

## **Art Curriculum Statement 2022-23**

### **Curriculum Intent Statement**

The aim of the Art & Design curriculum is to provide the very best opportunities for our students to develop their creative independence, confidence and aesthetic understanding. Our KS3, GCSE and A Level courses are structured so that all students can participate in practical activities and theoretical learning; the more demanding the level, the greater the depth of investigation with a wonderful breadth, and quality of visual results. Our students gain insight into contemporary and traditional techniques, with new-media technologies playing a major part at GCSE and A Level in both Art and Photography.

Due to the expertise of the staff within the department, our students are provided with great insight into the many disciplines under the umbrella term of Art & Design – our A-Level students have gone one to further education to study subjects ranging from Textiles at Goldsmiths to Animation in Nottingham and one student recently going on to do Theatre Production in Birmingham which has allowed her to now work for Harman Animations and Disney. With the range of progression opportunities available, we consistently see of alumni achieving employment within the creative industries – which we must acknowledge has kept us entertained throughout the lock-down periods of the last year.

In each Key Stage, we study a variety of artists and cultures; we investigate topical issues and relate our investigations to suit. Our topics vary and include investigations of both contemporary, and traditional creative genres. We instill a sense of responsibility with regards to global issues (projects on endangered animals/global warming) and more local issues (poverty/homelessness/urbanisation). We believe our children must empower themselves with knowledge and not naivety. Our curriculum has been chosen to ensure pupils are knowledgeable about the myriad of employment possibilities within the creative industries – especially with the global phenomenon of New Media Technologies.

As pupils progress through Cowley, their skills set increases, as does their recognition of creative work by other individuals, movements and cultures; most importantly is how they interconnect and how the influence throughout art history is relatively unbroken. We have created a curriculum to inspire pupils to be curious, with a fascination for how to interpret the written and spoken word into the world of imagery. Both teaching students that their imagination is a wonderful, unique tool that gives vision to their thoughts, and that the power of observation is the perfect tool for investigation, be that forensic or informal.

### **Curriculum Implementation Statement**

All pupils are taught the same curriculum, though it is differentiated. Initial Key Stage 3 projects are skill learning/fact-based projects – each encompassing a diluted version of the four assessment objectives found in KS4 and 5; all key stage 3 projects are designed to prepare pupils for GCSE. At GCSE and A-Level we follow the AQA specification. These skills are revisited in contextual situations, with references made directly to artists/craftspeople and designers who produce work using those techniques and processes.

Homework is set once per half term for Key Stage 3 pupils, and once a week for all GCSE and A-Level pupils. A range of activities are set to support classwork, help pupils make progress and encourage independent study; GCSE and A-Level students are provided with a comprehensive list of homework to choose from; the continuation of independent portfolio work is imperative as this develops the individual style for each student.

**Curriculum Beyond the Classroom**

Gallery visits are an integral part of the Art education, particularly for our KS4 & 5 student; we aim to provide at least one gallery visit per year, with a residential educational visit organised for KS5 each year – emphasis for this is the creative industries and how to be employed within the Arts.

We pride ourselves on having very strong cross-curricula links with other subjects around the school – this year sees a collaboration with Science for a homework based on the Periodic Table – which is officially 100 years old this year!

**Subject Expertise**

The Art department comprises two specialist teachers each with their own expertise and interests. Both are practicing artists and are enthusiastic and committed to keeping up to date with current events, development strategies for AQA and trends within the visual arts – both locally and nationally.

The department is a member of SCART (St Helens Schools and Colleges of Art). The Head of Department participates in local network meetings to share good practice with the departments of other schools within St Helens Borough; comparing work, discussing progress and formulating co-operative projects for KS3 & 4. We also have monthly meetings with the Arts Coordinator for the St Helens Borough. Also, the HOD is an external examiner for AQA and the experience of visiting other centers, has, for the last 10 years, allowed Cowley to be at the forefront of fabulous new ideas and improved ways of working.