



Art and Design: Our DNA

Head of Department: Ms Wheeler

The Art and Design department is committed to broadening pupils' understanding of the world through art and design and to help develop informed, creative and open minded individuals with strong problem solving skills. The staff within the department are passionate about their subjects and believe that the creative industries offer fantastic career opportunities for young people. We give pupils plenty of opportunity to practice new artistic skills, to review and refine work and to remember and apply key vocabulary. We aim high, and we ensure our staff have the tools to deliver outstanding art and design lessons which are engaging and allow all pupils to make excellent progress. We strive to assist pupils to develop their own ideas and opinions, and to reach their full potential.

Teaching and learning

Bolingbroke Academy Art and Design department is a dynamic, highly experienced and enthusiastic team of 3 teachers, a specialist product design technician and an art technician. There is a very broad range of expertise particularly in fine art, textiles and fashion, product design, graphics, photography and architecture. We take a collaborative approach to teaching and learning and this is embedded within daily practice and future planning. We are committed to marking all pupils' books fortnightly and providing effective feedback through the use of fast feedback and teacher comments. Pupils will be allocated time within lessons and homework tasks to make refinements and corrections, using the feedback sheet which they have in their books.

Use of technology and equipment.

We understand that art and design is continually absorbing new technological developments, and we as a teaching team intend to remain at the cutting edge of the creative sectors. We have a fantastically well- resourced product design workshop for working with wood, metal and plastics. We have a 3d printer and a large format laser cutting machine which develops pupils CAD skills, and allows pupils to keep up with the latest working processes. The department is stocked with a set of mac books and the pupils have the opportunity to learn how to work with CS6 software (Photoshop and Illustrator) and 2d design. We intend that all year groups will be able to access this technology. There is a photographic darkroom, a kiln and full size painting easels.

Involvement in the outside world

As teachers we are active within the art and design world, keeping abreast of current trends, themes and processes. Teachers ensure that pupils from every year group have regular trips to galleries and are given opportunities to work collectively with artists on group projects. An international study trip to Barcelona is planned for KS4 pupils in October 2017. The staff actively seek out excellent role models within the creative industries to inspire our pupils and pupils work is exhibited in an online gallery, and features throughout school displays.

Developing pupils' creativity

We believe that becoming confident within an artistic medium is a springboard to success both in and out the classroom. We believe every child can succeed in art and design, and must be offered a wide variety of possible processes and outcomes. Outside of the classroom, we also encourage at least two, open brief creative pieces of homework per half term, where pupils have the time to develop their knowledge and to work on extended projects.

The department has an impressive range of enrichments on offer for pupils including photography, KS3 design club, graphics, set design and we also offers pupils the opportunity to take bronze and silver Artsmark Award. Pupils are welcome after school and at set lunchtimes and Saturday mornings to further develop and refine their work to the highest level.

Reflective learners

Within the art classroom, we consistently emphasise that it is ok to make mistakes. We believe pupils learn key independent learning skills when they are able to evaluate and refine their work. We would like to foster an open environment which allows pupils to grow in confidence and not feel intimidated in speaking out in front of the class. We also provide learners with opportunities to practise on mini whiteboards, and to review their own and others work allowing for mistakes to be corrected.

Broaden cultural knowledge

Providing opportunities to promote intercultural understanding is a vital element of studying art and design. Every project contains a relevant artist study, which are taken from a great range of historical periods and geographical locations. Our internationally minded curriculum has been praised by The British Council and has contributed to Bolingbroke Academy recently achieving International School status. Pupils have the opportunity to share and discuss their work with our partner schools in Germany, India and Bangkok through on line forums and exchanges.