



KS3 Art and Design Curriculum Intent

At Hodgson Academy, the KS3 Art and Design curriculum is built upon our school motto: Imagine, Believe, Achieve. We inspire students to imagine creative possibilities, believe in their own artistic potential and achieve through the development of knowledge, technical skill and personal expression. Our ambitious and inclusive curriculum engages, inspires and challenges all learners, ensuring every student, regardless of their starting point, can experience success and develop confidence as a creative practitioner.

Art and Design is a unique subject that combines technical skill with imagination, problem-solving and critical thinking. Through drawing, painting, textiles and mixed media, students learn to observe, experiment, refine and communicate ideas visually. These transferable skills support learning across the curriculum while preparing students for further study, employment and life beyond school.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is carefully sequenced to build knowledge and skills over time. Students revisit key concepts through a spiral curriculum, enabling them to secure understanding, develop resilience and become increasingly independent learners. Throughout Years 7–9, students explore the formal elements of art, colour theory, observational drawing, perspective, textiles, surface decoration and mixed media while studying artists, designers and craftspeople from a range of historical and cultural contexts.

In Year 7, students establish the foundations of artistic practice through the Formal Elements, Landscape and Still Life projects. They learn to use a variety of media, tools and materials while developing confidence in drawing, colour mixing, perspective and basic textile construction, including appliqué and decorative embroidery techniques.

In Year 8, students deepen and extend these skills through Plant Studies and Architecture projects. They are introduced to new materials and processes such as oil pastel, printmaking and collage while refining observational drawing and textile techniques through increasingly creative and independent outcomes.

In Year 9, students prepare for Key Stage 4 by combining technical proficiency with personal creativity through Portrait and Mask projects. They revisit and refine drawing, proportion, colour and textile techniques while developing increasingly sophisticated responses inspired by portraiture, abstract art and cultural traditions.

Our curriculum makes a significant contribution to students' character development. Through sustained creative practice, students learn resilience, perseverance and independence, recognising that experimentation, reflection and refinement are integral to artistic success. They develop confidence in expressing their own ideas, responding constructively to feedback and appreciating the perspectives of others.

By exploring artists and designers from diverse cultures, periods and traditions, students broaden their understanding of the world and recognise how art reflects identity, history and society. They develop cultural awareness, curiosity and respect for different viewpoints while understanding the important role that creativity plays within communities and the wider world.

By the end of Key Stage 3, students have developed the knowledge, skills and confidence to think critically, create imaginatively and communicate visually. They are well prepared for the challenges of Key Stage 4 and leave Art, Craft and Design as resilient, reflective and creative learners who truly embody the values of Imagine, Believe, Achieve.