**HEAD OF ART – Departmental Information**

**Facilities**

The Art Department at Harrogate Ladies’ College comprises of an Art Studio and a small Photography studio with an adjoining kiln/storage room.

The Art Studio is based in a large purpose built studio in the heart of the school and is well resourced with large storage cupboards, art reference books, a projector and whiteboard, etching presses, a screen printing facility, ceramics equipment including an electric and a Raku kiln, creative textiles equipment, a separate photography studio and has access to the nearby IT room which is used for computer manipulation using Photoshop software. For exhibition purposes the department has a range of large display boards.

The Department aims to create a stimulating and creative atmosphere in the studio where girls are keen to learn and can develop their own individual ability and expression using a wide variety of materials. We encourage use of the facilities during free time and keep available access to materials for all years during the week and at weekends. The Art Department places great emphasis on optimising display work from pupils and there are many fine examples of individuals’ work around School. During May and June all examination pupils are able to display their coursework and exam pieces at the end of their courses.

**Department staff**

At present the department comprises of the Head of Department and two part-time members of staff, one with responsibility for A level digital Photography and an NQT who encourages art appreciation with GCSE and A level Art groups and teaches in the prep school, Highfield.

**Structure of teaching groups**

At Key Stage 3 Art is taught as a double period of 70 minutes.

In years 7-9 girls follow a three-year foundation course which includes drawing, painting, printmaking, creative textiles and pottery.  Different periods and styles of Art are studied in their sketchbooks and ideas are incorporated into pupils’ own work. Years 7 and 8 are taught for half the year on a roundabout timetable with Music, Drama, Textiles and Food Technology. Year 9 have Art for the whole year.

During Years 10 and 11, the GCSE AQA Art and Design specification allows pupils to develop a range of skills using a variety of media.  Their work is stimulated by a thematic approach from a wide range of sources such as still life displays, art history, photography and from contact with visiting artists.

In years 12 and 13 pupils study the OCR Art and Design suite and may also choose to study Photography as a separate A level choice.

Art and Design and Photography are popular choices for A level.  Many techniques and disciplines may be used, including drawing and painting, creative textiles, life drawing, ceramics, etching and photography.  A level pupils often pursue study at Foundation and Degree level and have been 100% successful in gaining places through presentation of their strong portfolios.

**Trips**

The Department promotes an enjoyment of Art through enrichment activities including trips, offering visiting artists’ workshops, entering competitions, exhibiting work in the local area and offering clubs during lunchtimes.

Several trips are arranged, and visits are undertaken to local galleries of which there are five in Harrogate, the annual Knitting and Stitching Show in the Harrogate International Exhibition Centre each November, and appropriate London exhibitions.

A level Art, Photography and Textiles pupils will visit Venice, Italy, for a long weekend to inspire their Year 13 coursework and give ideas for examination compositions. We also visit the Venice Biennale.

**Extra-Curricular**

In addition to subject teaching and a pastoral role all members of staff are asked to support events on the school calendar to support the girls and watch them in action in another sphere. Seeing another side to your pupils can be very beneficial and it promotes the community feel of our school.

All full-time and part-time staff contribute pro-rata to supervising girls during day periods and evening prep times after school 5 - 6.30pm and once per term during a Saturday morning.