



## Art Department

The Art department occupies a suite of 3 specifically designed studios. All are equipped with substantial skylights, which produce pleasing top light for observational studies. Each studio also has state of the art Smartboards linked to desktop computers equipped with Photoshop and editing packages. The department also has a fully equipped darkroom and kiln.

There is an ever-expanding exhibition area with an up to date display system on the first floor of the school. At present, there are three Art teachers (1 full time and 2 part time) and a part-time technician.



Art  
Department

Art is a thriving and successful department:-

- Achievement is outstanding at all key stages.
- Key Stage 3 results are very strong, with very talented artists.
- Leadership and Quality of Education in Art are outstanding.
- An ambitious, creative and challenging curriculum is in place.

The Art Department offers a vibrant programme of activities outside of lessons. We offer regular art clubs. Our students benefit from trips to the local galleries, research trips to the galleries in London and Edinburgh, workshops with visiting artists including life drawing, a visiting reptile company and workshops with our local universities.

The students' fantastic artwork is celebrated regularly around school and we host a larger annual summer exhibition. Our students participate in the Heaton Festival and other whole school events, by planning and running successful art stalls.

### **Setting Arrangements**

There are currently three Year 10 GCSE classes, two Year 11 GCSE classes and one AS level group and one A2 group of 8 students. All Art students, from Key Stages 3-5 are taught in mixed-ability groups using guided self-discovery methods. Comprehensive schemes of work and resources for all themes covered provide structured learning and regular assessment.

### **KS3**

At Key Stage 3, students are encouraged to research and explore themes, experiment with ideas and materials, and create sketchbook work and larger final pieces using various materials and techniques. KS3 students all study observational drawing through a range of different materials and techniques. They are introduced to a range of artists and learn how to respond to the work of others through their written, verbal and visual sketchbook work. Students have the opportunity to work with a diverse range of 2D and 3D materials, including printmaking techniques, ceramics and mixed media work. We offer a range of projects to ensure our students have opportunities to explore a range of styles and disciplines and to ensure students can develop their skills and knowledge across the key stage.

### **KS4**

Key Stage 4 students are all engaged in the AQA GCSE Art and Design syllabus. Students create fantastic personalised practical work in sketchbooks, boards and a range of high-quality outcomes. At KS4 students are encouraged to take ownership of their project themes, therefore students are supported by their teachers to explore artists suitable to their interests. Our current KS4 themes are Northern Lands, Environment and Strange and Fantastic. Key Stage 4 students receive five 1 hour lessons per two-week cycle.

### **KS5**

Key Stage 5 students follow the AQA syllabus for A-level Fine Art or A-level Photography. Our KS5 students make excellent use of our extra Sixth form study space and have access to our darkroom facilities.

Within the school, Art is a well-established and successful department with excellent results. Recent highlights include:-

### **GCSE**

- Art GCSE averaging over 90% Grade 4+ across the last 4 examined years.
- 71% of Art GCSE grades were 5+ in 2023, with 31% Grade 7+.

### **A Level**

- 75% of A Level Art & Design entries in 2023 were graded at A\*-B
- 100% A\*-C rate in A Level Art & Design over the last 4 years