



Art

Our intent

As a department we aspire to build a high-quality Art & Design education that engages students, reflects the world around us, inspires further learning and challenges abilities, whilst equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art. Students are encouraged to explore materials, techniques and processes giving them the opportunity to express themselves through a visual medium, as well as building analytical and reflective skills. Links are made to historic and contemporary artists, cultures and the wider world we live in, past, present and future. As an inclusive subject we aspire to reflect this as much as possible in our curriculum.



Our 'why'

The importance of art is seen around us everyday, from historical artefacts to the design of apps used on your phone. Art gives students the opportunity to explore design and creativity and how we communicate ideas visually. The purpose of the art curriculum is to give students a well rounded understanding of the visual artists in context to the past and our present world. Being able to communicate thoughts, feelings and ideas through a visual medium gives all students the chance to find their voice. Problem solving and reflective practice is a large part of Art and this encourages all students to develop their visual, oral and literacy skills as ways of expressing themselves through images, colour and use of materials.

We hope all students leave their formal art education with a broader understanding of the world we live in, how others have presented history and that art is for everyone and is accessible to all.

Our 'how'

In years, 7 and 8 KS3 art starts with developing and improving observational drawing skills. Drawing underpins all areas of art; whether you are a painter, sculptor, printmaker or a student, sketching and drawing is often, if not always, a starting point, and drawing enables you to develop creativity, knowledge and visual skills, fine motor skills, expression of feelings and emotions. The purpose of drawing can vary, from exploring composition, capturing an initial idea or a feeling and it allows students to develop their observational skills and how they can represent the world around them.

Students will explore and develop skills using a range of materials such as paint, oil pastels, chalk pastels, 3D materials and mixed media. For each unit, students explore and investigate historic or contemporary artists that link to the themes studied; this broadens their awareness of the contemporary world they live in, cultures and art movements. Students are encouraged to look, see meaning, and develop understanding of context and connotation, through discussions, written and visual work.

Experimentation and development of creativity are actively encouraged; students are taught different ways to use materials to create different outcomes and explore different processes. Experimentation leads to pieces that relate to the artists studied. KS4 students cover a foundation of skills using all mediums, materials and mark making. This unit builds on and improves observational skills, experimentation and contextual analysis that were developed and acquired at KS3. The contextual sources link to the main theme of Abstract Portraits & Identity in order to develop key drawing skills and techniques. Students' knowledge of artists and formal analysis is structured and taught in order to develop students' understanding of analysis. Presentation of sketchbooks is taught and structured in order to ensure students understand and apply rules of composition and maintain high standards of presentation, and to give them space to express themselves and reflect their interests and personality.