

# TORQUAY GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## The Art Department



The Art, Craft and Design Department comprises two semi 'open plan' rooms in the Haystacks building. Both studios are large spaces, each equipped with several sinks and both have Interactive White Boards. There are two additional 'off-shoot' spaces that KS4 and KS5 students may use beyond lessons to pursue their work should they wish. There is ample storage for materials in a separate room and an extensive library of Art books available. Displays of students' work are vibrant and varied and form a crucial aspect of the atmosphere and ethos of the department.

At Key Stage 3 Art, Craft and Design is taught to all students throughout the whole of each academic year. The subject becomes an option at KS4 and beyond but is both a popular choice and extremely highly achieving in a whole school and national context. The scheme of learning is designed to allow the acquisition and progression of basic skills in Year 7, through to greater independence and creativity in preparation for GCSE Art, Craft and Design by Year 9.

As Art Educators, we are firm and resolute in our belief that Art, Craft and Design is not merely for the 'gifted' minority who are seen to have a natural flair for the subject – rather, through demonstration, practise and positive encouragement from staff, it is a subject that is accessible to all. As well as the acquisition of practical skills, each project at all Key Stages is rooted in a particular idiom of Art History so work can be seen in a historic or cultural context.

The Key Stage 3 Curriculum is currently organised chronologically as follows:

**Year 7** topics cover Prehistoric Cave-Art, Egyptian Art, Classical Greek/Roman Art and Islamic Art.

In **Year 8**, students' topics cover Renaissance Portraiture, a project resulting out of a planned visit to a local museum (RAMM) that introduces the concept of primary, on-site sketchbook research/photography and sketching which culminates in a 3D final piece using clay and a combined Photography/Drawing/Painting project based on the theme of 'The Colours of Devon'.

In **Year 9** students undertake a visit to the National Marine Aquarium (NMA) in Plymouth to ultimately produce a printmaking final piece with primary sketchbook research as above and a GCSE 'taster' project based on previous GCSE set themes. As there are only two set projects in year 9, the entire emphasis is to encourage greater depth of response and the encouragement and promotion of independent research skills as preparation for potential GCSE study.

GCSE, A/S and A Level are taught using the OCR specification of Fine Art. Students at GCSE undertake a visit to Tate St Ives as the primary underpinning contextualisation of their portfolio submission. In **Year 12** students have the opportunity of an overnight visit to London, dependent upon numbers and cost. Students are able to nominate their own theme through personal research and discussion with department staff. **Year 13** proceeds in much the same manner through greater depth and independence of research.

Examination results in 2022 were as follows:-

GCSE: 94% 9-7 grades.

A Level: 67% A\*-A grades with 100% being at A-B\*.