

Curriculum intent – Art and Design

We believe that art and creativity are at the heart of developing rounded happy human beings. Working in the visual arts helps young people with the development of motor skills, language skills, social skills, decision-making, risk-taking, and inventiveness. Art experiences boost critical thinking, teaching students to take the time to be more careful and thorough in how they observe the world. Art education connects students with their own culture as well as cultures in different times and places.

By studying Art and Design at GCSE students will learn about the massive social and creative changes that have taken place since the 1900s to the present day. Students will discover how to make art using a wide range of materials and processes that interlink with studies of the most important artists and art movements. We cover drawing, painting and sculpting; textiles, photography, film making, animation and graphic design as well as new media and computer based art. Our popular GCSE course has a consistent record of strong exam success, in 2018 81% of all students gained a 4 or higher, 40% gained a 7 (an old style A) or higher, 15% of our students gained a 9, the new level higher than an A*.

At A level we offer two courses; A level Art, Craft and Design and A level Photography. A level offers the chance to explore materials and processes in much greater depth and for the students to become engaged seriously with their own creativity. The European city trip (we have visited Berlin, Barcelona and Paris recently) helps the students work from some of Europe's most important national collections. Our annual summer exhibition is a great chance for the students to exhibit their work before many of them move on to art foundation courses at Central St Martins, Camberwell and Ravensbourne or degree courses in a huge range of subjects such as photography, fine art, fashion design and marketing, animation and computer games design.

The list of future careers open to our students is almost endless with the creative industries being a vital section of the London and national economy. The creative industries value to the UK is now as much as £102 billion annually and creativity is the fastest growing sector of the UK economy. Now is a great time to study Art, Craft and Design. Highgate Wood School is a great place to study Art, Craft and Design.