

Art / Design and Technology Department – Position Statement

Background & Context

The Art/DT department is well established within the school and has a significant profile across it. There is a long standing HOD who has been at the school for 17 years and 4 other subject teachers. The Art and Textiles teachers have both been in position for 6 years. The Food teacher has been newly appointed and is an ECT.

The department works from a position of collaboration and supporting each other with each subject teacher taking full responsibility for the planning, delivery and assessment within their respective area of focus. The HOD oversees this process through Monitoring, Observation and Intervention to ensure best practice.

Our ambition is that all pupils engage and thrive in the creative subjects acquiring Knowledge and Understanding to allow them to think and behave creatively in their ongoing lives.

Curriculum

At **KS3** the four areas of focus are delivered by way of a 4-way rotation. In each year (split into two bands) each teaching group (c20 pupils per group) will undertake modules of 9 weeks in each area of focus throughout the year. This methodology ensures that every pupil is able to access each of the areas of focus in a meaningful and chronological manner. Year 7 have 6 lessons per fortnight, Year 8 have 5 lessons per fortnight and Year 9 have 4 lessons per fortnight.

Modules are designed to provide clear progression throughout KS3, building on prior knowledge to ensure that pupils make significant progress in their theory and practical skills and overall attainment ([See module rotation documents](#)).

Pupils are assessed throughout each module using *Star and Target* methodology, giving clear guidance to achievement and ways in which work can be improved. Individual reports are written for each student at the end of every module providing commentary and areas for improvement. ([See workbook evidence and SIMs records](#)).

At **KS4** there are GCSE groups in Art, Textiles, Food & Nutrition and Design and Technology (RM focus). KS4 pupils have 5 lessons per fortnight. Take up for the subjects has been historically good but has been impacted by the increased emphasis on the EBacc qualification, leading to lower numbers going into 2023-24 academic year. KS4 courses are designed to align directly with syllabus requirements and provide students with the maximum possibility of achieving or outperforming their FFT target grades. (See **KS4 POS**). Each area of focus also provides weekly support sessions to give students further opportunity to complete theory and coursework to the highest standards. Courses include skills building, theory and exam practice opportunities. (See **records of Extracurricular Session Attendance**).

Assessment takes place continually in each area with feedback/grades being provided on a regular basis and takes different forms depending on the type of work being completed. All assessments are recorded centrally and monitored and acted upon by subject staff and HOD respectively. Pupils who are underachieving are provided with opportunities to have further teacher intervention in out of class sessions. These interventions are recorded, monitored and adjusted to meet individual needs as required and are based on student progress. (See **records of interventions**).

Academic outcomes for the department as a whole are strong and have made a significant contribution to the overall success of the school in its GCSE results for the last few years. There has been consistency in outcomes vs FFT20 targets mainly being positive performance against these targets (see data analysis in DDP). Key groups where performance has not met FFT20 targets are identified and focused on in subsequent years with staff modifying practice to ensure improved outcomes for these types of student (See **target focus in DDP**). Staff are proud of their pupil's achievements and work extremely hard to ensure they achieve or outperform their target grades.

The department's work also has a wider impact in the life of the school. Pupils are allowed a creative outlet improving their mental health and general wellbeing. This is one of the key elements of the Intent within each of our subject areas. Pupils who may find more academic subjects challenging or less enjoyable are given a more kinaesthetic outlet for their talents and the circumstances by which to work in a more creative and free manner. Pupils feel proud of their achievements regardless of their starting points. Displays around the school add vibrancy and colour to otherwise ordinary corridors and walls. Creative practice is shared with other departments.

Approaches to Pedagogy

As a department we plan our lessons based around active learning and individual learning styles using a variety of practice to ensure that all students are catered for. Lessons are a mix of theoretical content, demonstration and opportunities for students to show their knowledge and understanding of materials, processes and techniques, user needs, analysis of existing products and of pupil outcomes. Areas of Focus use mainly Project based learning over the course of each module in order to create a breadth of experience and methodologies of learning to allow students of all types to flourish and achieve their potential. Lessons also include focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Cross Curricular knowledge and understanding, relating these skills to real world situations ensuring practical applications of wider knowledge from different subject areas. (See POS).

Enrichment

The department provides a range of enrichment opportunities for all pupils ranging from internally run clubs, museum visits and visits to the local 6th form college so pupils can take part in focused skills workshops. Visits have taken place to *the Victoria and Albert Museum, Compton Verney Art Gallery, The Good Food Show and Jaguar Land Rover*. This type of local learning embeds pupils understanding of the role of creative subjects locally. *Art Therapy* sessions are led by our Part time Art teacher in order to provide Mental Health Support for those pupils identified by HOYs or SLT as those who would benefit. An *Art Club* is also run and is open to all pupils regardless of which area of focus they are currently studying and is popular.