



Department

The aims of the Art department are to provide a stimulating and engaging environment and curriculum which is broad based and student centred in order to encourage students to be actively involved in their own learning. We aim to inspire our students to be confident to work like Artists and Photographers, embracing challenge and to be open-minded problem solvers. We encourage and facilitate growth of knowledge and understanding of the visual elements within Art and Design and Photography to ensure their effective use and interpretation through visual language. We aim to give students the confidence to express their ideas, find their strengths, embrace creative risk taking when learning through purposeful experimentation and seeing the value of resilience. We aim to engender students' curiosity of contemporary visual art and how it relates to the wider world.

Staff

There are four members of the department, three teaching staff and one technician. With specialisms in areas including Fine Art, Drawing and Illustration, and Textiles. We work closely together as a department to utilise our strengths, whilst supporting and encouraging each other to enjoy the work we do in sharing our passion with our students. The department all work together as a team to plan schemes of work, to ensure good practice is implemented and shared and high standards are maintained. The department is based in two practical Art classrooms and a third room is used in the Textiles department for a small number of KS3 classes. We also benefit from a small room which is used as a Sixth Form work storage room, and a darkroom for analogue photography processes.

KS3

KS3 Art is taught in form groups in Year 7 and Year 8 and in mixed form groups in Year 9. Year 7 and Year 8 have three lessons a fortnight (including one double lesson), and Year 9 have two lessons a fortnight. During these lessons students explore the visual elements and creative process in stimulating and experimental ways.

KS4

Art is popular at GCSE, having two groups in both Year 10 and Year 11. Students are timetabled for six lessons a fortnight in Year 10 (including one double lesson), and five lessons a fortnight in Year 11 (including one double lesson). Students are encouraged to attend the extra lunchtime sessions and weekly after school session to support their studies. We currently follow the AQA specification. The results are consistently amongst the best in the county.

KS5

At A Level we offer both AQA Fine Art and AQA Photography. Fine Art is a consistently popular option, with Photography growing in popularity this year. We currently have 24 students following the A Level Fine Art course across Year 12 and 13, and 16 students following the Photography course across both year groups. All students in KS5 have nine lessons a fortnight and lessons are shared between two teachers. Students also have subject 'Independent Learning' lessons, and general free lessons where they are encouraged to work proactively on their contextual studies, as well as utilising the department classrooms for practical work as much as possible. The results for A Level are consistently excellent. Many students follow Art or Photography degrees or foundation diplomas. We ensure a comprehensive guide to next steps for our students including talks from alumni students, interview advice, portfolio guidance and other in-house resources.

Extracurricular

We are proactive in providing as many opportunities for our students to explore and experience arts culture as possible. As such we provide an exciting programme of trips and in-house activities, clubs and creative days, often in association with our colleagues in the Creative Arts subjects and utilising our dedicated body of Arts prefects. We have previously organised foreign study residential trips to some amazing locations, and have forged many links with outside organisations who have delivered both external workshops and visiting workshops in school.