

Intent

Our Art Curriculum is designed to enable all students to develop their innate creative thinking and making skills. We aim to enrich their understanding of visual language and communication and the various ways this language is used in Art and Design and our everyday environment. We want to ensure that all students are able to experience visual culture and embrace the ways in which these experiences can enhance our lives and our understanding of the world.

As soon as they start art lessons in lower school, students are encouraged to be curious about the visual world and to experiment and explore their own ideas and creativity in a structured way in order to develop their own practical and creative thinking skills.

Themes and skills overlap through the course so that students can develop these skills while gaining insight into how visual ideas link and the way in which the visual arts and the made world connect.

There are 4 areas of learning within yr7 and 8 which relate to the 4 Assessment Objectives at GCSE. These are:

- Knowledge – AO1
- Ideas – AO2
- Evaluation – AO3
- Making – AO4

Project themes are based around: Landscape/natural World, Still life and Portraiture.

Projects are designed to be thoroughly inclusive and give students a taste of these genres in both a traditional and more contemporary sense by looking at specific artists and craftspeople from very different cultural contexts and eras, encouraging all students to understand how Art & Design has evolved over time.

In year 7 students start the curriculum with a short baseline drawing project called “About Me” in order to capture their imagination and introduce Artists that they may revisit later.

This is followed by our “Elements” project based around the Visual/Formal Elements which enables students to learn about the building blocks of visual communication enabling them to vocalise their own ideas and thoughts about Art and Design. Importantly, this also helps students to learn a broad range of skills and techniques in order to create their own visual work within their next 2 projects based around Cubist Portraiture and Insects/papercutting.

The year 8 curriculum revisits and builds upon skills and knowledge allowing students to progress and develop their own creativity and visual language using the same sketchbook so that yr7 learning can be referenced and built upon.

Further emphasis is placed on future Career opportunities and the Commercial world of Art and Design with the “Typography and Identity” project.

Skills and ideas learned about Portraiture and Cubism are then developed and explored in more depth and with more ambitious use of materials in 3d and textiles based projects, looking at the diverse themes of “Gargoyles and Grotesques” and “Modernist Craft” focusing on the Abstract work of Anni Albers.

This curriculum is designed to give yr7 and 8 a broad education in the visual Arts which will act as a springboard and enable students to develop their own creative language if they choose to opt for either Art, Craft and Design or Photography GCSE.



GCSE Options –

- Art, Craft & Design
- Photography

Once students have opted for one of the GCSE Art & Design courses on offer the curriculum is designed to encourage and develop students’ individual skills and knowledge and creativity within the Pearson, Edexcel GCSE framework.

Students will build up their independence through scaffolded projects at the beginning of the course. The support and structure given in year 9 also gives students a great deal of opportunity to explore and master various skills in a wide range of 2d and 3d media that they will revisit in a more independent and thematic approach later in the course.

Yr9 also enables students to build their analytical skills and emphasis is given to understanding of context before exploring and developing ideas and outcomes.

The idea of a visual learning journey is at the heart of the GCSE course projects within GCSE and students are encouraged to develop their own curiosity and fluency of visual language as the course progresses in both Art and Photography.

In upper school Art and Design students are encouraged to take part in extra curricular clinics and workshops to enrich their experience and share ideas.

Students are also given ample opportunities to see links between their GCSE Art and Design education and the Creative industries, so that they can make informed decisions regarding further and higher education within the Visual Arts.

Ultimately we want to ensure that students are enriched by their Art & Design GCSE and are fully prepared and primed for the opportunities that await once they leave the Henry Beaufort School.

