



Department Staffing

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The Art department encourages creativity and provides an environment where students are able to experiment and explore ideas without fear of failure. The department prides itself on providing pupils with a wide range of opportunities in a highly creative environment with staff who are committed to the learning of all.

Department Information

The art department currently consists of four members of staff including a dedicated art technician. Situated on the ground floor, lessons are taught in 3 specialist classrooms. While traditional skills and fine art drawing are taught, the emphasis is firmly on the individual and fostering their artistic and experimental growth. Pupils are encouraged to find their own style and push themselves by trying new and exciting techniques. Experiencing works of art first hand is also an important part of learning; in addition to attending talks by practising artists and visiting museums and galleries in the UK and beyond, pupils compete in national competitions and art and photography awards.

Key Stage 3&4 – Art and Design

At Key Stage 3 and 4, students are taught by using the visual elements of line, tone, colour, shape, form, space, pattern and texture which form all artwork. Pupils follow the department's 'Process of Working' which is the model by which units of work are structured from Years 7 to 13, from observation drawing through to research into artists' work and on to final outcomes. As an integral part of the course, pupils will learn how to use pencil, crayon, paint and print but also other media appropriate to their theme.

The team work closely with students to ensure that each individual's strengths are nurtured and explored. Students have the opportunity to work alongside specialist staff who have detailed knowledge of fine art, sculpture, printmaking, photography, animation, theatre design, and videography and film production. Students develop, experiment and combine these media to create unique and innovative outcomes that are specific to them as individuals.

Currently in Years 10 and 11 we follow the GCSE AQA Art and Design syllabus.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206> This is a very popular option at GCSE and student's achievement is strong. GCSE coursework involves two major projects, as well as small, skills-based workshops. Pupils will also develop their use of a specialist art vocabulary by carrying out research into the work of artists, using this influence to further develop their work. In Year 10 pupils undertake a full day practical workshop; an exciting and inspiring opportunity to work alongside a recognised, practising artist. In January of Year 11 pupils will receive their exam paper and will respond to one of a range of starting points, creating a full unit of work, fully supported by staff, culminating in a 10 hour exam over two days.

Home Learning

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Go For Schools for homework updates and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource. In addition to this, students in KS4 are given regular and student specific feedback in their sketchbooks, with actions to help them to develop their work. The department set homework on a weekly basis all the home learning at KS4 is linked directly to the criteria from the GCSE specification. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. Students are required to comment on the work and set diagnostic targets to reinforce their learning.

Art and Design Key Stage 5

Students considering Art A Level are encouraged to develop a curiosity about the visual world; to explore a wide range of artists, designers, media and techniques, including photographic darkroom techniques and to become independent, creative learners.

Personality and individuality are highly valued and students and staff work closely together to create challenging, exciting and thought-provoking work. Sixth Form Art students are based in the Sprakes' Studio – a self-contained studio space exclusively for our A Level students. Our courses are commended by AQA for being highly structured, yet allowing for individual creative development and personal expression. Yearly visits to the major London galleries allow students to experience artwork first hand.

How you will study on the course

You will need 5A*-C with at least a grade C in GCSE Art and Design.

Art, Craft and Design (AS/A2)

Students are introduced to a variety of experiences exploring both 2-D and 3-D media, processes and techniques. They are encouraged to explore and experiment with a range of traditional and new technologies. Students are required to work in at least two of the following areas of Art and Design:

- ☐ Fine Art
- ☐ Graphic Communication
- ☐ Textile Design
- ☐ Three-Dimensional Design
- ☐ Photography: lens-based and light based media

The course is measured using the following assessment objectives:

- ☐ AO1: Develop their ideas through sustained and focussed investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.
- ☐ AO2: Experiment with and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes reviewing and refining their ideas as their work develops.
- ☐ AO3: Record in visual and/or other forms, ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions, demonstrating an ability to reflect on their work and progress.
- ☐ AO4: Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating critical understanding, realising intentions and, where appropriate, make connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

Home Learning & Independent Study Expectations

All parents are encouraged to support their child by checking Show My Homework and staff within the faculty set homework regularly for students using this resource. The department set homework on a weekly basis all of the home learning at KS5 is linked directly to the criteria from the AS/A Level specification. Students are expected to complete the homework to high standard. Work is assessed by the teacher using feedback and targets for improvement. Students are required to comment on the work and set diagnostic targets to reinforce their learning. Students at KS5 are also need to find time for independent study to complete studio work. They should liaise with their art teacher for appropriate times during the school day and take advantage of lunch time and after school provision.