



ART DEPARTMENT

The Staff

The Art and Design Department are a team of seven enthusiastic and committed teachers coming from Fine Art, Graphic Design, Theatre Design, Media and Textiles backgrounds. The department is supported by a part-time art technician. Art and Design is a popular subject at both GCSE and A-Level and is valued by pupils, parents and the staff of the school. The department has consistently produced excellent examination results at all levels. All teachers teach across the age and ability range, supported through both internal and external development opportunities such as standardisation training.

Accommodation

Since moving into our new school site in 2021, the department teaches in six large dedicated art rooms, including our designated sixth form space for A-Level students allowing our students to undertake large independent artworks. As a department we are fortunate to have a Kiln room, printing facilities, printmaking equipment including a press, computers with the Adobe suite and a designated darkroom for Photography courses. We have two large walk-in store's that house our materials, examples and 3D resources as well as a designated art office that can be used by the department.

Resources

As a department we are well supported through an archive of past examples. We actively encourage the sharing of resources within the department with use of physical and digital examples. All pupils and staff have their own Chromebook further supporting the sharing of resources and implementation of digital work across the curriculum. The department has an extensive range of books that can be used by staff and students and this is further supported by the schools Library.

Extra Curricular

The department encourages visits to galleries and art exhibitions. There is lively involvement and support in the production of drama and plays. The work of pupils is displayed throughout the school as well as in the Art rooms. Exhibitions of pupil's works are on display in the summer term and for prospective pupils in October. These are enthusiastically reviewed by parents and pupils alike. There is a weekly Art club for Key Stage 3 pupils that is always oversubscribed, with pupils eager to hone their skills and enjoy being creative.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in live briefs to expand their understanding of Art and Design. At KS3 we have worked with the local council to create work to be exhibited in local green spaces. In the last few years our A-Level students have also been successful in completing the Royal Opera House Design Challenge.

There has been the successful introduction of the Bronze Arts Award within the department. This opportunity has been popular with pupils and this is something that has the possibility of expanding next year alongside the introduction of the UAL EPQ award.

Additionally, there is a high take up of exam pupils attending after school sessions, creating a lively and positive atmosphere in the department. Successful trips over recent years to Berlin, Venice and Barcelona have taken place. Weekend trips to The Conway Centre, Anglesey and The Curwen Print Centre have been particularly popular with our students allowing students to complete an independent project working with nationally recognised subject specialists and practising artists.

Curriculum Provision

Art and Design is taught at KS3 to whole class groups of approximately 29 for 3, one hour lessons a fortnight. All classes present a wide ability range in this subject area, but it is fair to say that all pupils are enthusiastic and motivated. The majority of pupils achieve beyond their expectations at this level.

Fine Art, Graphic Design and Photography are offered at GCSE. Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups of approximately 20 / 24 pupils for 5 hours a fortnight. This creates a breadth of experience for a wide ability range of students. Approximately two thirds of the year group (110 pupils) opt for art courses. A scheme of work provides guidelines for learning and building concepts and skills. Pupils are encouraged to devise their own programme of investigation and exploration on the basis of clear directions from the teacher. This creates independence and confidence in the expression of their ideas. In the past years Art pupils have achieved outstanding results with 95.9% achieving 4 and above with 33% achieving grades 8 & 9.

On average 20 pupils are entered for A-Level each year. Pupils at A-Level develop specialisms in Art, Craft and Design, Photography and Graphics. Pupils are taught in mixed subject groups of approximately 12, for 9 hours a fortnight. An initial broad based programme incorporating the use of media acts as a foundation to specialising in particular fields. After the popular introduction of Photography twelve years ago, this course has flourished. The course sees pupils employing mainly digital processes but also offering pupils the opportunity to explore traditional darkroom techniques and installation based work. A-level results have been exceptional in the past years with over 50% of students attaining A*- B grades.

The Art Department offers excellent opportunities for career development. We aim to offer support to colleagues in building their careers as art educators through CPD, sharing of ideas and continued reflection.

Previous members of the department have left to take up posts of responsibility in other schools or move onto roles within middle and senior management here at The Broxbourne School.

Letter of Application

In their letter of application, which should not exceed two sides of A4, applicants should describe their approach to the teaching of Art.

