



VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Curriculum Overview



The curriculum of the school reflects the demands of the National Curriculum. It is designed in order to provide all pupils with a broad, balanced education relevant to their needs both now and in the future.

Departmental Overview

The Visual Arts Department is comprises 4 specialist teachers, 1 full time and 3 part time and 2 designated spacious open plan art rooms.

The Art Department at West Derby School offers a broad and exciting curriculum aimed at ensuring all students in art and design explore visual, tactile and other sensory experiences to communicate ideas and meanings. Students will work with traditional and new media to develop confidence, competence, imagination and creativity. Pupils will learn to appreciate and value images and artefacts across times and cultures, and to understand the contexts in which they were made. In art and design, it is of paramount importance that pupils reflect critically on their own and other people's work, judging quality, value and meaning. Through the programmes of study, West Derby School encourages students learn, to think and act as practicing artists, craftspeople and designers, working creatively and intelligently whilst they develop an appreciation of art, craft and design, and its role in the creative and cultural industries that enrich their lives. The Department's primary aim at Key Stage 3 is to secure and equip students with the knowledge and skills they require to succeed at GCSE and A-Level Art.

Artwork is continuously exhibited around the school therefore, it gives students the opportunity to showcase their work publicly; gaining confidence, pride and achievement. At West Derby School the department continues to seek opportunities with both internal and external departments and organisations to expand and develop art experiences for our young people; as from September 2016 West Derby School will deliver Arts Award Bronze and Silver award for students.

Facilities

- State of the art ICT/Mac suites programmed with the latest software.
- Top of the range Photography equipment;
- Top of the range Ceramics equipment including Large free standing Kiln, electronic Pug Mill and a large selection of glazes.
- Open plan large modern classrooms with interactive whiteboards.
- The department is equipped with excellent resources and equipment to cater for the needs of all Art and Design disciplines; Fine Art, Textiles. Ceramics and Photography.

Departmental Staff

Ms C Carney	Head of Visual Arts and Technology
Ms E Maxwell	Art/Photography Teacher
Mr I Walker	Art/Photography Teacher
Mr M Black	Photography Teacher
Mrs H Howe	Art and Design Teacher /SENCO
Mr R Warwick	SLT Line Manager

Year 7 Art (KS3)

Examination/Specification Board

Curriculum Overview

In Year 7, the main focus is on the transition from Key Stage 2 and introduces the basic materials and skills used in Art and Design. A total of 4 units are studied throughout the year; fine art, 2D Painting and Drawing, 3D Sculptures, Print making and Textiles.

Pupils in Year 7 have 1 x 60-minute period of art per week. Units of work reflect Key stage 3 National Curriculum programmes of study developing pupils skills to;

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences;
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques;
- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design;
- Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Students acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of:

- The visual and tactile qualities of materials and processes and how these can be recorded, manipulated and matched to ideas, purposes and audiences;
- Codes and conventions and how these are used to represent ideas, beliefs and values in works of art, craft and design;
- Continuity and change in the purposes and audiences of artists, craftspeople and designers from Western Europe and the wider world.
- History of art, craft and design periodically from ancient times to modern day.
- Analyse and evaluation of their own work and the work others, in order to strengthen the visual impact of their overall outcomes of their own work.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Assessment takes place at the end of each unit of work. Pupils are encouraged to assess their own work in order to help them become more aware of the progress they are making. Additionally, several key pieces of work are marked in detail at key points in the year. These highlight strengths and weaknesses and also suggest ways in which improvements can be made.

Homework

Homework will be set once every two weeks, thus, students will be expected to complete 3 hours of homework per half term. Home work will be set accordingly with links to the current unit of work. Students will be given homework sheets where necessary and all homeworks will be accessible via 'Show my Homework'.

How Parents can Help

- Check that homework is completed to a good standard.
- Ensure that basic equipment is brought to each lesson and is bought for homework. Coloured pencils, a pencil, a ruler and a rubber is the basic requirement.
- Purchase a protective apron as soon as possible as this is necessary for all practical activities. Pupils are not allowed to participate in practical lessons without one. Encourage the use of the Internet or the library for research tasks and homework completion.
- Help with research and presentation in order to ensure a good outcome and therefore a high grade on completion

Year 8 Art (KS3)

Examination/Specification Board

Curriculum Overview

In Year 8, the main focus is on development and progression from Year 7. Students will be introduced to a wider range of materials, mediums, skills and techniques. A total of 5 units are studied throughout the year; fine art, 2D Painting and Drawing, 3D Sculptures, Print making and Textiles and Photography. Pupils in Year 8 have 1 x 60-minute period of art per week. Units of work reflect on Key stage 3 National Curriculum programmes of study notion that pupils develop skills in order to be able to;

- produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences;
- become proficient in drawing, painting, sculpture and other art, craft and design techniques;
- evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design;
- Know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms.

Students acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of:

- The visual and tactile qualities of materials and processes and how these can be recorded, manipulated and matched to ideas, purposes and audiences;
- Codes and conventions and how these are used to represent ideas, beliefs and values in works of art, craft and design;
- Continuity and change in the purposes and audiences of artists, craftspeople and designers from Western Europe and the wider world.
- History of art, craft and design periodically from ancient times to modern day.
- Analyse and evaluation of their own work and the work others, in order to strengthen the visual impact of their overall outcomes of their own work.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Assessment takes place at the end of each unit of work. Pupils are encouraged to assess their own work in order to help them become more aware of the progress they are making. Additionally, several key pieces of work are marked in detail at key points in the year. These highlight strengths and weaknesses and also suggest ways in which improvements can be made.

Homework

Homework will be set once every two weeks, thus, students will be expected to complete 3 hours of homework per half term. Home work will be set accordingly with links to the current unit of work. Students will be given homework sheets where necessary and all homeworks will be accessible via 'Show my Homework'.

How Parents can Help

- Check that homework is completed to a good standard.
- Ensure that basic equipment is brought to each lesson and is bought for homework. Coloured pencils, a pencil, a ruler and a rubber is the basic requirement.
- Purchase a protective apron as soon as possible as this is necessary for all practical activities. Pupils are not allowed to participate in practical lessons without one. Encourage the use of the Internet or the library for research tasks and homework completion.
- Help with research and presentation in order to ensure a good outcome and therefore a high grade on completion

Year 9/10/11 Art (KS4)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA

Curriculum Overview

GCSE Art and Design is a 2 year course. AQA Art and Design Coursework accounts for 60% of the GCSE grade awarded. The exam is taken in the April of Year 11 and accounts for 40% of the GCSE grade awarded. There is an initial preparation time followed by a timed examination.

You will:

- be introduced to a range of two dimensional art and design areas, such as; drawing, painting, printmaking and batik;
- explore and learn about different art and design techniques and processes;
- be shown how your ideas can be expressed through art and design;
- discover how other artists and designers work and how they have made a career in art and design;
- create a portfolio of work and gain qualifications that will enable you to progress onto higher level courses or employment.

Examinations/Key Assessments

Unit 1 - portfolio of work will be assessed throughout the two years and pupils will receive informal and formal assessment reviews as well as regular tutorials and progress reviews.

Unit 2 - is an externally set task with unlimited preparation time, followed by 10 hours of sustained, focused study under exam conditions. Pupils respond to their chosen starting point.

Homework

Homework will be a very important part of the course. Your commitment to working on your portfolio and sketchbook in your own time will provide you with opportunity to make your work interesting and very personal. All homework will contribute towards their final grade.

How Parents can Help

Monitoring homework and giving help and advice to students to develop and improve assignments. Encourage pupils to visit galleries, exhibitions and cultural events.

Year 9/10/11 Photography (KS4)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA

Curriculum Overview

A practical course that will develop your digital photography skills. Lessons will develop technical understanding as well as an artistic understanding of the subject. Photoshop and the use of computers will be a very important part of the course. Photoshop is a fantastic tool that can help produce very interesting images. Detailed lessons will be provided to develop your understanding of this software. Studying the work of professional photographers will be an important part of the course. Much can be learnt from their successful work.

Examinations/Key Assessments

The work that you produce over the two year course will account for 60% of your total GCSE grade. This gives you a great opportunity to produce excellent coursework that should secure you a very sound foundation to build upon at exam time. The final exam, sat in the summer of Year 11, accounts for 40% of your GCSE grade. The exam is a practical piece of work that will draw upon the skills acquired in Years 10 and 11. You are given 4 weeks to plan your work after the exam paper is issued. You are allowed 10 hours to produce the final piece of exam work. The majority of work will be practical. Learning the skills of composition and picture making will be a very important part of the course. Working on and improving your photographs on the computer will be time consuming and will require that you become familiar with Photoshop and can work independently. You will also produce a journal to evidence your research skills. Visits to photographic exhibitions will provide opportunity to study the work of professional photographers.

Homework

Homework will be a very important part of the course. Your commitment to taking photographs in your own time and outside of school will provide you with the opportunity to make your work interesting and very personal. All homework will contribute towards your coursework grade.

How Parents can Help

Parents can help with ideas and accompany you when taking photographs out of school time.

Year 12/13 Photography (KS5)

Examination/Specification Board

AQA

Curriculum Overview

The great photographer Ansel Adams wrote: "You don't take a photograph, you make it." Photography is a practical course. You will develop your technical skills, enabling you to produce photographs to a very high standard. You will be introduced to the work of commercial and art photographers that will encourage you to improve your own work. This course will include visits to studios and galleries and field trips which will provide you with opportunities to produce a portfolio of impressive images. A level Photography will prepare you for both continued academic study at College or University or work in the Photography sector.

Examinations/Key Assessments

This is a practical course that will require you to produce a portfolio of photographs in response to a set project. There is also an externally set practical exam where you will showcase your skills and understanding of photography.

Homework

Each student will set one homework task per week. The majority of homework is set online via Show My Homework.

How Parents can Help

Homework tasks will be set via Show My Homework. Please encourage your son/daughter to check this website regularly. Students must complete a piece of coursework independently as part of this course. This will involve using digital equipment outside of school. Supporting your son/daughter with this will be of tremendous benefit.