

# Why we teach Art & Design

We believe that promoting understanding of past and present artistic accomplishments and providing the school and wider community with access to these are major responsibilities of our faculty. We strive to develop the creative and intellectual potential of our students and faculty by promoting knowledge and understanding of traditions in the fine arts, applied arts, art history, textile design, craft and photography and by preparing them for a continually changing technological environment. For all our students and teachers we aim to provide an atmosphere which encourages learning, creative thinking, artistic and design excellence, and ethical behaviour.

The faculty supports the fundamental values of imagination, creativity, and communication; art and design as essential to life, the continuous search for knowledge and authentic analysis of ideas; a thirst for expanding our cultural knowledge and understanding; the highest standards of critical thinking and making in art and design; effective research and creative production, problem solving as individuals and as part of a group.

We believe that these values enlighten endeavours to accomplish the vision of the faculty and characterize the fundamental aims of the schemes of learning offered.

The faculty has experience and expertise in a cross section of disciplines and this diverse approach is crucial to develop an inspiring and progressive department. We will build on existing strengths with its excellent exam results, excellent outside agency links, such as Rivers of the World, Creative Partnerships, the Courtauld Institute of Art and excellent local, regional and national art competitions.

Our actions include maintaining a systematic approach to delivering extra-curricular activities such as trips out, art studio visits/workshops for all students, competitions, and talks; maintaining the standards of teaching and learning of current faculty staff; maintaining recognition for excellence of the Art and Design Faculty; participating in the AIR (Artists in Residence) project; enhancing and improving elements of the department on a continuing basis, including technology, interdisciplinary, multicultural projects on local and national levels, advocating faculty and staff development and recognition by being alert to and committed to professional development opportunities; and exploring the future focus of art and design within their school context and beyond.

Our teachers follow schemes of learning with clear structure and direct links to the National Curriculum for Art and Design whilst drawing on the vast experience, expertise, cultural capital and knowledge within the department. Schemes of learning include weekly teaching and learning objectives and assessment, including sequencing of learning aims and opportunities for students to read and write within the context of Art and Design.

Our aim is to maintain and broaden the extracurricular aspects of art and design, such as visiting artists/craftspeople and interdisciplinary projects which expand opportunities for students, faculty, and staff; multicultural understanding which broaden human understanding and deepen individual

creativity; offer students opportunities to use current technologies and consider the impact of future technological developments, as well as combine practical and technological skills with creative thinking to design and make products and systems that meet human needs. These principles underlie the important methods by which the faculty and staff expect to realize its purposes. We want our students to develop not only art and design practical skills but also develop cultural capital and awareness of the creative work of other artists and designers from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures.

The Art faculty offer their resolve and commitment in order to accomplish their vision: hard work; a positive attitude; learning and growing together; inspirational teaching; attention to opportunities and options for students, including extracurricular workshops and clubs. The faculty is committed to sharing resources and skills through alternating art, craft, photography and textiles workshops delivered by colleagues in curriculum meetings.