

Curriculum Overview

Year 8 – Art & Design 2021-2022



Rationale for Year 8 Art & Design

Year 8 Art & Design seeks to develop creativity, building upon a foundation of technical knowledge and skill built in Year 7. Year 8 makes recurring connections to creative industries in order to contextualise the work produced and scaffold the design process. By the end of Year 8, students' application of formal drawing and construction skills have been developed alongside greater scope for creativity and opportunities to create personal responses.

What will students learn and why?

Students begin the year by examining the work of architects. They are introduced to the formal rules of perspective and develop one, two and three point perspective outcomes designing cityscapes and buildings. This builds upon their understanding of drawing to communicate ideas from Year 7. In addition to composition, scale, shape and tone, students must now consider depth, whilst refining the previous elements. In their second project, students are introduced to a truncated version of a formal design process. They look at idea development underpinned by a graphic and textile design brief. Following from research into Plush Toys, students design characters, refine ideas and finally construct a felt personal response based on their design brief. Independence and creative opportunities are then developed further in the final two terms. Students are introduced to illustrated texts in different forms. Following research, students develop their characters from the previous project in order to create illustration 'personal response' pieces in reaction to a set brief. The students will end the year by forming a final piece which will be an illustrated story in the arrangement of a "zine".

How will students learn?

Lessons are carefully sequenced and scaffolded to build knowledge and skill, while progressively enabling independence and creativity. Lesson sequences within topics switch periodically between design, research and construction. Between projects, the design process is returned to throughout the year and built upon each time. By the third term, students are aware of 'structured creativity' and know how to research, respond and develop ideas purposefully.

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 8 students enter the year having built a base of formal skills and technical competence with the visual language in Year 7. Year 8 seeks to build upon these foundations by contextualising work so that it has purpose and clearly links to potential careers. Students are guided through a 'creative process' so that they are able to begin to develop their own ideas and realise their own intentions through their outcomes.