

## **The Art Curriculum**

In the art department we are keen to build on students' skills by teaching them a large range of techniques so they can select from and refine these techniques for different creative situations. We help the students to develop the use of visual language by seeing, understanding, questioning and practising. We do this through taught practical lessons, researching and seeing artists work first hand where possible. In lessons we build on oracy, helping the students to talk confidently about their work and the work of their peers. Critical and contextual studies underpin all of the student's work, we encourage and teach students to look at a wide range of practitioners from the old masters to the current day artists as well as crafts people and designers. Students learn about political, historical and social issues through the work of other artists, making connections across the school curriculum. Drawing and recording is the back bone of art. We help students to understand how they can build their confidence, this maybe by using a sewing machine to stitch a line, making a line in the landscape or using a pencil on paper; we explore drawing in its broadest terms. In all year groups we encourage students to keep a sketchbook, this book documents their creative journey and reflects on their successes and their failures to gain a deeper personal understanding of their work. In the department we understand that failure is essential as it promotes learning and resilience.

We encourage students who have a lower level of confidence or skill to visualise their ideas in a variety of ways, emphasising that concept and thought can be as powerful as the making. Students with additional educational needs are shown how to progress in sequential steps through demonstrations and examples and where necessary they are given frameworks in which to scaffold their own ideas. In some cases, tasks are altered to enable students to still work with independence. More skilled art students are encouraged to come away from targets and work lists and make their own independent plan with the support of their teacher. Students are encouraged to be ambitious with scale and media.

We have written and made small coursework booklets for Year 9, GCSE and A Level which help students to understand their course, it gives suggestions and top tips in how to analyse and research the work of other artists and make personal connections. The booklets also offer other helpful advice such as good websites, key words and expectations. In addition we have also written a GCSE exam booklet to steer our Yr11 students through the process of selecting an exam question, responding to it and how to prepare for and manage the 10 hour art exam.

To celebrate student's work we display it in the department and around school, we hold an annual Yr13 exhibition and invite the community to see the work. We have regular exhibitions in our exhibition room and students work is displayed throughout the art department and the work is frequently refreshed. We also display students work in our classrooms and during lesson time to show students what is going well. Students' work has also been submitted to competitions and exhibitions locally and in London. We have had students' work displayed in the Arnolfini in Bristol, the Royal Academy and the Saatchi gallery as well as the Dorset county hospital.

For Year 9, 10 and 12 we develop skills in the three main areas of painting, printmaking and sculpture. Students build on their previous years practical skills as well and developing their art vocabulary. In these year groups, lessons are led by the teaching of practical skills with smaller projects of independence to enable the student to demonstrate their understanding and their personal interest.

### **KS3**

Each teacher in the department writes their own scheme of work covering the three main areas of painting, printmaking and sculpture. Students also have a final independent project where the students make a piece of work in response to a given starting point.

During the year the students may be set a small mini project which offers the opportunity of being independent and allows the students freedom of choice with subject or media depending on the project brief. Students are given frequent verbal and highlighted targets which can be found at the back of their sketchbooks or on Teams. We link closely with the feeder schools to share good practice, knowledge of the student's abilities and assessment. In the summer months we offer a whole day workshop with gifted and talented Yr8 students from the three middle schools. These workshops have been run by a visiting artist or by the Head of department at Hardy's. The workshops have been sponsored by the Dorset Arts Society.

### **KS4**

Each art teacher writes their own scheme of work covering the three main areas of painting, printmaking and sculpture plus more. Homework is set to enrich their coursework projects and promote higher learning. Students are given a homework task every two weeks where appropriate, sometimes the homework task is to complete classroom work. Students' projects are marked formally twice a year with highlighted and personal targets given. Homework is marked with highlighted targets. Students are also offered the opportunity to attend optional taught workshops after school such as The Big Paint, The Little Paint, mono printing and others.

### **KS5**

In Yr12 students are taught by several art teachers but each student is given an art mentor for coaching and assessment. In Yr12 students are taught colour theory, critical analysis, acrylic and oil painting. Within printmaking they are taught how to make a card collagraph and reduction lino printmaking. In sculpture they are taught construction, plaster carving and Object Trove. In the spring term students are given a short independent project where they demonstrate their learning. We also offer a series of quick workshops where we teach students how to make a sketchbook, mono printing and other skills, it is a very busy year of teaching skills.

We regularly have "show and Tell" sessions in lessons where verbal feedback is given by teachers and the peer group.

In Year 13 students plan their own personal project which is 60% of their total mark. At this point students choose which mediums they would like to develop and the art teachers support their learning with personal and individual targets. Each student is given an exam paper from the exam board AQA. Students choose one question and respond to it over the next weeks until the final 15-hour art exam. The art exam is set in a specialist art room and their art teachers invigilate the exam. When the art exam concludes the A Level has finished. The projects are very structured at first with set tasks and homework, as the students work grows so they set their own targets with the guidance of their mentors. Again, students work is assessed with formal feedback and in group critique where students set out their work in our exhibition room and talk their peer group through their findings.

### **Enrichment**

In sixth form we make regular visits to galleries and museums to enable students to see first-hand art work and respond to it, these trips fuel inspiration for the student's own work as well as further

their critical and contextual knowledge. We offer students support when constructing a portfolio for interviews for diplomas and degree courses. Sixth form students have an additional sixth form art room they can work in during their study periods.

For all year groups we offer a Wednesday art club. During the year we will offer further workshops at art clubs and students can choose which ones to attend. Art club is very well attended.

We are a well-resourced department. We have a specialist print room and a newly refurbished exhibition room. We have a shop which enables students to buy art materials including the everyday drawing equipment to the more specialist materials such as canvas, lino, dry point plastic etc. We have a small library of books and we have regularly benefited from the support of the Dorset Arts Society with lectures, workshops with artists and equipment. As a result of the pandemic we have started to make and edit our own films which show students how to do certain things such as print a dry point plate or how to make a flip book. These films resources are on the school's media server and have been a big hit with the students as they can use them in our lessons in school and the students can use them independently at home. We make more films each year as the bigger our library grows so the diversity of skills widens, it also helps teachers share good practice.

We make the department a welcoming creative, safe space where creative students can feel comfortable to work in both lesson time and their own study time. In turn students working in the department create a creative energy which is positive and engaging to both other learners and teachers. We encourage all of our students to have high aspirations regardless of their social, economic, gender, race or personal circumstance. We teach our students respect for one another and show them through art respect of other cultures and opinions held by others. We encourage the students to respond to wider research, ideas of others and to reflect this in their art work. We build resilience through promoting failure, experimentation and reflection. Our class critique sessions are an important part of our learning. Our hope is that our students who wish to explore their creative skill further will secure places for Foundation or University and we have helped them to develop the skills needed to meet the challenges they will face.