Curriculum Vision

Faculty Expressive and Creative Arts Subject Art & Photography

Our Vision

Subject vision

At John Willmott School we aim to provide a curriculum that encourages and develops creative, critical, and reflective thinkers who have the courage and confidence to take creative risks, developing their knowledge and skills using media, techniques, and processes. We aim for our learners to discover and contribute to the world around them and to learn through exploration of key artists, art movements, craftspeople and designers. We aim for students to develop their own style and encourage them to explore and experiment, leading them to self-reflect, refine and develop as independent learners. We aim for students to form their own opinion of art work through analysis and critical thinking; making links to the world of work and considering the different creative industries and career choices.

Curriculum Intent

We intend for Art and Design to enable our students to develop a range of skills and thought processes. We provide a curriculum that encourages a can do, positive attitude that inspires and challenges students. This starts in KS3 with a focus on drawing as a foundation which creates the building blocks for further development and exploration. We aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills to experiment, design and create their own works of art.

Students are given the opportunity to think critically about the work of others which enables them to reflect and think and have the courage to explore and experiment. Moving into KS4 students will have a developed a solid base of skills and visual understanding to then further explore with confidence and independence.

We intend for our learners to discover and contribute to the world around them and realise the relevance of Art, craft and design in today's society whilst raising an awareness of career choices in the creative industries. We intend to create learners who have an appreciation of the subject and to prepare students for future study.

Curriculum Sequencing Rationale and Implementation

KS3

Year 7 students start the year learning about the formal elements of art (shape, colour, pattern, tone, texture, line, form) with an initial focus on line and tone. Students will develop an understanding of primary and secondary observation and create drawings using different techniques. Within the project they will learn about and gain an historical understanding of remembrance day with an aim to create a mixed media piece of work which be become part of a whole school display. The formal elements unpin all of the art curriculum across all key stages and within KS3 drawing is a primary focus; with students developing their confidence and understanding in a range of media. Students go on to develop their skills and underpin their knowledge in creating work in themed projects such as cubist portraiture, Mexican culture, street art, insects using a range of artists to contextualize their work.

KS4

In year 9 students will begin their GCSE course option of either Art & Design: Fine Art or Art & Design: Photography. Throughout year 9 students will create work within a themed project with a focus on developing skills, developing understanding of techniques and processes, and using the work of artists and photographers to inspire them.

In photography students learn about what a camera is; they learn how to take photographs using compositional devices. They develop their understanding of photoshop and use it as a tool for editing their photographs. This year is designed to prepare students to further develop their portfolios in year 10 & 11. Students will develop their confidence in taking creative risks and build their creative freedom as the course develops; making their own choices about media selection and artist inspiration.

KS5

In KS5 students will choose to study either Art & Design: Art. Craft & Design, Fine Art or Photography. Student's complete skills and techniques based lessons within a given theme at the beginning of the course. They are introduced to new techniques and processes which are built upon from KS4; such as how to use an SLR camera, how to use the photographic studio, printmaking techniques such as dry point etching, collagraph printing, monoprinting techniques etc. Students learn how to use and work with a range of media and eventually they will make decisions and choices about the direction of their own projects and the media to be used. Students are guided with one to one tutorials in lessons to encourage creative thinking and independence. Students are given guidance on university choices and career paths within the creative industries.