

St Joseph's College

Art Department

Introduction

The fundamental aim of the art department is to enable students to develop an enquiring mind and the technical skills to express themselves confidently and creatively; with feelings and imagination. By providing a broad range of exceptional quality teaching and learning experiences that are delivered with the best resources we can provide; we seek to raise student aspirations, confidence, self-belief and achievement. Our aim is to lead in good practice and to provide a rich and diverse range of artistic opportunities that are shared and celebrated both across the curriculum, in our school community and beyond.

We believe that study of the practices, techniques, ideas and work of artists, photographers and designers will open an exciting world for all participants that enable them to express themselves in a skilled, unique and personal way. Our philosophy encourages students to become independent and resilient learners who develop their own original and thought provoking artwork.

The department offers a number of extra curricular activities, including KS3 art club at lunchtime and a KS4/5 art club after school. The department contributes to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural life of the school through numerous cross curricular activities including designing the carol service programme cover, a carol service art project, T shirt designs for the Edmund Rice camp, props for the carol service and the talent show. Students also have the opportunity to work with visiting artists and to join trips to local museums and galleries. The end of year art show is very well attended. The work of all key stages is on view. Parents, students, teachers and other visitors have the opportunity to enjoy and value the work the department does.

Curriculum

The department prides itself on developing students' skills with a wide range of materials and techniques including drawing, painting, textile work, ceramics, sculpture, photography, installation and mixed media work. Themes are varied and include still life work, both from the natural world and manufactured objects, work from the figure and from the environment including architecture and the landscape.

Other artists' work is an extremely important element influencing the department (including work from a wide range of cultures and traditions). We offer a wide ranging OCR fine art course at GCSE and A level. The department has a room created for sixth form use only and the PTFA donated funds to buy a printing press. The department prides itself on the celebration of students' achievements. Quality displays of students work are an integral part of all that we do.

Assessment

The art department strives to use marking as a tool to encourage and develop resilient and independent learners across the three key stages. We want students to be willing to take risks and to see mistakes as part of the creative process.

KS3 - Although most marking will be done in students' workbooks some work that involves collecting, selecting and researching may not be marked. This work often goes towards or makes up part of a final piece of art that will be marked at a later date. Key final pieces and whole projects are given a percentage and used as assessment point data

KS4/5 – Students work is marked using a record of achievement booklet using the CAR system. Key final pieces and whole projects are graded and used to inform assessment point data and to drive progress.

Home Learning

Home learning is seen as an integral part of all that we do. Students' independent research/study is thorough and contributes greatly to the personal and imaginative project work created in the department. Students are encouraged to build individual sketchbooks, exploring photography, drawing, resource collecting and visits to local galleries etc.

Students receive their exam paper during the first week of January in year 11. They prepare for their exam during January, February and March. Students then make a final piece in a 10 hour exam which is held over several sessions during April.

KS5 Course Details

We follow the OCR A level art and design (fine art) course