

GCSE Art and Design Curriculum Intent

At the heart of our GCSE Art and Design curriculum is our school motto, Imagine, Believe, Achieve, which drives our ambition to secure excellence for every learner. We believe that all students are entitled to a rich, challenging and inclusive arts education that develops creativity, critical thinking and cultural understanding while equipping them with the knowledge and skills required for future study, employment and active participation in society.

Through a carefully sequenced curriculum, students build knowledge of artists, designers, craftspeople and cultures from a wide range of historical and contemporary contexts, developing an understanding of visual language, materials, techniques and processes. Students learn to investigate and analyse sources, experiment and refine ideas, record observations and insights, and produce informed personal responses, ensuring progression through the four Assessment Objectives of the AQA exam board.

The curriculum provides opportunities for students to imagine through creative exploration, believe in their capacity to develop original ideas and overcome challenges, and achieve through sustained practice, reflection and high-quality outcomes.

Art and Design makes a unique contribution to students' education by fostering resilience, independence, problem-solving, communication and self-expression, enabling them to interpret and respond to the world around them.

Through engagement with diverse artistic traditions, perspectives and experiences, students develop cultural capital, broaden their horizons and gain a deeper appreciation of local, national and global communities. The curriculum actively promotes British Values through respect for different viewpoints, tolerance of diverse beliefs and cultures, individual liberty through creative expression, and constructive participation in discussion and critique.

High expectations, ambitious learning experiences and personalised support ensure that all students, regardless of starting point, can access the curriculum, make strong progress and achieve success. By the end of the course, students leave as confident, reflective and skilled creative thinkers who are able to communicate ideas effectively, appreciate the value of the arts and continue their creative journey with confidence.