



Art and Design Department

Departmental Overview

Art and Design is a compulsory subject for Key Stage 3 (Years 7 - 9). In Year 7, where pupils receive three lessons per fortnight, in Year 8 and 9, they receive four lessons per fortnight. In Key Stage 4, we offer GCSE Art and Design and Art Textiles. In Sixth Form, our department offers two A Level courses: Art and Design and Art Textiles.

Key Stage 3

In Key Stage 3, pupils develop an understanding of the relevance of art, craft and design in the world today and relate their studies to the wide range of careers in the creative industries. Pupils are introduced to a variety of materials, techniques and processes in art and textiles. They develop transferable skills such as exploring their own creative ideas, problem solving and using investigation skills to analyse their work and that of other artists. We provide an environment where pupils can find the creative process enjoyable and rewarding.

Our aim is that pupils will gain a sound knowledge and understanding of the elements including: line, tone, shape, form, colour, patterns and textures. The techniques studied include: drawing and painting in watercolour and acrylic, printmaking such as lino printing and dry point etching, pen and wash, collage, mixed media and textiles. Pupils also have the opportunity to explore digital photography, image manipulation and Internet research skills. All Key Stage 3 classes are taught in mixed ability groups.

Year 7 topics covered:

- Foundation skills: drawing, idea development, painting skills, the colour wheel, the impact of Art on the modern world, observational drawing
- Portraiture
- Abstract Art

Year 8 topics covered:

- Pop Art Pencil Cases
- Surrealist room
- Hockney landscapes

Year 9 topics covered:

- Conflict and Protest Art
- Steampunk masks
- Illustration and graphic design

Homework

Pupils are set homework twice a half term or given an extended project to complete. We use the school's system called 'Show My Homework' to show deadlines and details, as provided in class.

Extra-curricular Opportunities

The Art department offers a variety of Art clubs for Key Stage 3 such as Film and Photography Club, Mindfulness Art and Crochet Club. This is an opportunity for pupils to use the department's resources, equipment and processes based on a topic or get involved with an Art department project. We have supported Community projects such as the Southfields community project, 'Window Wanderland,' since 2020 by producing a large art installation for the front windows of our school.

Key Stage 4

We offer two options at Key Stage 4: the Pearson GCSE Art and Design course and the GCSE Art Textiles for Years 10 and 11. These courses provides pupils with the opportunity to learn how to problem solve and communicate ideas, which employers and universities, both in the creative industries and outside, value greatly.

Pupils learn how to experiment and follow investigations to develop expressive pieces of artwork using their research of artists, the world around them and their opinions and ideas. Pupils develop critical, reflective thinking and problem-solving skills during the course: a large number of careers and universities look for creative thinkers.

Both GCSE Art and Design and GCSE Art Textiles are exciting and varied courses, and pupils work with all kinds of materials to express ideas. Pupils don't have to be an expert in all of them, but they will have the opportunity to explore a variety of materials and techniques. Pupils explore ideas using a variety of processes using digital photo editing, lino printing, monoprinting, drypoint etching, 3D artwork, painting, drawing, stencilling, image transfer, collage, filming and editing, Computer Aided Design; in GCSE Art Textiles these and other processes such as embroidery and applique, transfer inks, batik, fabric dyes, and manipulating fabric.

An 'Externally Set Assignment' constitutes a 10-week investigation which culminates in a final piece.

Both GCSE courses are assessed in the same way:

60% = Personal Portfolio based on three projects

40% = Externally Set Assignment on a theme provided by the exam board.

We hold Key Stage 4 Coursework Workshops every other week. We have a daily open-door policy with regards to helping pupils with their art work. We encourage pupils to visit galleries and exhibitions whenever possible and take pupils on gallery visits. This enables pupils to gain a better understanding of art and artists' work.

Key Stage 5

Year 12 and 13 topics include:

- Develop ideas by exploring artists and the world around you
- Experiment and refine by experimenting with materials, techniques and processes
- Record ideas, observations and insights by drawing, taking photos and annotating work
- Present personal and meaningful responses as final pieces

At Sixth Form, we offer two options, both following a Pearson syllabus:

Art and Design A Level provides students with an excellent grounding in drawing, lino printing, mono printing, etching, painting, dry point etching, photography and related techniques such as cyanotype, screen-printing, mixed media and more.

Art Textiles A Level provides students with the opportunity to explore hand and machine embroidery, various methods of print and surface decoration, fabric manipulation, Computer Aided Design, screen-printing, batik, weaving and more.

For both courses, across Year 12:

During the first two terms students undertake a mini-foundation course so they can explore a variety of techniques and skills. This helps to develop skills and take risks, and enables them to start building an impressive portfolio.

For both courses, across Year 13:

Year 13 students complete their portfolio based on their own choice of theme, using work from Year 12 if relevant. An 'Externally Set Assignment' constitutes a 10-week investigation which culminates in a final piece.

Both A Levels are assessed in the same way:

60% = Personal Portfolio on a theme of your choice

40% = Externally Set Assignment on a theme provided by the exam board.