

# ART AND DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY

It is our philosophy that Art education enhances the overall development of the child and is crucial in a world that is increasingly more visually sophisticated. The slogan "Thinking outside the box" has become progressively more important in all types of diverse industries. Some creativity is, of course, natural but a huge amount can be learnt, and all can be improved through practice.

**"Creativity is intelligence having fun"**  
**Albert Einstein**

Art and Design & Photography are incredibly versatile subjects. An Art and Design or Photography lesson not only allows the learning and development of skills but also encourages self-expression and requires pupils to make their own choices and discoveries thus developing their independent learning ability. The teaching of Art or Photography must therefore involve exposing pupils to a broad base of knowledge whilst introducing them to positive role models and a variety of cultures.

Studying Art and Design or Photography does not just lead to creating pretty pictures to hang in your house or a gallery; there are numerous disciplines under this one umbrella. There are, of course, the visual Fine Arts of Drawing, Painting, Print making, Sculpture, Photography, but also within Design there are Graphics, Interiors, Architecture, Conceptual Art, Film and Theatre Set Design/Costume and Art direction. The video games you play, which are getting more realistic by the day, have all been designed and created by teams of different artists; the clothes you wear and the fashion pages of magazines you may flick through, even your hairdryer, sofa and wallpaper, have all been created by artistic people. If you have an interest in any of the above, then GCSE Art and Design is for you and you just need to consider which endorsement to follow!

In order to work to pupils' interests and strengths Wellingborough School allows pupils taking the Art and Design GCSE option two routes from which to choose: either Fine Art or Photography and Graphics or they can opt for both. Both courses have similarities but focus on different

materials, skills and practices. There is no drawing ability needed for the Photography/Graphics option. As both options have limited numbers every attempt will be made to allocate pupils to the group following the course of their choice, but this cannot be guaranteed. In some cases, the subject teachers may make suggestions to ensure that a pupil is choosing the option which fits best with the skills that they have developed throughout Year 9.

## **Option 1: Fine Art – This is an AQA Course.**

Pupils will need some drawing ability to successfully undertake Fine Art.

This course offers pupils a wonderful opportunity to explore materials and ideas whilst being introduced to new techniques and media. All pupils start with painting and drawing from a teacher directed theme, which will ensure that they become familiar with the structured manner of working required by the Examination Board. Each pupil will be taught a range of techniques and can, towards the end of Year 10, specialise in one of a number of the following areas: Painting, Drawing, Textiles, Printing, Ceramics, Sculpture, Collage, Animation or Digital Photography. During the course pupils have to complete two coursework projects and one examination project.

## **Option 2: Photography/Graphics - AQA Photography: Lens based and light-based media or Graphic Communication.**

The use of a digital SLR camera for lessons and homework and Photoshop at home is essential.

This is a creative course which can include animation, graphics, darkroom and digital photography, and digital manipulation using a variety of Art packages such as Adobe Photoshop and 4D Cinema. Pupils will complete 2 projects in 4 terms, for their portfolio. The final term will be used to produce a Controlled Assignment project set by AQA.

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## Course Structures

Both courses are 100% coursework; there is no theoretical aspect to this examination, but Art History and writing up technical processes are integral parts of the course.

The two elements are: Portfolio (60%) and Controlled Assignment (40%)

Pupils will be introduced to the four assessment objectives they must follow and will be supported in creating a personal response/s to the project/s. In the January of Year 11 the examination paper is issued, and pupils start to prepare for the 10-hour timed test, normally taken between April and May. We are fully committed to providing a firm, positive and secure framework in which all pupils can learn and reach their full potential. Pupils are carefully monitored throughout the course and are aware, at all stages, of their progress. Prep will be set each week and all pupils are expected to spend at least 2 hours a week continuing and developing their project work. The Department will provide educational trips and Artist Workshops in order to further enhance the artistic experience and strengthen the Art History connections of the GCSE pupils. We offer Art Clinics for GCSE pupils to help those who would appreciate assistance in achieving their potential.

The Department has a fine record of examination success at this level; please refer to the School Website. Any pupil wondering about their suitability for the course should seek advice from the Art staff.

**Mrs J C Hennessy**  
**Head of Art and Design & Photography**