

Art & Design at The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College

Our aim is to develop the skills and techniques of our students through exciting and varied schemes of work thus enabling them to discover the thrill of creativity. We have established a stimulating and enjoyable environment that appeals to the senses and helps active learning.

About our department

The Art and Design department is housed in three purpose built rooms that are equipped for key stage 3, 4 and sixth form teaching. In addition the central room is equipped for ceramics. There is a separate independent study room for sixth form use within the department. Students have access to computers across all art rooms.

Programme of study outline

KS3

All students within key stage 3 will complete a range of two-dimensional and three-dimensional work that includes one or more of the following elements:-

- Line
- Tone
- Colour
- Pattern
- Shape
- Form

All units of work are constructed using the National Curriculum requirements for Art & Design at key stage 3.

Year 7

Your child's teacher will choose which units of work will be studied during the academic year. This may include the following;

- Jungle Painting Unit. Students will look at the work of Rousseau and produce their own jungle landscape in response to class work, homework and research.
- Beaker people unit. Students will study the culture of the Beaker people of Wessex. They will design and make their own ceramic beaker people pot.
- Aboriginal Art unit. Students will look at the artwork of the Aborigines and will produce their own dot painting using maps of the local area.

Year 8

Your child's teacher will choose which units of work will be studied during the academic year. This may include the following;

- Hundertwasser unit. Students will look at the work of Hundertwasser and produce their own printed landscape in response to class work, homework and research.
- Mexican Day of the Dead unit. Students will look closely at the festival of the Mexican Day of the Dead. They will design and make their own festival mask in response to class work, homework and research.
- Comic Book unit. Students will look at the work of Lichtenstein and other comic book illustrators. They will produce their own comic strip in response to class work, homework and research.

Year 9

Your child's teacher will choose which units of work will be studied during the academic year. This may include the following;

- Junk Food goes Pop unit. Students will look closely at the Pop Art movement. They will produce their own mixed media design in response to class work, homework and research.
- Expressive Faces unit. Students will study the work of artists such as Pablo Picasso and Francis Bacon. Through various art processes and the use of digital manipulation they will create their own expressive face.
- Altered Books unit. Students will study the work of artists such as Tom Phillips and create their own 'altered' book that includes cut outs, pop up elements and other artwork.

Homework

Pupils will be set a minimum of 3 homework tasks per unit of work.

All homework set will build upon new or existing skills and vary depending on the unit being studied by the pupil.

Assessment

Pupils are assessed throughout each unit of work. Departmental levels given throughout each unit then form the National Curriculum levels that pupils receive in their termly reports.

Pupils are encouraged to develop self-assessment and peer-assessment skills through evaluation of their own and others work.

KS4

All students at key stage 4 will learn a range of practical skills and strategies that will allow them to develop their ideas in a variety of media and using a range of techniques and processes.

GCSE

The two year course is designed to meet the AQA specification through set units of coursework which cover the 4 main assessment objectives. They will produce and submit a coursework portfolio and externally set assignment to gain their qualification. Students are encouraged to work with increasing independence.

BTEC

The two year course is designed to answer the core units specified by Edexcel in detail through set briefs. They will specialise in a further unit of their choice in year 11. Students are encouraged to work with increasing independence. Coursework is the main form of assessment. There are three levels of assessment –pass, merit and distinction.

KS5

Students will further develop the skills learnt at Key Stage 4 and have the opportunity to study in more depth.

There are two courses available at both AS and A Level

- Fine Art
- Fine Art Textiles

These are highly structured with an emphasis on the acquisition of printmaking, drawing and painting skills, textiles and mixed media work. The course is designed to meet the 4 assessment objectives for the AQA specification.

Students are expected to complete 5 hours of independent study a week. This can be carried out in their own independent study room within the Art department or from home.

It should be noted that all units of work are constantly refined and altered as new ideas and opportunities present themselves, this goes hand in hand with the skills base of our staff at any one time.