

Curriculum Overview

Year 7 – Art & Design 2021-2022



Rationale for Year 7 Art & Design

Foundation of Visual Language: In Year 7 we aim to introduce Key Stage 3 Art to Year 7 students, with the full understanding that to this point their experiences of the subject to date will have been diverse. The main aim of the Year 7 curriculum is to introduce the foundation skills and techniques that underpin creative visual language. Students learn to communicate through formal drawing, painting, printmaking and sculptural processes. Independence and creativity is scaffolded through tight, sequentially structured tasks, which build knowledge and technical competence.

What will students learn and why?

Students learn how to record their ideas and research through tightly considered, observational drawing and painting. Students undertake a sustained project focusing on observational drawings of both primary and secondary sources. They develop an understanding of composition, scale, shape and proportion in images as well as accurate colour mixing and application of paint. This progresses into more considered application of colour theory through a printmaking project. Finally, students are taught the proportion rules of the face. They then begin learning how to draw portraits and learning key skills of collage and layering. They do this in relation to the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Students are then challenged to develop this visual language, using mixed media in response to design principle research.

How will students learn?

Lessons are carefully sequenced to build knowledge and skill. A period of tight, observational drawing is separated by research into an artist who uses colour creatively. This is used to reflect upon how shape, proportion and composition has been used while contextualising the colour paintings that are to follow. The printmaking project follows a similar structure. Initial photography and drawing studies reconnect with, develop upon the compositional elements explored in the first term, and develop towards a design. Colour theory is revisited and developed upon further and this leads into a series of prints. Once again, artist research breaks up the lesson sequence in order to springboard the print design that follows. In the final two terms, students move towards producing their first truly 'personal responses', assimilating research and experimentation in order to produce a wallpaper design outcome piece.

How will students be assessed?

Students are assessed on key pieces of work throughout the year. There is no formal examination or testing. Rather, students are given opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge and are assessed upon predetermined 'main pieces' or 'outcome pieces'.

What is the aim for learners by the end of the year in comparison to the previous year?

Year 7 students arrive at St Joseph's with a wide range of prior knowledge and Art experience from Primary School. Year 7 aims to close the gap for students who have had less rich Art and Design experiences, while building a foundation of technical drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpting competence with which to communicate ideas. Additionally we will offer Art club and various enrichment tasks.