

ART

The value of art goes far beyond helping students develop their skills in drawing, painting, printmaking and ceramics. As students learn to be artists, they explore how to solve problems visually, learning how to create an accurate visual record of their observations. At Fitzharrys School, we equip students with the skills to be successful, creative practitioners, encouraging them to think like an artist by engaging practically in the subject and beyond.

KS3

At KS3, students are introduced to the essentials of Art and Design. They are given opportunities to learn and develop skills in a range of media making use of the department's well-resourced studios. The KS3 course is designed to develop students' skills and understanding, encouraging their creativity and preparing them for progression onto KS4 courses.

In Year 7 we focus on key skills in drawing before introducing ceramics, painting and printmaking. Students work in and out of sketchbooks to produce a range of different outcomes responding to project themes and artists.

In Year 8 students build on the key skills learnt in Year 7 presenting their work on project boards. We look at a range of themes and artists, developing skills, ideas and outcomes. One of our most successful projects takes the *Day of the Dead* festival as a starting point to develop mixed media outcomes.

KS4/GCSE

At KS4, we follow the EDEXCEL GCSE Art and Design specification. Students must produce a coursework portfolio (60% of their final mark) and an externally set exam project (40%). Coursework projects are designed to help students understand the assessment objectives and how to develop ideas in response to set starting points. Past themes have been *Opposition and Dissent*, *Identity* and *Fragments*. Students are encouraged to experiment with a range of media, building on skills learnt at KS3 and being introduced to new ones such as etching and lino printing. Students will explore a range of ideas in response to artists and the theme. Drawing is a fundamental aspect of the course and students must be confident in expressing themselves both visually and verbally.

KS5/A Level

At KS5, we offer A Level Art and Design across the Abingdon Consortium. This follows the same common assessment structure as the GCSE and enables students to develop work according to their own interests. In Year 12, students complete introductory projects before developing their coursework portfolio. In Year 13, students choose a personal study question to be the focus of their research and idea development; this is accompanied by a 3000 word essay. The course culminates in an externally set exam project.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

It is vital for students to experience art work first hand and we encourage regular visits to local and national galleries, often advertising important shows on our 'Arts at Fitzharrys' Facebook page. Each year we take our GCSE students to the Tate Modern in London to experience art first hand and gather ideas and inspiration for their projects and exams.

We offer regular opportunities for GCSE students to make use of the studios and their facilities during lunch and after school art club sessions.

The Art department is proud to support the annual whole school musical production with KS3 students often helping to paint the set and make props.

The Art department regularly works with local exhibition spaces to hold public exhibitions of student art.

The Art department also leads our annual Arts, Technology and Culture Celebration, an open evening where amongst many other arts disciplines, students can participate in art, ceramics and printing demonstrations as well as have their work appear in the Celebration exhibition.