

Art and Design

At Key Stage 3, the primary aim is to teach students the essential skills to a high standard: drawing, the use of different 2D and 3D materials and design. Students are introduced to a clear methodical approach to working, dividing the creative process into four main areas – drawing, research, analysis, and design. They are encouraged to be imaginative and original and to respond individually and creatively at all times to thematic starting points.

Students are introduced to different periods of art and visual culture through class discussions and homework, all of which are integral to the work in progress. Students are encouraged to develop their use of art vocabulary in order to extend their analysis and make personal responses through individual research and planning.

The current GCSE course emphasises the creative process and experimentation. Students respond to different themes, developing and refining their ideas, informed by contextual sources. Historical and cultural studies are an integral part of the working process. At the start of the GCSE course students enjoy a residential trip, currently to Cornwall, visiting galleries and art studios and working with artists and art educators. Assessed coursework is completed over two years during which students record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions by exploring drawing, painting, sculpture, mixed media, printmaking, textiles and ceramics. The GCSE course culminates in a celebratory exhibition of all the students' work.

Master Classes for students at all key stages enrich and extend learning and further develop students' thinking skills and creative responses. Students in Key Stage 3 are welcome to use the open studios at lunchtimes and those in Key Stages 4 and 5 have further enrichment opportunities.