

Welcome to the Creative Arts Department

Department Team

Alistair Jennings	Head of Creative (Music specialist)
Colette Deevey-Hare	Teacher of Art (p/t)
Dave Allies-Curtis	Teacher of Photography & Art
Sarah Smith	Teacher of Drama (p/t)
Zoe Young	Teacher of Music & Drama (p/t)
Caroline Straw	Teacher of Photography & Art (p/t)

Peripatetic Team – we also welcome a number of music tutors to support our excellent music provision and these personalised lessons are very popular with our students.

Our Ethos

We are a positive team with a strong sense of loyalty and commitment to our students. The relationships that we build with our classes and students are a contributing factor to the excellent results that our department achieves. Although everyone works hard to ensure the department continues to drive forward; there is always time for a chat and humour is never lost. Department members are very supportive of one another and this is an area that we pride ourselves on. New members joining the team would find a welcoming and nurturing environment and would feel supported by everybody.

Accommodation and Department

The Creative Arts Department is generously accommodated in several key areas of the school. Drama has it's own studio on the ground floor. On the upper floor there are two spacious Art rooms and a Music room, equipped with a good range of musical instruments. The Music and Art rooms benefit greatly from the computer suite which adjoins their classrooms. This is essential for our photography and music courses. There are also a number of other rooms to support students' learning including a photography studio, dark room, tech box (Drama) and a number of music practice rooms. IT is a key feature of teaching across the faculty and this is supported through the large numbers of IT rooms available during lessons.

Teaching & Learning in the Creative Arts Department

- All teaching is underpinned by the foundations of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding. Staff ensure these key areas are identified within the lesson objectives and success criteria.
- Differentiation is key to ensuring lessons meet the needs of different groups of pupils. Staff are aware of the needs of individuals and ensure lessons are pitched at the appropriate level for all.
- As well as subject specific skills, students are taught a range of transferable skills including Literacy and Numeracy.
- Progress is paramount to student success and all staff employ different strategies to help students make progress and challenge those who aren't.
- There is a real focus on developing independent learning
- AFL is an integral part of teaching within the Department and staff readily include peer and self assessment as a way of providing high quality feedback to students.
- We have high expectations of behaviour in all lessons and we employ a range of effective strategies and procedures to ensure behaviour does not impact on students' learning.
- We strongly believe in working as a team and helping each other to develop.
- Staff are committed to their own professional development and regularly seek opportunities to observe and share good practice.

Curriculum information:**KEY STAGE 3:**

Students in year 7, 8 and 9 are timetabled on a carousel system which enables them to rotate around a cycle of different specialisms within the creative curriculum. Students follow our bespoke 'mastery curriculum' and are given opportunities to explore a broad range of practical skills through completing units in art, drama, and music.

KEY STAGE 4

Students in year 10 and 11 are provided with a wealth of choices to pursue within the Department. In September 2020 the following subjects are running: GCSE Fine Art, GCSE Drama, GCSE Music, GCSE Photography.

KEY STAGE 5

A healthy number of students choose to remain with Abbeyfield School in the Sixth Form, many of which opt for courses within the Creative Department. In September 2020 the following courses are running: A-Level Art and Design - Fine Art; A-Level Art & Design – Photography; BTEC L3 Performing Arts and A-Level Music.

Enrichment.

Our Department is a vibrant and dynamic area of the school. We recognise the importance and benefits of extending students' learning beyond the classroom. Examples include a Drama production, a Carol Concert, a Summer Concert an Art exhibition and a number of trips. Students show exceptional pride in seeing their work publicly displayed and develop confidence in taking part in practical events. There are also a range of extra-curricular activities on offer throughout the week for all year groups.