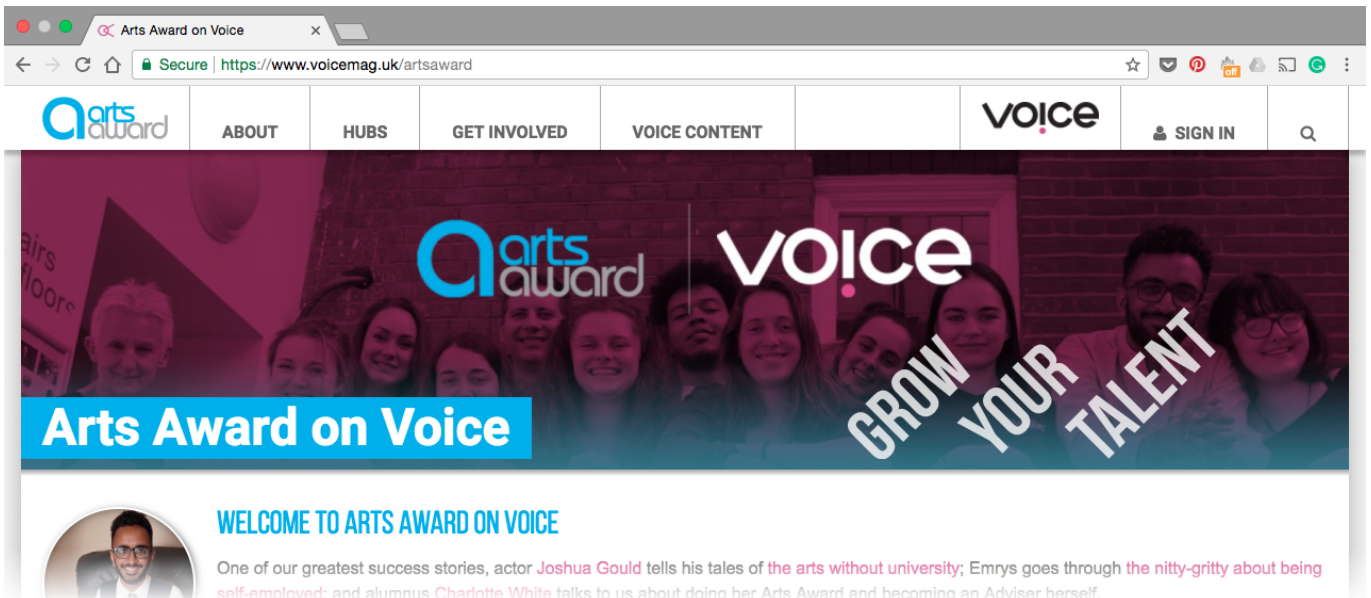
If you are interested or know a young person who might be interested at developing some creative skills and more please get in touch.



Arts Award on Voice

artsawardvoice.com offers online support to young people doing Arts Award. Young people can post reviews and blogs for their portfolios and find links to other digital portfolios

Is it mobile?		Arts Award Voice is part of Voice magazine, (Voicemag.uk) which is a free online platform designed to work on all devices.
Is it accessible?		It's a free public platform aimed at 11yrs+ where the young person opts-in and registers their own profile. They can then post written work, photos, audio or video evidence.
Is it E safe?		Profiles are password-protected. Content is aimed at teens and young twenties so may not be suitable for younger users. Content and comments are monitored by the Voice team with clear house rules for users.
Is it young person friendly?		It is a user-friendly creative space for young people where they become part of the Arts Award Youth Network. Arts Award Voice carries lots of current content by and about Arts Award participants. It will suit young people already familiar with using blogging and sharing platforms. They can post a blog or review & tick the box 'add to portfolio', which will then appear in their own profile and can be used as evidence towards their award.
Is it adviser friendly?		Advisers can publicly view what their young person has uploaded and comment on reviews or blogs, but they do not manage the content or structure. This site offers the ability to evidence parts of Arts Award but isn't designed for the whole Arts Award journey. Advisers will need to ensure other platforms or methods are used as well in order to capture all the evidence requirements for other parts and units.



For further information on digital technology within the arts please see our other resources on the [Resource Library](#)

