

Creatives Learning Area Information

The Art, Technology, Drama and Music departments are part of a well-resourced learning area, with specialist subject teachers across all subject areas. The learning area is staffed by 4 specialist technology teachers covering Food, Textiles, Product and Graphics, 3 Art teachers who teach painting, printing, three-dimensional studies and photography, 2 Drama teachers and 2 Music teachers. We have 2 technicians who work to support student learning in Technology and Art areas; they are responsible for maintaining and preparing equipment and materials, and also for giving additional support to students with their practical work. The technicians also work with Drama and Music to help with school productions.

The Art Department has three multipurpose teaching studios that are set up to facilitate the learning of two and three-dimensional studies. There are Apple Macs in all studios allowing students to learn photoshop skills and produce digital imagery. We have a large, well equipped darkroom for students to learn how to process and develop black and white photographs.

At Key Stage 3 students are taught in mixed ability classes and they follow a curriculum that is based on working from direct experience. Painting, printing and three-dimensional skills are taught each year to ensure that student skills in these areas grow. Drawing and studying the work of other artists is integral to all projects.

GCSE in Fine Art and in Photography are popular option choices for our students with a number of classes in both subjects in Years 10 and 11. Fine Art, Fine Art Textiles and Photography at A level are also popular and we run courses in both subjects every year. We currently follow AQA specifications for all of these courses.

The Technology Department has a specialist Product Design workshop with a laser cutter and three-dimensional printer, a well-resourced Textiles room, a dedicated Graphics room and a Food Preparation and Nutrition room. In addition to teaching staff who are specialists in their respective areas we have two technicians who work with the students particularly in Food Preparation and Nutrition and Product Design sharing their vast knowledge and expertise.

At Key Stage 3 students work in classes of approximately 20 and they experience work in Food Preparation and Nutrition, Graphics, Product Design and Textiles each year. The learning is very practical and the aim is to build on skills each year so that students are aware of sustainability, modern materials and technologies as well as becoming confident with a range of practical life skills.

At KS4, we offer AQA; GCSE Design Technology but students opt to specialise in Textiles or Product Design. We currently have examination classes in Year 10 and Year 11 for Textiles and Product Design. We also offer OCR; Food Preparation and Nutrition and with two classes in each year. We currently have sixth-form students studying AQA Art; Textiles and AQA Product Design to A Level.

There are a number of extra-curricular activities on offer to the students:

- KS3 Art club
- KS4 GCSE Art club
- Visits to the Tate Modern, Saatchi gallery, National Portrait Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum
- KS3 technology and STEM clubs who have entered Flying Start and Design Ventura
- KS3 Let's Get Cooking
- Visits to The Mulberry Factory, The Design Museum, Bath Fashion Museum and Marshfield

Experiencing aspects of Art and Technology by visiting galleries, working with practitioners and attending design shows is seen as an important part of the learning process.

The Drama Department has a specialist studio space equipped with lighting and sound facilities. Drama lessons are delivered either in the studio or in the school hall by 2 specialist drama teachers.

At Key Stage 3, students are taught in mixed ability groups and are taught both through and about the art form. Students are assessed on their ability to create, perform and evaluate and learn social and communication skills alongside a range of topics from exploring historical events to Shakespeare and theatrical practitioners. Learning is mostly practical allowing students to develop a wide range of communication skills and promotes oracy alongside textual analysis and reflection.

Students study the Eduqas specification at GCSE. Small classes in Year 12 and 13 follow the Eduqas A Level. Strong links exist with theatre companies and practitioners. Students perform in our annual Showcase Event and Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 each have two opportunities to perform their examination pieces to a public audience. We have strong links with Kingswood School and run joint theatre visits.

Each year group have at least one theatre visit opportunity per year, at KS4 and 5 we offer visits most terms. We have hosted workshops from Shakespeare Schools Festival and Theatre Centre's Muddy Choir. We run a range of extra-curricular activities including an annual full school production, a KS3 drama club and other smaller performance projects and performances throughout the year.

The Music Department has two specialist classrooms with keyboards and music technology equipment. There are Apple Macs in both classrooms allowing students to access specialist software. There are also sets of ukuleles and percussion instruments which are used in lessons and for extracurricular activities. We have a number of smaller music practice rooms with pianos where students can rehearse solo and small group work, and where peripatetic music lessons take place. Students are taught in mixed ability classes for KS3 and they follow a curriculum which gives them a wide experience of listening, composing and performing as well as developing an understanding of set works and music theory in preparation for GCSE and A Level.

Year 10 students follow the Eduqas specification and Year 11 students follow the AQA specification. A Level Music is increasing in popularity and we deliver the AQA course.

There is a range of clubs and extracurricular activities which run throughout the year. Students in each key stage have the opportunity to share their work in intimate recitals held at different points in the year as well as larger concerts and services at Christmas. Clubs and activities include:

- Concert Band
- String Group
- Oldfield Voices
- Cantata Choir
- Handbell Team
- Fusion Band
- Music Tech Club

2022 and 2023 GCSE results:

	% 7+		% 4+	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Art	40	20	90	85
Photography	61	7	76	82
Textiles	33	25	100	100
PD	0	20	94	73
Food Preparation and Nutrition	36	19	87	61
Drama	11	18	88	63
Music	44	25	94	91

2022 and 2023 results at A level:

	A* - B		A* - E	
	2022	2023	2022	2023
Art; Textiles	100	33	100	100
Art; Photography	100	N/A	100	N/A
Art; Fine art	62	100	87	100
Drama	33	N/A	100	N/A
PD	22	33	100	100
Music	66	50	100	100