



## The Art & Design Department

The aims of the Art Department are to provide a stimulating and engaging environment and curriculum that is broad based and student centred in order 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, 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 our students' curiosity of contemporary visual art together with how it relates to the wider world.

## Staff

We work closely together as a staff, utilising our strengths and supporting and encouraging each other in the work we do. There are four members of the department, three teaching staff and a part-time technician. The department work together to plan schemes of work, to ensure good practice is created and shared and high standards are maintained. The department is based in two subject studios, with a third room shared with the Textiles Department for a small number of KS3 classes. We also benefit from three smaller rooms; a smaller workroom that is used as a dark room/stock cupboard and two offices/stock cupboards.

## KS3

KS3 Art is taught in form groups in Y7 and Y8 and in mixed form groups in Y9. Y7 have three lessons a fortnight, Years 8 and 9 have one lesson per week. During these lessons, students explore the visual elements and creative journeys in stimulating and experimental ways.

## KS4

Art is popular at GCSE, having two groups in both Y10 and Y11. Students are timetabled for five lessons a fortnight and are encouraged to attend extra sessions to support their studies. We currently follow the AQA specification. The results are consistently some of the best in the county with 67% grade 9/8 and 100% 9-5 with the average grade 7.9 in 2022.

## KS5

At A Level, we currently offer both Art and Photography. Art in particular is a very popular option; we currently have 37 students following the A Level course across KS5 and eight in Y13 photography. We follow the AQA specification. All students in Y12 and Y13 have nine lessons a fortnight and this is co-taught between two teachers. The results for A Level are consistently excellent; in 2022 we achieved 75% A\* and 25% A in Art and 40% A\*, 40% A and 20% B in Photography. Many students follow art/photography degrees or foundation diplomas. We ensure a comprehensive guide to next steps for our students including a parents' information evening, interview advice and portfolio guidance.

## Extra-curricular

We are proactive in providing many opportunities to our students to explore and experience arts culture. We provide an exciting programme of trips and school based activities, clubs and creative days, often in association with our colleagues in the Drama Department and wider, utilising our dedicated body of Arts prefects. We organise a foreign study visit every year to some amazing locations. We have also forged many links with outside organisations who occasionally come into school to work with our students in the form of workshops and wider projects.