



Soham Village College

Department of Art, Craft and Design

Staff

The Art and Design department currently consists of a curriculum subject leader, a further two teachers and a technician who supports members of the department.

The team consists of ambitious reflective practitioners, who value fair education for all, provide opportunities for cross-curricular learning and encourage individual exploration and expression as well as self-directed learning, all in order to help produce engaged and articulate young people. The Art and Design staff are highly respected across the school, by students, parents and school leadership due to the quality of work and the academic outcomes achieved by students.

Faculty Curriculum Intent

1. To produce students who can skilfully use basic visual language (based upon the formal elements) to express emotions, interpret observations, convey insights and accentuate their individuality.
2. To use visual and tactile communication fluently. Students should be able to draw confidently and adventurously from observation, memory and imagination.
3. To draw and communicate perceptively and confidently in 2D, 3D and digital processes.
4. To enable students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding and make independent informed choices about other artists, craft-workers and designers from different cultural and historical contexts; to think and act like practitioners by using their knowledge and understanding to inform, inspire and interpret ideas.
5. To enable students to demonstrate independence, initiative and originality to develop their creativity, understanding the value of experimenting and working beyond their comfort zone in order to discover and develop creativity.
6. To enable students to use and select materials processes and techniques appropriate to their age, space and health with confidence; to ensure safety implications relevant to intentions and capitalise on the unexpected (happy accident).
7. To enable students to reflect on, analyse and critically evaluate their own work and that of other students and creative practitioners to instigate, pursue and develop work that is uniquely meaningful to them.
8. To promote active participation in lessons, and commitment to optional activities in and out of school.
9. To ensure that students are productive, sustain interest, develop resilience (when things go wrong) and understand that the creative practice is often challenging, purposeful and collaborative.
10. To promote engagement with contemporary art, craft and design from first hand and work with creative individuals and in creative environments where possible. Work independently or collaboratively, taking different roles in teams and respond to the school's locations and local cultural influences.

Facilities

The department enjoys accommodation and facilities in a six-year old dedicated building on a beautiful site. There are three large studios, all with interactive whiteboards, staff visualisers and student computers. There is a dedicated preparation and kiln room, as well as storage for resources. The department also has a dark room for photography, which has recently been equipped and is ready for use. There is also a 32-computer suite in the building. The department enjoys up to date ICT facilities including student computers in each studio, scanners and printers. The department has also purchased a rolling printing press to enhance its existing printmaking facilities and DSLR cameras for each studio.

Partnerships

The college is an ArtsMark Gold School, currently working towards ArtsMark Platinum and enjoys an established enrichment partnership with the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, The Babylon Gallery, Ely and Norfolk and Norwich Festival Bridge and other cultural organisations. The department has recently made links with a range of professions from the creative industries and has drawn upon their expertise to support our students through a range of workshops, courses and specific creative career events.

Present Course Structure

Lower School (Key Stage 3, Years 7- 9)

- In Years 7, 8 and 9 students study art and design for two hours per fortnight.
- In Year 7 there is broad setting for all subjects while art classes in Years 8 and 9 are of mixed ability with an average group size of 27.
- During their first three years at the school, each student will have experience of working in both two and three dimensions; experience a range of contextual references, materials and techniques.

The aim is to prepare students for expectations at GCSE level while still building their background knowledge of art and design contexts, learning new processes and techniques and developing practical skills. They will develop a greater independent interest in a wider range of cultural and historical contexts from both western and non-western art and be given the choice to select influences most relevant to them. They will work far more independently throughout the key stage in developing their own interests and ideas for their own outcomes. The scheme of work largely follows the structure of the Edexcel GCSE assessment criteria.

All projects are also designed to develop students' awareness of historical and cultural contexts, improve skills, broaden their subject specific vocabulary and ability to discuss their own and others' artwork and develop a culture of constant reviewing, and improving of their work.

Upper School (Key Stage 4, Years 10 & 11)

Art and Design at GCSE is incredibly popular due to the engaging curriculum design for GCSE and the excellent reputation we have for student outcomes.

- GCSE is taught in mixed ability groups.
- Three Edexcel GCSE Art specifications are delivered. These are Fine Art; Art, Craft and Design and Graphic Communication.
- Curriculum time is generous. KS4 Art is timetabled at six hours during a ten-day cycle.
- In 2020-21 there are 4 GCSE classes in Year 10 and 4 in Year 11.
- Results are always significantly above the national average and regularly in the top 4% of the country as measured by FFT.